

# Sawpit Wharf Advisory Committee

## Meeting Notes

Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Municipal Offices

**In Attendance:** Hal, Ian, Doug, David, William (Bill), Richard, Councillor Veinotte, Trudy, Sandra  
**Regrets:**

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### Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

**Sawpit Wharf Plan Community Plan** – Review & Discuss next steps for concept and implementation

- Trudy believed the implementation plan reflected what was discussed at the previous meeting and Council had also preferred Option #3 as it gave the most parking. The consultant had added some trees to the concept to break up the parking a little.
- It was noted that the image for Option #3 had not been updated with the revised Class D budget figure – **TP to go back to the consultant.**
- Year 1 (25/26) will be to get an Engineered plan for the whole park and see how close the Class A budget is to Class D. The costs for these plans are not included in any of the Concept Plan figures. **TP will include the plans as part of the 2025/26 budget proposal.**
- Subsequent decisions on implementation can then be made, based on the plans. Some comments were:
  - Could Phase 1 & 2 be done together
  - Will be important that some lower level parking is available during the peak boating season, when construction takes place; perhaps construction could take place outside the peak season.

### Council Budget Meetings

- Council will be deciding the budget in open sessions, allowing input for the public. The Operating & Capital budget will be done on different days, but there will be a daytime and evening session on those days, with the same presentation. **Committee members were encouraged to attend these meetings to show support for the project, and letters of support from the community would be valuable. TP will circulate times/dates of Budget meetings.**
- Council recently held a special council meeting to discuss parks, and Trudy saw this is as a

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positive. As the Sawpit Wharf has already begun and had good community involvement and communication, so is positioned nicely for budget consideration.

- The consultant has phased the project over 3-years, and TP will present it in Phases in the 5-year Capital plan. Council may decide that they wish the project to be completed quicker. The consultant believed it could be done over 18 months.

### Review of Sawpit Wharf Bylaw

- Trudy reported several complaints regarding the boat that always seemed to be tied to the wharf and had spoken with the owner. The current bylaw states that day use is classified as 6:00 a.m. to 11 p.m. with the requirement to move off and return so that no permit is required. MODL does not have a bylaw enforcement officer to verify the times that the person arrives or leaves the wharf, so the bylaw does not have any teeth.
- The intent of early discussions around updating the bylaw was to add clauses around RVs, so it would be pertinent to make other changes as required in order to get this through first & second reading and public engagement before being enacted in time for the 2025 season.
  - Suggested to remove 4.2 completely – “After 24 hours the vessel shall be moved off the wharf”.
  - Suggested installing cameras which could record bylaw infractions
  - Further suggested that cameras could be live fed and made available to the general public, through Nova Scotia Webcams (contact Ralph)
  - TP will include cameras in the operating budget
  - A live feed may also result in additional monthly fees.
  - Should abandoned boats be mentioned in the bylaw (Federal jurisdiction?)
  - Could there be a monetary penalty for bylaw infractions
  - RV clause should not be specific to RVs and should include all forms of overnight camping – Sleeping in cars was discussed
  - Could put “Permits are issued at the municipality’s sole discretion”.
  - Could limit the number of permits issued per vessel, per season.
  - Should add that no permits will be issued to any vessels for the municipality’s water lot – may need to define where the lot starts and ends
  - Noted that there appears to already be moorings in this location.
  - Wants to control use of wharf for heavy maintenance and hot works. **Bill to draft something and send it to TP.**
  - Illegal waste dumping in the ocean should be reported by the witness to the Department of the Environment.
- Committee members are to send any comments to TP as soon as possible.
- Trudy will bring a draft revision of the bylaw to the next meeting.

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### Advertising for new Committee members

- Hal and Doug's committee terms were up in November 2024. The vacancies will be advertised, but there would be nothing to prevent them from reapplying.

### Floating Wharf Dock Spot Allocation

- Process will be the same as last year for the dock spots. If there are more applications than spots, priority will be given to MODL residents and then a lottery will be held for remaining spots. The lottery was not necessary last year.

### Next Meeting

- TBA – Consideration of timeframe to get bylaw in place needed. **TP to advise the date Committee.**