

PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING
Minutes of Meeting
August 14, 2023
Shannon Studio

Present

Mayor, Brenda Chisholm-Beaton
Deputy Mayor, Hughie MacDougall
Councillor, Mark MacIver
Councillor, Blaine MacQuarrie
Councillor, Jason Aucoin
Chief Administrative Officer, Terry Doyle
Director of Finance, Erin MacEachen
Manger of Engineering and Public Works, Jason MacMillan

Regrets

1. Call to Order

A Special Public Meeting of the Port Hawkesbury Town Council was held in the Shannon Studio, Monday, August 14, 2023, called to order by Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton at 7:00 p.m.

2. Additions to Agenda

- i. In Camera Meeting following Special Public Meeting – Councillor, J. Aucoin

3. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Deputy Mayor, H. MacDougall and SECONDED by Councillor, J. Aucoin “That the Town of Port Hawkesbury approves the Special Public Meeting Agenda as amended.” MOTION CARRIED.

4. Town Maintenance and Grass Cutting

Deputy Mayor, H. MacDougall mentioned that there was an email that was circulating two weekends ago. Manager G. Snook met with Deputy Mayor, H. MacDougall and Councillor, M. MacIver at Sunset Park to address some of the areas that are of concern regarding mowing. He asked the CAO to drive from Prince Street to Pitt over to Queen and back to Granville Street to seek the areas in need of mowing/trimming. He mentioned Spruce Street ditches, and a few of the intersections of concern along with Prince Street Park.

Councillor, B. MacQuarrie asked about the seasonal positions around town with respect to the maintenance, such as garbage and grass. CAO, T. Doyle indicated that there were no willing applicants for the position until very recently. Two areas that he mentioned are the end of Reeves Street towards Highway #4 the newly planted trees that need to be cleaned up around as well as the bench along the active transportation trail. He commented on the pocket park on MacSween Street and Granville Street. He commended the Waterfront Advisory Committee and Paula Davis’ work to revitalize that park. He commented on the how well the areas around town look after he drove around town recently. Whipper snipping had been completed that hadn’t been all year.

Councillor, M. MacIver has the same concerns. He said some areas you need to walk off the sidewalk to get around the overgrown areas. He suggested that Council should meet to create a mowing and clearing schedule. He suggested that along the Active Transportation trail towards JD MacLean should be cleaned up again as it is grown up again. He talked with Manager, J. MacMillan about a piece of machinery that is an extension attachment boom flail mower for the trackless that will help clear up the areas of concern. He stated that it is not very appealing to tourists.

Manager J. MacMillan mentioned that the boom flail mower attachment allows you to reach over guardrails and ditches and slopes which mounts to the side of the vehicle.

MOVED by Councillor, M. MacIver and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor, H. MacDougall "THAT the Town of Port Hawkesbury purchase the extension attachment boom flail mower."

Deputy Mayor, H. MacDougall asked who would operate it and who is responsible for the mowing.

CAO, T. Doyle mentioned that the areas that are mentioned are Public Works and expressed his concerns with purchasing a new piece of machinery as there would be a labour component along with the purchase of machinery which would take away labour from other areas. He stressed that Public Works is doing more asphalt patching and sidewalk replacements than they have in prior years.

Councillor, M. MacIver initiated to have Public Works Department assistance for a day to have them support with clean up at the pocket park. He mentioned on how appreciative he was to the Public Works Department for all their work. Deputy Mayor, H. MacDougall mentioned that he would like to see the same work completed from along Granville Street from the Pocket Park to Sunset Park.

Councillor, B. MacQuarrie asked if could rent the equipment in the interim.

CAO, T. Doyle asked for Director, E. MacEachen's to comment on financial implications. She stated that she would like to have more information on the equipment before she would be in a position to make a financial recommendation to Council.

Councillor, J. Aucoin asked what the time frame would be for staff to provide the information. Councillor, M. MacIver stated that staff can email the information when available.

AMENDMENT

MOVED by Councillor, M. MacIver and SECONDED by Councillor, B. MacQuarrie "to amend the original motion - to have staff explore potential options to achieve clearing in identified problem areas three times a year with one option being purchasing the equipment." MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ORIGINAL MOTION

MOVED by Councillor, M. MacIver and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor, H. MacDougall "THAT The Original Motion be approved as amended." MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Housing Accelerator Fund

CAO, T. Doyle reviewed an outline of the Housing Accelerator Fund Program that closes on August 18th. The municipalities that are applying for this have been working on it for months. He notified council that

the Town is not in a position to apply for this program. Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton mentioned the project with New Dawn Enterprise. CAO, T. Doyle confirmed that project is still ongoing. He also mentioned that the Province is coming out with a program this fall that may align better for the Town.

6. Items from In Camera Session

i. Contractual Issue(s)

MOVED by Councillor, M. MacIver and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor, J. Aucoin "That the amending agreement of the Airport Operating Agreement as reviewed IN CAMERA be approved." MOTION CARRIED.

ii. Property Issue(s)

MOVED by Councillor, J. Aucoin and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor, H. MacDougall "That the Town of Port Hawkesbury approve entering into a purchase and sale agreement for land as presented IN CAMERA." MOTION CARRIED.

7. Approved Additions

i. In Camera Session

Council agreed to hold In Camera Session following the adjournment of the Special Public Meeting.

8. Adjournment

MOVED by Councillor, M. MacIver SECONDED by Deputy Mayor, H. MacDougall "That the Town of Port Hawkesbury adjourns the Special Public Meeting at 7:45 p.m." MOTION CARRIED.

October 5 2023

Date



Approved by:

Terry Doyle, P. Eng., CAO



Recorded by:

Melissa Warner,
Communications &
Administrative Officer