

PUGWASH VILLAGE COMMISSION
Regular Meeting #298
16th May 2011 at 7pm
Pugwash Village Hall

Minute Number 298

PRESENT

Rod Benjamin, Jim Whitman, Dave Farley, Linda Langille, Danny Brooks

RECORDING SECRETARY

Lisa Betts

CALL TO ORDER

298.1 The Commission of the Village of Pugwash met on May 16th, 2011 in the Boardroom of the Village Commission Hall.

298.2 Commission chair, Rod Benjamin, called the meeting to order at 7pm.

REGRETS

298.3 None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION

298.4 It was moved by Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Commissioner Farley that the Agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MINUTES

MOTION

298.5 It was moved by Commissioner Farley and seconded by Commissioner Whitman that the Minutes of Regular Meeting 297 held on April 18th, 2011 be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

TREASURER'S REPORT

298.6 The Clerk Treasurer presented the Treasurer's Report.

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MOTION

298.7 It was moved by Treasurer Betts and seconded by Commissioner Farley that the Treasurer's Report be adopted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

298.8 The Clerk Treasurer presented the 2011/12 budget. The Treasurer explained that, even with continued tight fiscal restraint, with the additional projected expenses for legal fees, the village tax rates need to rise back to previous levels. This would be \$0.30/\$100 for residential taxes and \$0.37/\$100 for commercial use tax rate.

298.9 Capital projects continue to be modest with \$30,000 allocated to:

- Visitor information kiosk
- Finish the end of the boardwalk and walkway to Water Street once the Thinkers' Lodge renovations are completed
- Four more multi-sorter bins around village properties.

298.10 Commissioner Brooks objected to the expert witness fee included within the "Petition Expenses" heading. Commissioner Farley also objected to the fees, while he "reluctantly accepts" the lawyer's fee estimate. Commissioner Farley recalled that it was agreed at the last AGM not to spend any more money on lawyers. Commissioner Langille said that she will do all she possibly can to fight for the Village and against the case to dissolve it. Commissioner Langille said that the Commission could not afford not to fight the application. Commissioner Farley asked if one expert's report was enough to save a Village. Chair Benjamin reminded the commission that in the decision of the Utilities and Review Board (UARB) in the previous application, the Board put a lot of emphasis on "expert" witness evidence.

MOTION

298.11 It was moved by Commissioner Langille and seconded by Commissioner Whitman that the budget be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

298.12 There was no business to report that was not included elsewhere in the agenda.

PRESENTATIONS

298.13 Alice Power – Friends of the Pugwash Estuary

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Alice explained about the Community Aquatic Monitoring Program (CAMP) which, of the 34 sites along the lower Gulf, includes six sites around Pugwash. Commissioner Farley asked if there is a role for the Commission in the study. The Commission could be a valuable source of information for future plans. The salt mine has a minimal effect on the estuary which is in fairly good condition. The muddy bottom makes any clean up very slow to accomplish. Alice briefly described a few more projects such as adopt-a-stream and plans for more community education.

OLD BUSINESS

Nova Scotia Utilities and Review Board (UARB)

298.14 The Clerk gave an update of developments since the last meeting. The Clerk reported that she was able to attend the first preliminary hearing on May 3rd. The preliminary hearing was by telephone conference between counsels for both parties and also Rennie Bugley, CAO for the Municipality of the County of Cumberland. See attached minutes from the UARB. The Board agreed to hearing dates of October 4 - 6th. A plebiscite would be considered the final part of the evidence and be held after the October hearings.

Village Commission Staff

298.15 Summer recreation director/maintenance

This will be advertised in the Oxford Journal for two weeks and with posters around the village. The job will start in early June.

Harriet Barbour

298.16 Through Vision 50 and Sunset Residential Centre, Harriet is back working with the Village maintenance one day a week. This may extend into two days a week as needs arise.

Newsletter

298.17 All news stories gratefully received.

Nova Scotia Power Inc. (NSPI) – water Street poles

298.18 Some work was done on the poles today.

Signage – gateway signs

298.19 The old signs have been taken down as they are faded out and the vinyl is bubbled up. They had become unsightly and their effect was more detrimental

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than it was informative. The Clerk suggested we use the existing, smaller blue engraved signs as gateway signs as we have them on hand already. A third sign would have to be ordered, but this would amount to much less than three large replacement signs. The Commissioners agreed that these attractive signs be put up to replace the larger, faded white signs.

Pugwash and Area Community Master Plan

298.20 No report. The Steering Committee has not met in the last month.

Visitor Information Kiosk

298.21 Only one bid has been received. Commissioner Brooks asked if this bidder has WCB coverage and liability insurance.

MOTION

298.22 It was moved by Commissioner Brooks and seconded by Commissioner Farley that the kiosk job be advertised in the Amherst Citizen for two weeks.

MOTION CARRIED

Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

298.23 The Clerk reported that the North Cumberland Community Health Foundation, with the assistance for information from the Cobequid Health Authority, purchased two AEDs with the premise that they are to be used in the community. One has been left with the curling club and the other at Northumberland Links golf club. The Clerk has asked the curling club if the unit at their club be made available during the Gathering of the Clans at the Village Hall. The club agreed to this. The Clerk said this would be back up to one at the Village Hall, if one had been found to purchase by that time.

298.24 Commissioner Brooks will look into purchasing a unit directly form St Johns Ambulance.

Farmers Market

298.25 Opens May 20th. Members have been working at improvements of the building. The five large interpretive panels have been taken down to make wall space for the vendors. The panels will be found new locations to be displayed.

