

**PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING**

**Minutes of Meeting
March 3, 2015**

Present

Mayor, Billy Joe MacLean
Deputy Mayor, Joe Janega
Councilor, Dr. Trevor Boudreau
Councilor, Brenda Chisholm-Beaton
Councilor, Bert Lewis
Chief Administrative Officer, Maris Freimanis
Director of Finance, Erin MacEachen
Director Marketing, Recreation, Tourism & Culture, Paula Davis
Town Solicitor, Larry Evans

Guests

John Bain, Director, Eastern District Planning Commission,
Sean Donovan, Planner, Eastern District Planning Commission

1. Call to Order

A Public Meeting of the Port Hawkesbury Town Council was held in the Shannon Studio, PHCC, Tuesday, March 3, 2015 and called to order by Mayor MacLean at 7:00 p.m.

2. Gallery Presentations

a) Removal Order – 643 & 645 Church Street – Eastern District Planning Commission

Sean Donovan's presentation addressed an order that was issued to the property owners of 643 & 645 Church Street to remove all unlicensed and unregistered vehicles from the properties. The order was in response to a number of complaints regarding the properties' unsightly nature and nonconforming and apparent use as a used car lot which is not permitted in a R2 Residential Zone and is in violation of the Town of Port Hawkesbury's Land Use Bylaw under the MGA.

It was the recommendation of the Eastern District Planning Commission that Council uphold the Administrators February 17, 2015 Removal Order issued to the property owners which ordered them to remove all remaining unlicensed and unregistered vehicles from the properties leaving only the licensed and registered Dodge Neon and the RV.

b) Property Owner, Woody Chediac – Response to Removal Order

In Mr. Chediac's response to the removal order, he stated the properties did not have a sign nor were they used as a used car lot. It was his understanding that his street was residential and commercial and that he misunderstood the order. He added that some vehicles were luxury cars that were not driven in the winter and that weather and ice conditions prevented him from removing the unlicensed and unregistered vehicles as per the order.

c) Council Resolution – 643 & 645 Church Street

MOVED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor J. Janega "To accept the recommendation of the Eastern District Planning Commission to uphold the Administrators February 17, 2015 Removal Order issued to the property owners which ordered them to remove all remaining unlicensed and unregistered vehicles from the properties leaving only the licensed and registered Dodge Neon and the RV". MOTION CARRIED.

d) Active Transportation Plan – John Bain

The Active Transportation Plan outlines a number of basic investments and policy updates aimed at improving access throughout the Town for individuals and groups that choose to travel by means other than a motor vehicle. Mr. Bain's presentation addressed the Town's biggest barriers and identified hazards and threats to Active Transportation in the Town. The Plan includes the identification of the Town's primary routes, their challenges, opportunities, short and long term solutions, and policy support. Mr. Bain suggested that the Planning Advisory Committee and Active Transportation Committee meet to review this draft document and make recommendations to Council.

MOVED by Councilor B. Lewis and SECONDED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton "To approve in principle the Active Transportation Plan and that the Active Transportation Committee will make specific recommendations of the Plan to Council". MOTION CARRIED.

3. Additions to / Approval of Agenda

- Recognition of the Devil's Brigade – Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau

4. Minutes

- Regular Town Council – February 3, 2015
There were no errors or omissions.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

6. Proclamations

There were no proclamations.

7. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

8. Resolutions

There were no resolutions.

9. Other Business

a) Old Arena Site – Update

Deputy Mayor J. Janega stated the old arena is in a serious state of disrepair. Its central location and proximity to shopping, walking and the playground makes it an ideal site for a seniors' housing development. He added there is a shortage and a need for affordable seniors housing and it is our responsibility to supply that need. Mayor MacLean stated there are other areas in the Town for consideration of senior housing and that work is needed to determine what residents want, a list of residents waitlisted for housing, and cost differentials for seniors' affordable housing versus a senior's health care facility.

b) Joint Industrial Park – Update

Turner Drake & Partners Ltd. with assistance from ACOA conducted a Feasibility Study and Supply and Demand Analysis Report on the Joint Industrial Park to determine the market and financial feasibility of developing the Joint Industrial Park. CAO, M. Freimanis outlined the consultant's key determinations and recommendations and stated Council discussion is required on next steps and consideration of conceptual planning and design strategies to be ready for demand in the park. Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau stated it was important to prepare for investment readiness and was in support of a conceptual plan. Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton stated that overall the studies were not positive and didn't address potential partnerships. Councilor B. Lewis inquired about a subdivision plan and sewer services.

MOVED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor J. Janega "To invite Turner Drake & Partners Ltd to a future meeting to address questions from Council and the Joint Industrial Park Committee". MOTION CARRIED.

c) Creamery – Update

Deputy Mayor J. Janega stated the changes in GASHA have delayed the plans for the Creamery as the site of a potential community health centre for the Town. He will be meeting with The Hon. Michel Samson to discuss the project, the current health care challenges, and the shortage of affordable seniors' housing in the Strait area.

d) Tax Account Adjustments

MOVED by Deputy Mayor J. Janega and SECONDED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton "To write off four Tax Accounts #10135737; #07957807; #09081526; and, #07205007 as outlined in the February 23 memo of Aleen MacDonald, Revenue Collector". MOTION CARRIED.

e) Snow Removal – Update

CAO, M. Freimanis stated that the Public Works staff will continue to remove the ice build-up on the streets as weather permits, clear the sidewalks and push back the snow as best as they can. The overtime is consistent with expenditures for this time of the year, road salt expenditures are down and the remaining budget of \$50,000 should take us through March pending no major or frequent storms. He anticipated a small surplus in the budget at the end of the year. The Public Works staff was commended on their efforts in snow and ice removal.

10. Approved Additions

- Recognition of the Devil's Brigade – Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau

Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau stated the Devil's Brigade was honoured with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honour the United States Congress can bestow. It was noted that Hector MacInnis and Donald MacDougall were part of the Devil's Brigade, a joint American-Canadian Special Forces military unit that was revered for their service during World War II.

The Public Meeting recessed In Camera at 8:25 p.m. to discuss the Inter-Municipal Service Agreement – Eastern-Strait Regional Enterprise Network; YMCA Lease; Strait of Canso Superport Corporation Limited Citizen Nominee, Board of Directors; and, the Harbour Authority.

The Public Meeting reconvened at 10:00 p.m.

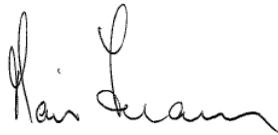
MOVED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton and SECONDED by Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau "That Council will provide direction to CAO, M. Freimanis to negotiate the results of the Inter-Municipal Service Agreement – Eastern-Strait Regional Enterprise Network and the YMCA Lease on behalf of Council and as determined by the In Camera discussion". MOTION CARRIED.

11. Adjournment

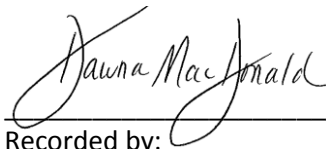
MOVED by Councilor B. Lewis and SECONDED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton "To adjourn the Public Meeting of Council at 10:05 p.m." MOTION CARRIED.

March 31, 2015

Date



Approved by:
Maris Freimanis, P.Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer



Recorded by:
Dawna MacDonald