

**PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
Shannon Studio  
Minutes of Meeting  
June 21, 2022**

**Present**

Mayor, Brenda Chisholm-Beaton  
Deputy Mayor, Jason Aucoin  
Councillor, Blaine MacQuarrie  
Councillor, Mark MacIver  
Councillor, Hughie MacDougall  
Chief Administrative Officer, Terry Doyle  
Director of Finance, Erin MacEachen  
Director of Marketing, Recreation, Tourism & Culture, Michelle Farrow  
Manager, Engineering and Public Works, Jason MacMillan  
Manager, Facilities and Operations, Gordie Snook

**Guests**

Nova Scotia Health – Brett MacDougall, VP Operations Eastern Zone, Dr. Don Brien, Eastern Zone Medical Executive Director, Angela MacArthur, Director of Integrated Health Rural Hospitals, Andrew Heighton, incoming Director of Integrated Health Rural  
Narrative Research – Don Mills  
Nova Scotia Public Works – Access Management Engineer, Dwayne Cross  
Parks, Recreation & Active Living Advisory Committee – Buddy Burns and Taralee Wood

**1. Call to Order**

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held in the Shannon Studio, Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, and called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton.

**2. Additions to Agenda**

- Deferring item 7.2 until the September Committee of the Whole Meeting
- Request from Friends United – Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton

**3. Approval of Agenda**

**MOVED by Councillor, B. MacQuarrie and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor, J. Aucoin “to approve the agenda as amended”. MOTION CARRIED.**

Mayor, B. Chisholm Beaton acknowledged that it was National Indigenous People’s Day.

**4. Presentations**

**i. Nova Scotia Health**

The team had introduced themselves, Brett MacDougall VP of Operations for Eastern Zone, Dr. Don Brien Medical Director for Eastern Zone, Angela MacArthur, Director of Integrated Health Rural Hospitals, and Andrew Heighton, incoming Director of Integrated Health Rural Hospitals. Model Care for the Strait Richmond Hospital: there was a verbal overview provided of Physicians and staff, the Inpatient Unit, recruitment efforts, successes, challenges, temporary model of care, the next steps, and the goal of returning to a 24/7 emergency department and fully operational inpatient unit.

There were a number of questions from Council with respect to Nova Scotia Health considered assisting with housing for potential new health care professionals. How can Council can help? There were questions about staffing issues and if there were exit interviews done and if there was a plan in place in the event of a mass emergency.

Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton is hoping that the Cape Breton South Recruiting for Health Committee can think innovatively to attract and retain health care professionals. Based on the questions from the gallery the Mayor suggested that a critical next step would be for Nova Scotia Health to consider hosting an open house.

**ii. Parks, Recreation, Active Living Advisory Committee**

Taralee Wood and Buddy Burns provided Council with a description of the All-Wheels Park Project, the benefits of an all-wheel park, and some design examples. The committee is looking at a concrete design similar to the Town of Antigonish. The suggested location is on the recreation ground adjacent to the pump track where the community garden boxes would be relocated to another part of the park. They have created a fundraising sub-committee. The next steps would be to engage community partners and final design of a phased build.

Director, E. MacEachen stated that when community groups fundraise for municipal assets the monies are tracked separately from operating funds. She would like to see a policy in place as individuals will be fundraising on our behalf.

CAO, T. Doyle had recommended that Council support the project in principle.

**There was a 5-minute recess at 8:30 p.m.**

**iii. Reeves Street Public Opinion Survey**

The past Chair of the Destination Reeves Street Steering Committee, K. MacEachen provided Council with a history of the Destination Reeves Street Project and Traffic Study that occurred in 2014. Nova Scotia Public Works Access Management Engineer, D. Cross provided an overview of the project which included access management, upgrading of crosswalks, and improvements to intersections. A complete analysis of the public opinion survey results was presented by Narrative Research, D. Mills which included the method and objectives of the survey. He gave a general overview of the survey results. He also encouraged Councillors to read the online comments.

D. Cross will take the concerns back to their Nova Scotia Public Works team and will commence long-term plans for permanent improvements.

A number of concerns were brought forward from the Councillors such as concern at Pitt Street and MacSween Street intersections, painting the lines, etc.

D. Mills will present to the full Reeves Street Pilot Project committee. The infographic will be available on the Website and on Social media.

**5. Council Reports on Assigned Committees**

Councillor H. MacDougall

Strait Area Transit – A board meeting – Fare reduction applications are available at the Town Office.

Festival of the Strait Committee – Festival of the Strait schedule is ready and will be released shortly.

Police Advisory Committee – A meeting was held on June 14<sup>th</sup>. The intersection in Grants Pond – The RCMP have indicated they will have a greater presence in Town this Summer.

Councillor B. MacQuarrie

Strait Area Transit – There were meetings held on May 20<sup>th</sup> & June 17<sup>th</sup>. The SAT office moved from the Business Park to its new location on Pitt Street. Councillor B. MacQuarrie had thanked the Town staff for their assistance with the move.

Eastern Counties Regional Library – A board meeting was held on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

Strait Richmond Housing Coalition – A meeting was held on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

Joint Development Commission – A meeting was held on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

Deputy Mayor J. Aucoin

Parks Recreation and Active Living Committee – A meeting was held on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Strait Area Chamber of Commerce's annual Spring Awards were held on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Eastern District Planning Commission a meeting was held on May 26<sup>th</sup>.

Allan J. MacEachen Regional Airport Committee – There was a meeting held on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Festival of the Strait Committee – Several meetings were held leading up to the Festival.

Councillor M. MacIver

Audit Advisory Committee – A meeting is scheduled for June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton

Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton had circulated her report to Council prior to the meeting.

**6. CAO REPORTS**

The following reports were circulated in the Council agenda packages

- Engineering and Public Works,
- Facilities, and Operations,
- Marketing Recreation, Tourism, and Culture, and
- Finance

**Other Business**

- i. Building Permit Amendment – Eastern District Planning Commission – Executive Director, J. Bain

Executive Director, J. Bain provided an overview of the recommended amendment to the building permit. There has been no change in 10 years. Neighboring municipalities have moved forward with the change.

**The consensus of Council was to move Building Permit Amendment forward to the Special Public Meeting following Committee of the Whole.**

- ii. Dog By-law – Councillor, B. MacQuarrie  
Deferred until September Committee of the Whole.
- iii. Allan J. MacEachen Regional Airport Committee – Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton

Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton had circulated the Strategic Planning Document in the agenda packages. She had asked Council to consider writing a letter of advocacy to the Minister of Economic Development.

**The consensus of Council was to move item forward to the Special Public Meeting following the Committee of the Whole.**

- iv. Dedication of Benches and Trees

CAO, T. Doyle gave an overview of his recommendation of the dedication to benches and trees as there is no policy in place currently and recommends that staff accept \$1000 for tree/bench donation and will present Council with a suggested policy by October 2022.

**The consensus of Council was to move item forward to the Special Public Meeting following the Committee of the Whole.**

**8. Approved Additions**

- i. Friends United Showcase – Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton

**The consensus of Council was to move item forward to the Special Public Meeting following the Committee of the Whole.**

**9. Future Meetings**

- Public Meeting September 6, 2022
- Committee of the Whole September 20, 2022

**10. Adjournment**

**MOVED by Councillor, M. MacIver and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor, J. Aucoin to adjourn the June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 meeting of the Committee of the Whole at 10:04p.m. MOTION CARRIED.**

Sept 22, 2022

Date

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

Melissa Warner  
Recorded by:  
Melissa Warner  
Communications and  
Administrative Officer