

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

**Minutes of Meeting
February 17, 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

Guests

Jacob Ritchie, Planner, Ekistics Planning & Design
Joella Foulds, Executive Director, Celtic Colours Festival

1. Call to Order

A Committee of the Whole Meeting was held in the Shannon Studio, PHCC, Monday, February 17, 2014. It was called to order by Mayor MacLean at 7:30 p.m.

2. Additions to / Approval of Agenda

Strait Area Transit – Mayor MacLean

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

3. Gallery Presentations

a) Ekistics Planning & Design – Town of Port Hawkesbury Pathways Project

Mr. Ritchie’s presentation to Council addressed a conceptual trail design to connect the NSCC Strait Campus to Reeves Street. Two trail options were analyzed comparing two different routes to show the benefits that are unique to each so that the Town can make the best decision regarding implementation. The key points of the presentation included: 1) A School and Community Survey; 2) Access Assessment; 3) Pathway Concepts; and, 4) Implementation Plan.

A Council question and answer period followed on the two preferred options. The benefits and disadvantages of safety, cost, topography, access to Reeves Street, construction materials, land acquisition, design, lighting, and signage were discussed. A request was made to include in the report Granville Street and the Embree Island Bridge to connect with and promote the downtown corridor. Mayor MacLean thanked Mr. Ritchie and commended Ekistics Planning & Design for an excellent report. Council will deliberate and provide suggestions to P. Davis and Mr. Ritchie regarding a preferred option.

b) Celtic Colours Festival

Ms. Joella Foulds provided Council with an update on the 2013 Celtic Colours International Festival and discussed 1) The growth of the festival since 1997; 2) Community Development and Impact; 3) The

Festival Reach to a national and international audience; 4) the Tourism and Economic Impact; and, 5) Job creation from the festival. She thanked Council for the supportive relationships Celtic Colours continues to share with the Town, the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre staff and partners, local businesses, and community organizations.

Ms. Foulds addressed Council's questions stating local groups and organizations respond to Celtic Colours advertising regarding coordinating community meals for visitors attending the festival. All revenues are kept by these local groups. She stated that if the Town could sell more tickets locally, a possibility may exist to include another venue such as the SAERC auditorium in addition to the PHCC Opening Night Concert ceremony. Presently, it would be difficult as a decent expectation on return could not be anticipated. Mayor MacLean thanked Ms. Foulds for her presentation.

4. Approved Additions

Strait Area Transit (SAT)

Mayor MacLean recommended to Council to wait regarding a final decision on the SAT until additional information is received from the Province. The CAOs will deliberate on this information and it will be provided to the Strait Area Mayors and Wardens for a report to their respective Councils.

5. Other Business

a) Strait Area Waterfront Society – Waterfront Reserve Fund

E. MacEachen, Director of Finance provided Council with a memo on the Waterfront Society, its dissolution, and the transfer of its assets back to the Town. The Society assets included a cash sum in their capital account of \$184,663.18. The reserve fund amount of \$179,195.26 is net of \$5,467.92 owed to Grant Thornton for a CRA HST audit. Council should note that an amount was provided to the Society from ECBC that may be required to be returned, therefore, setting aside the amount for future use or refund should be considered.

MOVED by Councillor B. Lewis and SECONDED by Councillor B. Chisholm-Beaton "to set up a separate reserve account named the Waterfront Reserve Fund and to transfer \$179,195.26 into this reserve account". MOTION CARRIED.

6. Adjournment

MOVED by Councillor B. Lewis, and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor Dr. T. Boudreau "to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 8:40 p.m.". MOTION CARRIED.

March 6 2014

Date

Maris Freimanis

Approved by:
Maris Freimanis, CAO

Dawna MacDonald

Recorded by:
Dawna MacDonald