

**PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING**

**Minutes of Meeting
July 6, 2018**

Present

Mayor, Brenda Chisholm-Beaton
Deputy Mayor, Hughie MacDougall
Councilor, Mark MacIver
Chief Administrative Officer, Terry Doyle
Director of Finance, Erin MacEachen
Town Solicitor, Patrick Lamey

Regrets

Councilor, Trevor Boudreau
Councilor, Jeremy White
Director Marketing, Recreation, Tourism & Culture, Paula Davis

1. Call to Order

A Special Public Meeting of the Port Hawkesbury Town Council was held in the Shannon Studio, PHCC, Friday, July 6, 2018 and called to order by Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton at 3:00 p.m.

2. Additions to the Agenda

- a) That Dog Place – Councilor M. MacIver
- b) Spring Hockey – Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton
- c) Plaque – Recognition of Port Hawkesbury Schools – Deputy Mayor H. MacDougall
- d) Energy Efficiency – Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton

MOVED by Councilor M. MacIver and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor H. MacDougall “to approve the agenda with four additions”. MOTION CARRIED.

3. East Granville Street Park

Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton suggested that public presentations precede Council discussion. Deputy Mayor H. MacDougall and Councilor M. MacIver preferred that Council first discuss this issue before hearing from members of the gallery.

The Deputy Mayor was contacted by residents regarding squatters camping on the east Granville Street Park property. He stated this should not be permitted because the area is not designed, zoned or safe for camping. Further, it is not fair to residents residing in that area. He inquired if signage could be erected. Councilor MacIver stated garbage and congregations of cars at night are other issues to consider. The Town cannot promote this area as a park due to zoning regulations and provincial legislation. He suggested placing large rocks along the pole line which would still allow pedestrians to use the property.

Members of the gallery were invited to speak.

Jim and Darlene MacNeil

The number of transients who overnight in this area in their vehicles is increasing. There are safety and vandalism concerns and members of the community do not want to use this area when unfamiliar vehicles are parked there. A website is promoting this site as a free camping location.

Andre Bissonnette

Mr. Bissonnette inquired about the Town's liability regarding health and sanitary issues because of the lack of bathrooms in some campers.

Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton stated these activities did not occur when rock barriers existed and that a reconfiguration of rocks may be the easiest and best solution. The Mayor contacted and requested that freewebsites.net remove their inaccurate advertising of this area as a free camping site due to liability and zoning issues. Discussion included adding signage to clearly state the intended use of this property. Council agreed to the placement of rocks to close off the entire parking lot and grass area but still permit parking on the side of the road, to review signage prior to installment, and to have the inaccurate messaging removed from freewebsites.net. Council will have future discussions on this issue.

**MOVED by Deputy Mayor H. MacDougall and SECONDED by Councilor M. MacIver "that the Town of Port Hawkesbury approves the placement of rocks alongside the entire park area, erection of signage, addition of grass, and to contact freewebsites.net to remove their inaccurate advertising of this area as a free campsite".
MOTION CARRIED.**

4. Excessive Noise from Trains

The Mayor met with the owner of Harbourview B&B who expressed concerns about trains idling, whistle blowing, the train schedule, and the potential impact these issues may have on his business. The Mayor is in the process of engaging CBNS Railway to discuss options for compromise.

5. Approved Additions

a) That Dog Place

CAO, T. Doyle stated the sale of the property is complete. The process began in February and involved zoning changes, a change to the planning strategy, a consolidation deed, and a purchase and sale agreement. The zoning changes and subdivision process have been approved. The sale revenue will be divided between the Town and Inverness County based on percentage of ownership. The Town will assume the costs associated to take the sewer and water to the property line which at this time is unknown as the work has just been completed. The Town's portion of the sale of the land will pay for the work involved to bring services to the property line.

b) Spring Hockey

The Mayor was approached by Janet Morell, Eastern NS Hockey Division to garner interest for a spring hockey program in the Town. Staff will research the viability of a spring hockey program and engage members of the community on interest to extend the ice season. Discussion included the potential timeline for extending the ice season should there be interest.

c) Plaque – Recognition of Port Hawkesbury Schools

Maple Signs will provide a proof of the plaque early next week in recognition of Port Hawkesbury High School, St. Therese School, Port Hawkesbury Public School, Centennial Elementary School and Canso Regional Vocational School.

d) Efficiency Nova Scotia

CAO, T. Doyle attended an Efficiency NS presentation at the AMANS spring conference. Cape Breton Regional Municipality (CBRM) has hired an energy efficiency manager which saves the municipality more than \$1 million annually. The \$80,000 salary for this position is 50% cost shared with Efficiency NS. CAO Doyle received a positive response for the potential of Port Hawkesbury, the Town of Mulgrave and counties of Inverness,

Richmond, and Victoria to partner and cost share to have an efficiency manager. Efficiency NS will prepare and present a shared use agreement to the interested municipalities. Council was in support to move forward with the Efficiency NS initiative and to hire an efficiency manager to access municipal infrastructure for the purpose of determining opportunities to reduce energy consumption.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor H. MacDougall and SECONDED by Councilor M. MacIver “that the Town of Port Hawkesbury partners with the Municipalities of the Counties of Inverness, Richmond, Victoria, the Village of Baddeck and Town of Mulgrave to move forward with arrangements to have a dedicated Efficiency Nova Scotia Energy Manager to access municipal infrastructure for the purpose of determining opportunities for reduction of energy consumption. The Municipalities’ costs for this position will be shared through a formula recommended by Efficiency Nova Scotia and approved by the CAO’s and Clerk”. MOTION CARRIED.

6. Adjournment

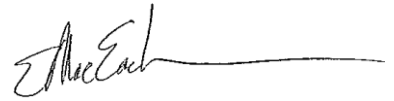
MOVED by Councilor M. MacIver and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor H. MacDougall “to adjourn the Special Public Meeting at 3:47 p.m.”. MOTION CARRIED.

September 12, 2018

Date



Approved by:
Terry Doyle, P.Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer



Recorded by:
Erin MacEachen
Director of Finance