

**Community Development Committee  
Meeting Minutes (via WebEx virtual meetings)  
January 27<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 PM**

In Attendance: Chair Councillor Mike Trinacty  
Councillor Rod Reeves  
Councillor Ty Walsh  
Mayor Don Clarke  
Heather Morse  
Beth Wilson  
CAO Mike Payne  
Economic Development Officer Katie Verrette

Absent with regrets: Carol Hiscock-White  
Jane Bustin

**1. Welcome/Call to Order**

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

**2. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved with the following additions: Councillor Walsh to speak to Diversity update during the IMSA update, Mural added under New Business.

Councillor Walsh motioned for the approval of the agenda with additions, motion seconded by Councillor Reeves.

**3. Review of Minutes**

The minutes of the December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting were approved with the minor edit of moving Councillor Walsh from the “in attendance” to “absent with regrets”.

**4. Business Arising**

**a. Spicer Park Playground planning**

Mike Payne spoke to the update of the Spicer Park project. The RFP closed mid-December and was awarded to Arkson Fence Ltd. There was only one bid submitted. Public Works had a site visit with the successful applicant to discuss a work plan in early January. Terms were highlighted in a written contract and signed by both Public Works and Arkson Fence. The pea gravel will be removed and new wood fiber flooring will be laid. A current piece (the frog) will be relocated, a carousel will be added, and by removing one of the existing swings Arkson Fence Ltd. will supply and install an accessible swing. Public Works will work on finishing touches by smoothing the edge between the new flooring and the grass.

**b. Other**

No other items for discussion.

**5. Sub Committee Updates**

**a. Trails Update**

The Trail Committee met virtually on January 24<sup>th</sup>. The meeting highlighted several new exciting projects. Mike Payne provided an overview of a new initiative on the North end of Town. There has been discussion around exploring the “ring trail” concept due to the developments including the solar garden, possible housing developments and this new project. The Mayor was contacted by the Jijuktukwejk Watershed Alliance and Ducks Unlimited with a proposal for the Town regarding an engineered wetland located on the North end of Town. Mike Payne continues to participate in healthy discussion regarding its development. This development may affect community property lots and if so the Town will pursue a community consultation process and/or easement agreement.

Katie provided an overall update on the boxcar project. After researching information to include in an expression of interest (EOI) it was discovered that the boxcars are sitting on DNR owned property which is zoned as recreational, meaning no business is permitted to operate there. In order to ensure the boxcars are accessible and useful by the summer months the Town will issue a request for proposals (RFP) for the construction of an accessible deck, ramp, and connection point between the two boxcars. At the same time the RFP is being issued, an expression of interest (EOI) will be published for any interested parties to submit a proposal for operation of the space. With the RFP and ROI being launched, Katie will also reach out to both DNR and our planning department to discuss the project.

**b. Staff Updates**

Mike Payne highlighted that large projects such as Spicer Park and the Boxcars continue to be of focus in the office. There is an active job posting in the department for a term position to cover Taylors maternity leave. The position closes Friday and hiring process will move along quickly. Angie Dorey has been hired as a full time staff at the Fitness Centre and has been a great addition to the team.

Heather asked if there have been any recent developments in Housing that she could share or highlight around the many other tables she sits. Mike Trinacty spoke of the work that the Town of Berwick Housing committee are doing. The committee is currently looking for properties for affordable housing and are assessing current bylaws to ensure housing issues are considered.

**6. New Business**

**a. Diversity IMSA/Committee Update**

Although the Town sees value in the IMSA (Inter Municipal Service Agreement) there is agreement that the financial commitment would be considerate and therefore the Town will be exploring other options to support this work. We are fortunate to have a very supportive community. As soon as face to face meetings are possible it may be practical to get a local community group together to champion the issues. Healthy discussion ensued around the great work being done by staff and council members, however there was encouragement to explore initiatives outside simply focusing on the calendar. Councillor Trinacty noted that several community groups have celebrated diversity (School, Library, Jr. A Wildcats etc.) and as a Town we should work to support and celebrate those groups and their events as well.

Discussion around adding a member of diversity to the committee was explored however the discussion of how to begin that process was one of importance. Mayor Clarke will look into this matter further.

For the month of February, the following is planned:

Pan African flag to be raised on the morning of February 1<sup>st</sup>. Posts will be made through our social media channels and the Town electronic sign will acknowledge February as African Heritage Month. Mayor Clarke will deliver a proclamation during the Council meeting scheduled for the 8<sup>th</sup> of

February. Over the month resources will be shared to celebrate African Canadian heritage from our partners at the Library, VANSDA, community healthboards, AVRCE, and more. The province launched celebrations today with a virtual ceremony on YouTube ([https://youtu.be/bY\\_7nazpP8U](https://youtu.be/bY_7nazpP8U)).

**b. Boxcar update**

Discussion summarized above in Sub Committee updates: Trails Committee.

**c. Town 100<sup>th</sup> Celebration**

As meetings continue to be held virtually the challenge of a brainstorming session is evident. Members of the committee continue to be encouraged to add ideas to the running list which has been circulated. When permitted, we will gather in person to flush out the list. Councillor Trinacty encouraged not only members of the committee, but also staff members to contribute ideas.

**d. Mural Committee:**

The committee is pursuing artists to create a mural to be placed on the Bargain Harleys building. The hope is to reveal the mural as a kick off to the Centennial celebration. Artists who apply will be given a package covering background information on the Town of Berwick and be asked to feature a design that encompasses the 100<sup>th</sup> year of incorporation. The approximate dollar value needed for the project will be \$20,000 and the mural will be featured both on the front and the side of the building. The committee will be securing funds through a number of avenues including fundraising, grant applications and requests for Town of Berwick financial support.

**e. Other:**

Mayor Clarke has come upon several boxes of historical clippings which may be of interest or value for the centennial project and/or for the museum.

Mayor Clarke informed the committee of a project which Alan Lynch has been working on. The project is the development of a cultural trail for the Annapolis Valley and is being created to encourage tourism on our area. Mayor Clarke will circulate information to the committee.

Beth touched on the importance of cyber awareness after a recent attack on Maple Lodge Poultry. Cyber hacking is alive and well so be cautious and further your knowledge and understanding of cyber safety awareness.

**7. Next Meeting:**

Thursday February 24th @ 6:30 PM. As that date approaches a determination will be made as to whether the meeting can be held in person.

**8. Adjourn:**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:05PM by Councillor Reeves and seconded by Mayor Clarke.