Efficiency Nova Scotia

298.26 Water heater jackets have been installed at the Village Hall and train station. Eight programmable thermostats have been installed in the Village Hall.

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The old fire hall

298.27 Renovation plans from a local contractor are on hold until after a potential bidder on purchasing the property has looked at it. In the meanwhile, the Clerk suggested we at least get it painted as it is quite unsightly and any renovations, purchase or demolition are potentially in the distant future. Commissioner Brooks noted that there was no budget for that for the fire hall but the Clerk said there are funds in general maintenance that could be used.

Gathering of the Clans

298.28 The theme has been determined to be: Diamond Jubilee - 60th Anniversary of the Gathering of the Clans. There are two bands registered so far. There are plans to hold a dance on the Saturday night. The live entertainment is very nearly all booked. There is a lobster supper on the Saturday afternoon and we are looking for a venue for lobster on July 1st as, due to renovations, the Eaton Dining Hall will not be available this year. All registration forms are available on the village website.

Office of Gaelic Affairs (OGA)

298.29 Plans continue to arrange for a workshop/presentation by Catriona Parson from the OGA. The street signs in Pugwash have been bilingual since 1951. There is some interest from residents to learn how to pronounce their street name in Gaelic.

Security Cameras

298.30 The cameras have been fixed.

Webcam

298.31 The Pugwash Area Chamber of Commerce is looking at putting up a webcam on the light pole behind Monty's Store and an internet connection. The camera would look along Eaton Park towards Thinkers' Lodge. The Clerk had suggested they contact the [C@P](#) site for internet use.

Village website

298.32 The website is being actively kept up-to date. Minutes from 2010 and 2011 are available and more will be posted.

Lee Trenholm memorial fund

298.33 Current balance is \$204.01

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Pugwash and Area Chamber of Commerce AGM

198.34 Commissioners Benjamin and Langille attended. The meeting and dinner was at Chatterbox Café.

Sunset Community annual fund raiser

298.35 Merchandise from the Village and from the Gathering of the Clans was sent to the fundraiser to use as prizes or bidding lots.

Visitor Information Centre information boards

298.36 These have been removed from the VIC building to make room for the vendors for the Farmers Market. These attractive, very large boards are currently in the board room. There was some discussion as to what should be done with them, to no end resolution.

Use of the Village Hall

298.37 Other than use by normal regular users of the Hall, other group/organization that have made use of the hall in the past month include: Census Canada, computer courses run by Cumberland Public Libraries and NS Community Services.

NEW BUSINESS

Lee Trenholm Memorial

298.38 The Clerk has been coordinating with Lee's family to finalize some arrangements. A granite bench will be engraved and placed in Eaton Park. An informal gathering of family friends will gather in the park on Sunday, June 5th in the afternoon.

HarbourFest cake auction

298.39 The 5th annual cake auction fundraiser will take place Friday, May 27th

MOTION

298.40 It was moved by Commissioner Farley and seconded by Commissioner Whitman that the Village Commission purchase a cake for \$200.

MOTION CARRIED

Insurance

298.41 The insurance policy with Fraser Hoyt has been renewed within budget. It now includes criminal activity.

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Parking

298.42 Parking on Water Street continues to be an issue. The development of a new parking lot behind the drug store seems to have stalled.

Inventory

298.43 This is work in progress by the Clerk and maintenance staff.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayors for Peace

298.44 There has been a request for annual fees. Fees are optional. There is a sliding scale related to community population size, which for Pugwash would be €300 (~CAD\$430). The Commissioners agreed there was no room in the budget for this.

MOTION

298.45 It was moved by Commissioner Farley and seconded by Commissioner Langille that the Village Commission make a donation of \$50 to Mayors for Peace.

MOTION CARRIED

Friends of the Pugwash estuary

298.46 A request for \$500 funding for help-a-stream and for to help fund a summer student. Trail markers to use on a trail on Victoria Island or for personal use are for sale. The request is tabled until the Commission

Ralph Sarson

298.47 Letter and photos from slides from the summer of 1957. Mr Sarson would like to donate more photographs in the hope that the village website would show them. The Commissioners enthusiastically accepted the offer. The North Cumberland Historical Society and the Pugwash Parks Commission (PPC) would also be very interested in the photographs – the PPC particularly because 1957 was the year of the first peace conference. The photos already sent are of the Tides Inn and the brick built elementary school (now demolished).

(Note: the Parks Commission and Historical Society are also very interested in the photographs)

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Elizabeth Keeler (sp?)

298.48 Letter of various concerns and ideas. These included suggestions of public transportation, extolling the healing qualities of salt and questions about the Master Plan.

PDHS Senior girls basketball

298.49 Thank you card for \$200 donation

Pugwash Ground Search and Rescue

298.50 Thank you card for \$1000 grant.

PDHS

298.51 Thank you for \$500 bursary for graduating student.

INFORMATION ITEMS

298.52 The next regular meeting of the Pugwash Village Commission will be Monday, June 20th.

298.53 Village of Pugwash Annual General Meeting – May 30th

298.54 Election of Commissioners for the Village of Pugwash – June 4th

ADJOURNMENT

298.55 **It was moved by Commissioner Whitman that the meeting be adjourned.**

(Note: Meeting ended at 9:08pm)

Respectfully submitted

Lisa Betts

Clerk Treasurer

Chair _____

Clerk Treasurer _____