

**PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**Minutes of Meeting
April 23, 2014**

Present

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

Regrets

Director of Finance, Erin MacEachen

1. Call to Order

A Committee of the Whole Meeting was held in the Shannon Studio, PHCC, Wednesday, April 23, 2014 and called to order by Mayor MacLean at 7:00 p.m.

2. Additions to / Approval of Agenda

- a) 125th Anniversary of the Town – Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton
- b) Strait Area Apartments – Mayor MacLean

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Dr. T. Boudreau and SECONDED by Councilor J. Janega “To approve the agenda as amended”. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Gallery Presentations

There were no gallery presentations.

4. Other Business

- a) Strategic Priorities – Review and Renewal

The Committee of the Whole meetings will be restructured to allow Council and staff to provide an update and/or progress report on the seven priorities and evolution of action items from their respective committee appointments. Mayor MacLean requested clarity and a breakdown of the committees.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Dr. T. Boudreau and SECONDED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton “To accept the seven priorities for the Town as presented in the Strategic Priorities 2014 and that updates and progress reports will be provided by Council at the Committee of the Whole Meetings”. MOTION CARRIED.

- b) Committee Reports and Updates:

- i. Active Transportation (AT) – Director, Marketing, Recreation, Tourism & Culture – P. Davis
 - The AT Committee meets every six weeks and identifies barriers and improvements for consideration
 - The development of an official Municipal AT strategy is in its final stages and it will be presented to Council. A community open house is planned for the near future
 - ECBC and Economic Development funding have been received for the AT initiative

- ii. Trails – Director, Marketing, Recreation, Tourism & Culture – P. Davis
 - ECBC funding has been received to provide improvements to trails, signage and promotional material, benches, bike racks and a fountain
 - Trails have been assessed and a suggested maintenance plan is being developed to manage regeneration and signage highlighting various species
 - A volunteer Trails Association is under development and meetings continue with various groups and businesses to discuss trail maintenance
 - A ribbon cutting ceremony is planned for early summer
- iii. Airport – Councilor J. Janega
 - A copy of the final study from CBCL is expected soon
 - Vibe Consulting were hired to create a new website to promote awareness of the Port Hawkesbury Airport
 - New lighting and safety improvements are being discussed
 - CAO, M. Freimanis and P. Davis were commended on their work on the airport studies and the lighting project
 - Much needed improvements to the airport were recognized as integral for future economic development
- iv. Beautification – Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton
 - The primary beautification efforts this year to attract visitors and residents alike will focus on the waterfront and will tie-in with the Festival of the Strait and other summer venues
 - The extent of beautification will depend on the budget, volunteer hours, and maintenance
- v. Community Health Centre – Councilor J. Janega
 - Follow up on the letter of intent to the Province from the Community Health Centre Committee will take place shortly
- vi. Eastern Counties Regional Library – Deputy Mayor Dr. T. Boudreau
 - The budget and strategic planning are being reviewed and discussion is taking place on the go forward plan for the Board and the library
 - After school programming is a success
- vii. Eastern District Planning Commission (EDPC) – Deputy Mayor Dr. T. Boudreau
 - Deputy Mayor Dr. T. Boudreau’s term as Chair ends with the forthcoming meeting
 - Policies for complaints procedures and processes were established
 - The budget has been passed and new projects are underway
- viii. Park Development – Deputy Mayor Dr. T. Boudreau
 - Applications have been submitted for the splashpad
 - ECBC has confirmed a funding level for the splashpad; other funding will be derived from the community
- ix. Regional Policing – Councilor J. Janega
 - Meetings take place quarterly and there have been no major changes since the February meeting
 - An update will be provided to Council in the event of any changes

- x. Strait Area Transit (SAT) – Councilor B. Lewis
- Town Council supported the first quarter funding of the SAT pending the outcome of the SAT study. The study did not address funding or solutions to the problems facing the viability of the SAT
 - Richmond County is primarily involved with the SAT; the status of Inverness County funding is uncertain
 - The new SAT Chair is Victor David; Vice Chair Chris Cook is resigning
 - The SAT is waiting to hear back on funding support from the Province
 - An update will be provided to Council after the next SAT meeting
 - The Community Transit NS is having a community roundtable May 2

5. Approved Additions

- a) 125th Anniversary of the Town – Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton
The celebration of the 125th anniversary of the Town of Port Hawkesbury will be in conjunction with the Festival of the Strait. The date of July 13th is slotted for the waterfront celebration and it will follow the Festival of the Strait parade. Updates will be provided to Council regarding invited guests, entertainment, and other issues.
- b) Strait Area Apartments – Mayor MacLean
Mayor MacLean was contacted by the Sydney Housing Commission expressing interest in restoring the Strait Apartments. The Sydney Housing Commission sent a report to the Halifax Housing Commission and Mayor MacLean was asked to meet with the Director in Halifax to discuss restoration of the Strait Apartments. Mayor MacLean asked for Council's consideration to include the restoration of the Strait Apartments as a strategic priority.

The Committee of the Whole recessed In Camera at 7:50 p.m. and reconvened at 8:10 p.m.

MOVED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton, and **SECONDED** by Councilor B. Lewis "That Deputy Mayor Dr. T. Boudreau, CAO, M. Freimanis, and Director of Finance, E. MacEachen will meet to discuss the YMCA request and will provide an update to Council prior to calling an in depth meeting with the YMCA CEO and YMCA financial representatives.

6. Adjournment

MOVED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton and **SECONDED** by Councilor B. Lewis "To adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 8:10 p.m." **MOTION CARRIED.**

May 13, 2014
Date

Maris Freimanis
Approved by:
Maris Freimanis, CAO

Dawna MacDonald
Recorded by:
Dawna MacDonald