

**Community Development Committee (CDC)
Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2021 @ 5:30 PM
Via WebEx virtual meetings**

In Attendance: Chair Councillor Mike Trinacty
Councillor Rod Reeves
Councillor Ty Walsh
Heather Morse
CAO Mike Payne
Brittany Brydon, MPAL

Regrets: Carol Hiscock-White

1. The meeting was called to order by Councillor Trinacty at 5:33 PM.
2. The minutes of the March 11, 2021 meeting were approved as circulated.
3. The Agenda was approved with the addition of:
 - 4 (c) MPAL Report
 - 6 (c) Town of Berwick in-kind supports to Gala Days

4. Business Arising

a) Public Consultation Policy

Brittany summarized some research she had done including an extensive policy prepared by the Municipality of the County of Kings (MoK) over two years that would be a great model. Some discussion about using the proposed purchase of playground equipment for Spicer Park as the first subject to go through the draft consultation policy. There was support for that including engaging youth has had been done a number of years ago with the assistance of Berwick and District School. Members of the committee are to give some thought about parents with young children that could be contacted. Brittany is to lead those efforts in May.

b) Economic Development Update

Payne summarized input provided to the regular Valley REN stakeholder taskforce meeting that included:

- two development agreements before Planning Advisory for 12 semidetached units and two apartment buildings with some 20 units;
- the alba Nova battery, solar panel and tech project for ten residences, the KMCC and Town Hall;
- Electric Vehicle charges in partnership with local business (7 duals and 2 singles);

- Next Ride will be in Town April 23/24 for eight hours daily with 2 electric vehicles that residence can book test drives online.

Some good feedback was received from the business community re the 2-week radio ad campaign the Town sponsored with Rewind 89.3 FM radio to promote local business and the Easter weekend social media campaign by Taylor Boylan.

Mayor Clarke briefed the committee on a lunch meeting he attended recently with Colonel Cook of CFB Greenwood and other municipal partners. The CAF wants to continue the strong partnership they have with the local community and their 2200 employees that live, work and play in the area. The subject of a local hotel was discussed and Colonel Cook pointed out that the CAF are strong supporters and would avail of a local hotel facility.

The Committee discussed the hotel concept at length and came up with the following recommendations:

- Payne to contact CBRE and explore the options/costs of reupping the hotel needs assessment study for the Town that was done in 2018.
- Payne to send out an update through the Town's local business network with a brief update including the requirement for 50% local ownership and some \$4-5 million in local capital to really get this off the ground.

Councilor Trinacty spoke to item 6. (b), a physical meeting of interested local persons to brainstorm ways to grow the local business community. They determined that in the context of the pandemic now is not the right time. Furthermore, the Town is considering a term Business Development Officer position that would start in late June that, if available, could lead these efforts, liaise with the Valley REN and AVCC.

c) MPAL Report

Brittany reviewed the highlights of her report as circulated that included updates on the Garden club, potential transfer of the Letter of Agreement re the Apple Capital Trail from the Town of Berwick to the Kings County Trail Society; Spicer Park playground equipment; civic addresses and signage for our parks and facilities in the event of emergency and the arrival of train box cars to the trail head off Mill Street. Hoping they are in place by June 1. An application for funding has been submitted to minimally retrofit them, and install some decking. Would intend to develop concrete proposal for use of the train cars over the fall and winter with a plan that they are operational for summer 2022.

5. Sub Committee Updates:

a) Sports Hall of Fame

The annual public event is planned for September. The deadline for nominations is in May.

b) Trails Committee

A work party cleanup is set for Saturday June 5 on national Trail Day. Brittany will get that advertised and pandemic restrictions permitting will also involve a modest barbecue for

volunteers. Barry Corbin, Greg Hibbert and Councilor Trinacty did a local assessment of trail conditions and have identified some areas of need. Some discussion around the potential development by Bentley Built Homes and Viking Ventures in the area west of Ron Smith Drive. There is currently access to the Harvest Moon Trail through the Viking Ventures property. The snowmobile Club also has an arrangement with them that extends south across the Bentley Built Homes lands. As these properties get developed it will be important to engage these companies in conversation about maintaining and enhancing local trail access.

c) KMCC Governance Committee

The next meeting is set for May 31. The Valley Wildcats organization is managing ice rentals for the month of May.

d) Staff Updates

Nothing of significance to report

e) Diversity

Councillor Walsh advised that the draft 'Holidays and Recognition' document is being reviewed and updated regularly. Some discussion that this issue is topical for all committees and they should resist the urge to 'fix' the problem. A focus should be on education, listening to understand, while becoming more aware of racism and diversity concerns.

Ms. Morse shared that she had viewed a 'treaty education' video at a recent Community Health Board meeting that would be a good resource for this committee. There was an acknowledgment that the MoK Diversity Committee would be a great source for resources as well. Some of these resources could be linked to the Town's website to increase awareness within the community at large.

The 'Holidays and Recognition' calendar will be circulated with every meeting agenda for awareness.

f) Gala Days/Town Council Working Group

No update on confirmed plans for this year's event given the situation with the pandemic. They have applied for the four traditional grants they receive every year to keep options open. Running NS have cancelled all their summer events but if Gala Days goes ahead in some fashion a local road race might still be a possibility.

CAO Payne presented a summary and spreadsheet of the Town's annual support (some \$32,000.00+) for a traditional Gala Days weekend prepared by the Director of Finance, Karen Peckford; it was well received by the Committee. Some discussion ensued about just some of the details involved:

- PW sets up barricades, booths, garbage pickup, tear down and clean up.
- Finance processes bills, payments
- Community Development provides office space and co-manages the Gala Days Student Coordinator

6. New Business

a) *Citizen interest in joining the Committee*

Several people have expressed an interest. While the terms of reference for this committee would indicate that no vacancies are available there was a collective opinion to not be overly prescriptive about that. Mayor Clarke stated that this committee like all committees of Council are advisory committees to Council and having more engaged citizens involved in that process is welcomed and encouraged.

7. Next Meeting:

Wednesday, May 19 @ 5:30PM

8. Meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM.

DRAFT