

**PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING**

**Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday, February 5, 2019**

Present

Mayor, Brenda Chisholm-Beaton
Deputy Mayor, Mark MacIver
Councilor, Trevor Boudreau
Councilor, Hughie MacDougall
Councilor, Blaine MacQuarrie
Chief Administrative Officer, Terry Doyle
Director of Finance, Erin MacEachen
Director Marketing, Recreation, Tourism & Culture, Paula Davis
Town Solicitor, Patrick Lamey

1. Call to order

A Public Meeting of the Port Hawkesbury Town Council was held in Shannon Studio, PHCC, Tuesday, February 5, 2019 and called to order by Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton at 7:00 p.m.

2. Additions to the agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

3. Approval of the agenda

MOVED by Deputy Mayor M. MacIver and SECONDED by Councilor H. MacDougall “that the Town of Port Hawkesbury approves the agenda as distributed”. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Gallery Presentations

Destination Reeves Street Stakeholders

- *Danielle Martell, NSCC Student Association President*
Ms. Martell’s presentation included the numbers of students, staff and faculty at the NSCC and their importance to the economy of the Town. She provided testimonials in support of the road diet and stated an Active Transportation (AT) lane between the Town and the NSCC would greatly improve safety for students and residents, and provide a greater connection to the Town. An AT lane would encourage physical activity and improve accessibility for students and residents of all capabilities.

- *Lance Hawley – Parent and Teacher*
Mr. Hawley attended a series of information sessions on the Destination Reeves Street project. He spoke of the unsafe conditions he and his family face when crossing Reeves Street to attend various events. As a teacher, he has daily concerns for students who cross and navigate the street with the high volume of traffic and their excessive speed. Mr. Hawley was in support of the road diet and sees the many benefits of the additional components of the Reeves Street project.

- *Diana Poirier – Executive Director, ROC Society*
CAO, T. Doyle read a letter provided by Ms. Poirier which focused on the challenges and fears many of the ROC members face when crossing Reeves Street. The implementation of a road diet and an AT lane would provide safety and promote independence for many of the ROC members. She stated many at the ROC Society cannot drive a vehicle and walking or cycling is the mode of transportation by the majority of ROC members. She asked that Council consider her letter in support of the road diet and the other project components.

- *Matthew Higgins - Accessibility*
CAO, T. Doyle read a letter from Matthew Higgins who stated the Destination Reeves Street project has the possibility of creating multiple positive changes for the Town. Matthew addressed the excessive speed on Reeves Street and uneven roads and sidewalks which make it difficult for those with accessibility issues. He is in full support of the road diet, an AT lane which would provide a safe pathway and connect the NSCC to the Town, and the enhancement to the Town with the beautification component of the project.
- *Shirley Hartery - Resident*
Mrs. Hartery researched many documents and videos and stated how impressed she was with the Destination Reeves Street conceptual plan which builds on past plans to promote economic development and a strategy for renewal and revitalization of the Town. As a long-time resident of Port Hawkesbury, Mrs. Hartery stated it is time for a change. She addressed the many benefits for this project in particular the linkage to the NSCC. She commended the many volunteers, Council, and staff and extended congratulations to Kevin MacEachern for his role in the project.

5. Acknowledgements – Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton

- Black History Month – February 2019
- More than 170 letters representing 275 people were received in support of the Destination Reeves Street Project and the road diet component

6. Approval of Council Minutes

- Swearing In Ceremony January 8, 2019
- Public Meeting January 8, 2019
- Special Public Meeting January 15, 2019
- Special Public Meeting January 28, 2019
- Emergency Meeting January 30, 2019

There were no errors or omissions.

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

Public Meeting – January 8, 2019 – Aaron Johnson Recognition

Director P. Davis has been in contact with a designer. Renderings will be provided to Council for review and comments.

Special Public Meeting – January 15, 2019 – Doctor Shortage in Cape Breton/Nova Scotia

Mayor B. Chisholm addressed Councilor B. MacQuarrie's question on the status of the draft letters to the Province and the Mayors, Wardens, and Chiefs Committee regarding doctor recruitment and retention. She stated schedules must be coordinated with Councilor T. Boudreau who is assisting with drafting the letters. As of February 5, no meeting has been scheduled with the Mayors, Wardens and Chiefs Committee. The draft letters will be provided to Council for their review prior to distribution to the Province and the Mayors, Wardens and Chiefs Committee.

8. Council Committee Reports

- i. Report of Committee of the Whole – January 22, 2019

There were no motions resulting from the January 22, 2019 minutes.

ii. Approval of Minutes: Committee of the Whole – January 22, 2019

MOVED by Councilor H. MacDougall and SECONDED by Councilor B. MacQuarrie “that the Town of Port Hawkesbury approves the January 22, 2019 minutes of the Committee of the Whole”.

9. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10. Proclamations/Resolutions

There were no proclamations or resolutions.

