

Community Development Committee (CDC)

Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2021

Via Webex Meetings

1. Welcome/Call to Order

In Attendance:

Councillor Mike Trinacty (Committee Chair)

Mayor Don Clarke

Councillor Ty Walsh

Councillor Rod Reeves

Michael Payne, CAO

Taylor Boylan, Recreation Coordinator

Carol Hiscock-White, citizen member

Jane Bustin, citizen member

Heather Morse, citizen member

Regrets: Beth Wilson

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 PM by Councillor Trinacty

Note - Jane Bustin is re-joining this committee, as approved by Council, as a citizen appointment.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as circulated, there were no additions.

3. Review of Previous Minutes

The minutes were approved as circulated.

4. Business Arising

a) Public consultation policy

A draft copy of a public consultation policy was included in the agenda for review. MPAL B. Brydon has used the existing Municipality County of Kings Public Consultation framework as a guiding document for this policy. The committee agreed around the table that the documents the county have are robust;

and the Town of Berwick can pull from those documents as appropriate. It was noted that there are pieces of the draft document that are missing and require feedback.

Action: B Brydon to fill in the definitions from a staff perspective and the document will be reviewed further at an in-person meeting.

b) Spicer Park playground planning

Due to the pandemic restrictions in place, it is impossible to engage community members in-person, which was a key priority for this project. It was also noted that some construction remains underway in Spicer Park at this time. Councillor Trinacty gave an update that in the surrounding neighbourhood, there are several people and families who are interested in participating in consultation for the project, including some who have been apprehensive in the past.

Action: When timelines are in place for public consultation on Spicer Park, members of the public should be invited via social media posts to capture a larger audience.

c) Treaty Education Video and Discussion

The committee viewed the Treaty Education Nova Scotia video, found at <https://youtu.be/TePIVr2bgCY>

Note: The video feed had some technical difficulties due to the WebEx Platform.

A roundtable discussion took place on the video, led by Heather Morse and Councillor Trinacty.

Of specific note from the roundtable discussion; the Annapolis Valley Regional Library offers programming on Truth and Reconciliation that is in-depth on this matter, National Indigenous Peoples' Day is June 21st, land acknowledgement should be considered at all meetings and that our actions are more than just the words we speak, and information we share. Mayor Clarke noted that partnering opportunities may be arising with Annapolis Valley First Nation, and emphasized the importance of organic relationships forming.

Action: Taylor will share this video on the Town of Berwick social media and website.

Heather will follow-up to find more information and resources that can be accessed on Treaty Education.

<https://novascotia.ca/treaty-education/>

d) Physical Activity Community Survey – Highlights Jan 2021

A copy of the survey results were included in agenda packages. The committee was reminded of the demographics of the survey's respondents; the majority of the respondents were aged 40+. The top activities reported in the survey were walking with a distant second of swimming. This is used to direct our physical activity strategy, and shows the importance of the trail work that has been underway recently. No additional particulars.

Action: Mike Payne to distribute the full survey results to the committee.

5. Sub Committee Updates

a) Sports Hall of Fame

This committee met on May 18th and are still moving ahead with a May 28th deadline for nominations. An action item has been sponsor check-ins, and fundraising requests, but this has been put on hold due to pandemic restrictions. Currently, the committee plans to hold the event on September 26, 2021 but recognize that this is subject to change.

b) Trails Committee

The intention of this committee has been to host community clean-up on June 4th. This can't be done given the current pandemic restrictions, but some of the work does need to be completed. A smaller group will work to complete clean-up activities on June 4th, and a "visit the trail" community event will take place at a later date. There is no new update on the railcar project.

c) KMCC Governance Committee

May meeting has been postponed. There is a major project underway with the intention of new signage, including a digital sign, that will be inclusive of all partners within the facility.

d) Staff Updates

CAO Mike Payne gave an update that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Town Hall remains closed and staff are working to reduce the footprint at Town Hall. Many staff are working from home to ensure critical operations take place, and Public Works continues to work as an essential service for the Town. Committee of the Whole staff reports were included in the agenda package and

staff are commended for extensive work on grants, including successful grants from Participaction, the Province of Nova Scotia Community Cultures and Heritage, Trans Canada Trails, Canada Summer Jobs and SKILL Summer Student funding. Staff also reviewed the proposed Apple Fund initiative, which will be a funding program to reduce barriers to accessing funds for program participants.

f) Diversity Committee

Councillor Walsh explained the calendar to new members. It was noted that the Diversity Kings Committee has not met recently. Councillor Walsh shared the following upcoming dates and the committee's intentions:

June 7-11 AVRCE Pride Week, *flag raising, proclamation*

June 15 - World Elder Abuse Day, *coordinate activities with Michelle from Kings Senior Safety*

June 21 - National Indigenous People's Day, *flag raising and social media messaging.*

July 1 - Canada Day, *TBD*

Berwick Gala Days - *No update at this time.*

Action - Taylor will connect with Caroline Adams to access Pride Week resources for this committee, and forward ahead to the committee ahead of the next meeting

6. New Business

a) Interpretive Panel location

Email discussions on this matter were included in the agenda packages, a brief background was shared about the project which is an interpretive panel about Margaret Marshall Saunders, who wrote the book Beautiful Joe, and resided in Berwick as a child. Extensive discussion took place around the table about a potential location for the panel, including Rainforth Park, downtown core and in front of Town Hall and Library. The general consensus was that this matter would need to be brought before Council but the committee supported placing this panel in front of Town Hall. Further discussion ensued about the possibility of a future project with interpretive panels of the Town of Berwick history through Town.

Action - Councillor Trinacty to distribute photo examples of these type of panels in other communities.

b) Inclusive Crosswalk Markings – Berwick & District School

Berwick and District School is seeking support in painting inclusive

crosswalks in the area surrounding the school, two rainbow pride crosswalks and one Black Lives Matter crosswalk. Round table discussion was largely in support of this initiative but questions were raised surrounding the legalities of painting crosswalks in colours other than white on roadways. It was noted that two of the crosswalks would be on school property thus not on a roadway, but one would cross Veteran's Drive.

Action - Mike Payne to further investigate the legal requirements of painting of the crosswalk on Veteran's Drive.

7. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned by Councillor Trinacty at 7:25 PM.

The next meeting will be held June 16th at 5:30 PM.