

**PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL  
PUBLIC MEETING**

**Minutes of Meeting  
Tuesday, April 2, 2013**

**Present**

Deputy Mayor, Brenda Chisholm-Beaton  
Councilor, Dr. Trevor Boudreau  
Councilor, Joe Janega  
Councilor, Bert Lewis  
Chief Administrative Officer, Maris Freimanis  
Director of Finance, David Gray  
Director Marketing, Recreation, Tourism & Culture, Paula Davis  
Town Solicitor, Larry Evans

**Guests**

Andrea Coombs, Foncie Farrell & Dennis Boulet – Port Hawkesbury Paper

**Regrets**

Mayor, Billy Joe MacLean

**1. Call to Order**

A meeting of the Port Hawkesbury Town Council was held in the Shannon Studio, PHCC, Tuesday, April 2, 2013. It was called to order by Deputy Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton at 7:00 p.m.

**2. Gallery Presentations – Port Hawkesbury Paper (PHP)**

Andrea Coombs, Foncie Farrell and Dennis Boulet were welcomed to the meeting by Deputy Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton. The PHP presentation included discussion on sustainable forest management, forest management in Inverness County, the direct/indirect employment complement, silviculture, product inventories, harvested areas, partnerships, and forestry practices. A question and answer period followed with Town Council and covered issues related to water consumption, staff complement, the status of the longhorn beetle and risk mitigation and FSC Certification. Deputy Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton thanked the PHP representatives for attending the meeting and extended best wishes with the start-up of the mill.

**3. Additions to / Approval of Agenda**

There were no additions to the agenda.

**MOVED by Councilor B. Lewis, and SECONDED by Councilor J. Janega "To approve the agenda as circulated". MOTION CARRIED.**

**4. Minutes**

a) Regular Town Council – March 5, 2013

There were no errors or omissions.

b) Committee of the Whole – March 18, 2013

**MOVED by Councilor J. Janega, and SECONDED by Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau "To approve the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting, March 18, 2013 as circulated". MOTION CARRIED.**

**5. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**6. Dog By-law – Second and Final Reading**

The gallery was invited to agree with or oppose the Dog by-law. A member of the gallery stated it was difficult to support the increase to registration fees when the Town is without a by-law enforcement officer, dog parks, designated areas for dogs to run off leash and garbage cans for disposal of dog feces. CAO M. Freimanis stated that a citizen's group is working with Council to develop a central park area with a component for a dog park to enable dogs to run off leash. There is recognition for stations to be provided for disposal of dog feces. A request for proposal for a dog by-law enforcement officer has been advertised to strengthen our current level of enforcement. The new by-law will update our present by-law to today's standards and will include:

- More responsibility placed on dog owners for restraining their pet(s) while off premises
- Expansion of the definition of fierce and dangerous dogs to allow action and stricter regulation on the part of the by-law enforcement officer or town staff
- More emphasis on the dog owner to muzzle or keep their dog on a shorter leash while off premises and to take the necessary measures to securely keep their dog on their property
- More options available to the dog owner if their dog is impounded
- More emphasis on dog registration
- A schedule of fees and penalties for by-law infractions

The current registration fees which have not increased in approximately 25 years do not cover the \$8000-\$10,000 annual canine control officer fees. Calculation of the new fees was based on researching other municipalities and taking an average. Deputy Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton stated that defining an accurate number of dogs through registration may assist in creating more services for dog owners. Solicitor L. Evans stated the purpose of by-laws in general is for enforcement and penalties, not services. The new dog by-law and increased fees will address the cost to taxpayers for people who have pets. The issues raised by the member of the gallery though valid, were policy related to be addressed by Council to decide how they see the community developing.

Council discussion included acknowledgement of responsible dog owners, timelines for phasing in and publication of the new by-law if approved, current status of canine control services, present designated areas for dogs to run off leash, definition of a fierce and dangerous dog, by-law infraction penalties, and procedures once a dog is captured. CAO M. Freimanis stated the importance of enforcing the new dog by-law diligently to alleviate the challenges and difficulties we presently have.

**MOVED by Councilor J. Janega, and SECONDED by Councilor B. Lewis "to approve the second and final reading of the dog by-law". MOTION CARRIED.**


**7. Approved Additions**

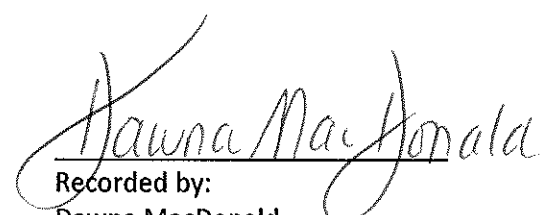
There were no additions to the agenda.

**8. Adjournment**

**MOVED by Councilor B. Lewis, and SECONDED by Councilor J. Janega, "To adjourn the Town Council Meeting at 8:20 p.m". MOTION CARRIED.**

May 15, 2013  
Date

  
Approved by:  
Maris Freimanis, CAO

  
Recorded by:  
Dawna MacDonald