11. Other Business

i. Reeves Street Road Design Changes/Review

Mr. Dwayne Cross, P. Eng., NS TIR, provided graphics highlighting the current unsafe conditions and accessibility challenges of the four lanes on Reeves Street in comparison to the proposed road diet and amendments to the original conceptual design. The road diet component of the Destination Reeves Street Project is a pilot project with a three month adjustment period and a 12-month monitored trial period. A question and answer period followed.

ii. Notice of Motion re Destination Reeve Street Project

The following Notice of Motion was provided:

“That the Town of Port Hawkesbury amend its proposal submitted to ACOA and NS TIR regarding the Destination Reeves Street project, such that, the road diet portion of the project be removed, while the remaining components of the project continue to move forward.”

At the January 8, 2019 Public Meeting, Councilor B. MacQuarrie outlined concerns he had with the Destination Reeves Street Project and provided a Notice of Motion to remove the road diet component. Since that meeting, NS TIR engineers, WSP Consulting and staff met and worked with Council to understand and address their primary concerns relating to the road diet, access management, crosswalks, traffic lights, bicycle lanes and the timelines and evaluation period of this pilot project. Council also met with senior ACOA representatives who indicated the road diet pilot was a substantial component of the project and failure to complete the work would stop the project.

Due to the changes made over the past month, in particular, the removal of the bicycle lanes, Councilor B. MacQuarrie stated he is confident the amendments to the proposed road diet will lead to a successful project. Councilor B. MacQuarrie withdrew his Notice of Motion.

Council was asked to speak in favor or against the Notice of Motion.

Councilor H. MacDougall thanked all presenters and stated he would support the project in its entirety if the bicycle lanes were removed.

Councilor T. Boudreau stated he was pleased with how discussion transpired and looks forward to working with Council to ensure safety and the commitment to the timelines and evaluation process are adhered to in this pilot project.

Deputy Mayor M. MacIver thanked Council for working collectively on this issue. He was in support of the changes and thanked staff for the time they committed to this project.

Council accepted the final road safety design as presented by NS TIR at the February 5, 2019 Public Meeting.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor M. MacIver and SECONDED by Councilor B. MacQuarrie “that the Town of Port Hawkesbury approves the Reeves Street project in its entirety as presented by NS TIR to include the road diet, Active Transportation lane, Façade and Streetscape components, and removal of the bike lanes in the one kilometre stretch of road”. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

MOVED by Councilor H. MacDougall and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor M. MacIver “that the Town of Port Hawkesbury approves letters of thanks to be sent to Minister Lloyd Hines, NS TIR, MP Rodger Cuzner, and ACOA for their assistance with the Destination Reeves Street Project.” MOTION CARRIED.

iii. Expense Report – January 2019

CAO, T. Doyle reviewed the January Expense Report for the Mayor, Council and CAO. The total expenses for the month of January was \$220.88. Expense reports are posted on the Town website.

12. Approved Additions

There were no additions to the agenda.

13. Future Meetings

The future meetings of Town Council are scheduled as follows:

- Committee of the Whole February 19, 2019
- Public Meeting March 5, 2019
- Committee of the Whole March 19, 2019

14. Public Question Period

Lloyd MacDonald

Mr. MacDonald inquired if there is room for bicycles in the Town. The Mayor stated it was originally part of the Reeves Street road diet. She hopes the Town can take part in the Blue Route initiative, a province-wide project to create a continuous network of safe, well-connected bicycling infrastructure which if moves forward, is designated as a connector from Pitt Street to Old Sydney Road to Tamarac.

Alexander (Sandy) MacDonald

Mr. MacDonald congratulated Council for their professional conduct and their decision with the Reeves Street Project. In the event of an increase to traffic on Granville Street due to the road diet, Mr. MacDonald inquired if there were plans or safety measures considered for Granville Street. Jason MacMillan, Project Manager, Infrastructure, provided information on the Granville Street Traffic Safety (and North Granville Street Green Space) Open House in which issues including speed, accessibility, safety, parking, bus stops, and sight lines were discussed. This information will be compiled and provided to a traffic engineer to incorporate into a safety study and to make recommendations for Council’s review.

Jessica Embree

Ms. Embree inquired if the shoulder of the road will allow for enough safe walking space for pedestrians. CAO, T. Doyle stated upgrades will be made to the sidewalk and there will be ample shoulder space beside the sidewalks. The active transportation lane from Pitt Street to the NSCC will provide a safe walkable space for pedestrians.

Darlene Higgins

Mrs. Higgins thanked Council for voting in favor of the road diet component of the Destination Reeves Street project. She inquired if changes will be made to the uneven grades at certain crossings to assist her son and other citizens with accessibility challenges. NS TIR engineer, Dwayne Cross indicated changes would be made. Additionally, the design and placement of traffic lights will assist children and individuals with accessibility challenges.

15. Adjournment

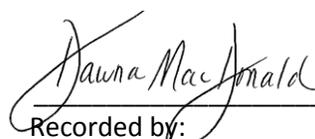
MOVED by Councillor T. Boudreau and SECONDED by Councillor H. MacDougall "that the Town of Port Hawkesbury adjourns the February 5, 2019 Public Meeting at 8:55p.m.". MOTION CARRIED.

March 6, 2019

Date



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



Recorded by:
Dawna MacDonald