

**Community Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2022**

In Attendance:

Chair Councillor Mike Trinacty
CAO Mike Payne
Councillor Rod Reeves
Councillor Ty Walsh
Heather Morse
Beth Wilson
Carol White
Jane Bustin via WebEx
Recreation Coordinator Natalie Palmer

Absent with regrets:

Mayor Don Clarke

1. Welcome/Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Councillor Trinacty at 6:35 PM.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Carol White motioned to approve agenda, the motion was seconded by Councillor Walsh.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes – February 24, 2022

Councillor Reeves motioned to approve previous minutes from February 24th, the motion was seconded by Heather Morse.

4. Staff Reports

5. Business Arising

a) Train Box Cars Update

CAO Mike Payne gave an update on the box cars. They are located on Department of Natural Resources property, within our LOA agreement and that has stalled planning efforts. The Town had been considering using them as a business space, however, the land is not zoned for commercial use. Some funding has been secured by the Town, and the plan moving forward is to use that funding to construct some modest decking to make the cars useable under the initial recreation/community space use.

b) Centennial Celebration brainstorming

Chair D/Mayor Trinacty led a group brainstorming activity to set priorities for next year's Centennial celebration. A list of suggestions for programming that had been brought forward by both community members and members of the community development committee were presented. The goal of this activity was to refine the list of suggestions, and determine which ideas were most viable to include in the planning process for the Centennial. Jane Bustin raised questions about whether a budget for the Centennial event had been set, to which Councillor Trinacty stated there was no budget set currently. CAO Mike Payne stated that \$10,000 had been earmarked in the Town's draft annual budget to be used for the Centennial. In addition, the possibility of corporate sponsorship from local businesses was mentioned to help offset the costs, as well as pursuing grants and donations.

Many of the suggested events seemed to fit in well with Gala Days programming, and the issue of hosting two large-scale events in Berwick in one year was raised. It was agreed that Gala Days should also adopt the Centennial theme, and include many of the recommended events in their programming to avoid duplicating the two events. The issue of coinciding with Apple Blossom was raised as well, and the possibility of combining efforts with the Apple Blossom Festival throughout their programming was discussed. The May long weekend in 2023 was proposed as the start date for Centennial celebrations, but no date was officially set.

Members of the committee all cast votes on which of the suggested ideas they preferred. The most popular ideas included creating "100 Things to Like About Berwick", creating a featured museum display, creating a resource for a self-guided walking tour of Berwick, adding to the town mural, hanging a birthday banner at either end of Commercial Street, placing educational signs in front of historic buildings, exchanging cultural items with town of Berwick in England and Maine, naming the solar garden after the Centennial, and planting 100 trees, among others. The idea of planting 100 apple trees was debated as the issue of pesticide use and maintenance was brought up related to growing and maintaining that many healthy, fruit bearing trees. An alternative suggestion was to entice people to purchase and plant a tree on their private property in order to receive a commemorative plaque.

The goal of the next Centennial discussion was set to refine the list further, and combine ideas that could be incorporated as one event.

6. New Business

a) Canada Post Foundation

Councillor Ty Walsh presented information regarding a funding opportunity through the Canada Post Community Foundation. The grant is applicable towards community-based projects and amounts of up to \$25,000 can be awarded. There was discussion around preparing to apply for this grant next year in order to secure funding to be put towards construction of a new community playground. D/Mayor Trinacty raised the issue that there may be other infrastructure projects within the Town that might need to be completed before plans for a

new playground move forward. A higher grant amount (up to \$50,000) can be awarded to community projects that include aspects that would advance the TRC (Truth and Reconciliation Commission) There was discussion about what could be added to the plan for a new playground that would align with that goal.

b) Other

Beth Wilson raised the issue of there being a lot of waste present along road and trailways in town. The idea of a community clean-up events was proposed, and there was interest in organizing this.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on April 28th, 2022 at 6:30 PM.

8. Adjourn

Councillor Reeves motioned to adjourn the meeting, motion was seconded by Carol White.