

Community Development Committee Meeting Feb 24, 2022

1. Welcome/Call to Order

Attendance:

Mayor Don Clarke, Deputy Mayor Mike Trinacty, Councillor Rod Reeves, CAO Mike Payne, Recreation Coordinator Taylor Boylan, Carol Hiscock-White, Jane Bustin, Heather Morse

Councillor Walsh joined meeting 7:00 PM

Regrets:

Beth Wilson

Call to order:

Deputy Mayor Trinacty called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

2. Approval of the Agenda

Additions:

Under committee updates: Hall of Fame and Diversity Committee updates

New Business: Apple Blossom Festival

Omissions:

Trails committee has not met for a committee update

Motion to approve the agenda:

Councillor Rod Reeves, Seconded by Carol Hiscock-White

Motion Carried

3. Review of Previous Minutes – Jan 27, 2022

No errors or omissions noted

4. Business Arising

a) Kings Region Diversity IMSA

Mayor Clarke has advised the IMSA (Inter-Municipal Service Agreement) working group that the Town will not join the Kings Region Diversity IMSA. The funding model was not sustainable based on our population size and we anticipate that MoK will continue to include us in initiatives and as part of the Kings Region Diversity Committee. Mayor Clarke noted that other Towns had not made a commitment to the IMSA at the time of the last meeting and that the Town would continue to follow those discussions.

b) Trail Head Boxcars Issue Report

An issue report was enclosed in the meeting package, outlining what has happened in the planning process for the Boxcar Expression of Interest/Request for Proposals.

The Town of Berwick holds a letter of agreement to use the trailhead area for "recreation" purposes but that does not include the placement and subsequent use,

of the boxcars on the property. The Town of Berwick does not own this land, nor the adjacent pieces. Discussion ensued that this was an important lesson for all involved parties and that the Department of Community Development will continue to future plan for the site and boxcars, waiting a few weeks for follow-up from the Province. Co-op funding has been secured for a boxcar student but at the time of this meeting, no suitable applicants had been selected and the deadline had been extended for an additional week.

c)Town 100th Celebration – brainstorming

Prospects of an in-person brainstorming session at the next meeting of the Committee was met with anticipation. The on-going list has continued to be updated and discussion was had about some further ideas such as;

- A list of existing houses from 1923, with a self-directed walking tour
- Collaborating with the Evening Drive organizational committee, and other community events and festivals
- Creating a 100th anniversary brochure

The committee noted the importance of recognizing First Nations history and the urgency to make decisions now for financial planning purposes. Discussion was had surrounding creating a subcommittee to build upon the ideas with people familiar with the local history, and also connecting with organizations who can host their own events and recognition pieces.

Action:

Community Development staff to share on social media requesting feedback ahead of the next Community Development Committee meeting.

5. Committee Updates

a) Trails Committee

The trails committee has not met since the last Community Development Committee meeting. Discussing the wetland projects, the CAO and Mayor met with Ducks Unlimited and some funding has been applied for to create a shovel-ready plan for this development that would include a trail. The surrounding land owners have been briefed and Ducks Unlimited would do much of the work. Discussion was raised around flooding and CAO Payne remarked that ponds created through the development might actually mitigate some of the flooding and cited Annapolis Royal's project as an example.

b) Staff Updates

MPAL: The report was reviewed, CAO Payne noted that while funding had been secured by the MPAL for the Blue Route project, Bicycle Nova Scotia did not currently have the capacity to complete the project. Looking to retain funding and complete in F2023!

Economic Development: No questions or comments surrounding the report.

Recreation: Taylor Boylan's last day will be March 4, 2022 and a replacement for maternity leave coverage has been secured; Natalie Palmer will begin Monday, February 28 2022.

Deputy Mayor Trinacty noted that the Wildcats will be available for a "Skate with the Wildcats" day on March 17th.

c) Hall of Fame

The committee met February 24th, as an independent group. The event will be held on September 24th 2022 with a June 1st deadline for submissions. The group is working to build a social media presence.

d) Diversity Committee

February was African Heritage Month. Activities were a scaled down version of earlier planned events but the Town did raise the Pan-African flag, made a proclamation at Council and posted on social media. Heather Morse spoke to the role of the diversity committee from the County of Kings noting that Kenisha Gordon is an incredible resource, and education is important for us to focus on as a smaller community. Looking ahead we will recognize International Women's Day on March 8th and International Transgender Day of Visibility on March 31st.

6. New Business

a) Volunteer Appreciation Planning

The Provincial Volunteer Award ceremony will be held in Fall 2022, with nominations for recognition at that level due in April 2022. Some discussion ensued about what the Town can do to recognize our volunteers, after several years of no in-person events. Looking to Fall 2022, the idea will be to host a large event at the Lions Hall that includes an in-memoriam aspect to recognize volunteers lost since 2020. It was noted that this should be held following the provincial ceremony and all organizations should be apprised of the process for nominating volunteers.

b) Draft Town of Berwick Accessibility Plan

The draft document was well received by Council at the February Committee of the Whole meeting and this committee felt it was well done, and comprehensive. CAO Payne commended Kim Halliday and the Accessibility Advisory Committee on their hard work on this plan.

c) Other

Apple Blossom: Discussion was had about the cancellation of some pieces of the festival and continuation of others.

7. Next Meeting – March 17 or 24 /22

March 24 – 6:30 PM in Council Chambers.

8. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 PM