

PUGWASH VILLAGE COMMISSION
Regular Meeting #303
17th October 2011 at 7pm
Pugwash Village Hall

Minute Number 303

PRESENT

Rod Benjamin, Jim Whitman (late), Dave Farley, Linda Langille

RECORDING SECRETARY

Lisa Betts

CALL TO ORDER

303.1 The Commission of the Village of Pugwash met on Monday, October 17th, 2011 in the Boardroom of the Village Commission Hall.

303.2 Commission chair, Rod Benjamin, called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

REGRETS

303.3 See minute #303.23 below.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

303.4 A letter from Commissioner Brooks was added to **NEW BUSINESS** as point 8.4

MOTION

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

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MINUTES

MOTION

303.6 It was moved by Commissioner Farley and seconded by Commissioner Langille that the Minutes of Regular Meeting 302 held on September 20th, 2011 be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

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

PRESENTATION

303.8 None

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OLD BUSINESS

Nova Scotia Utilities and Review Board (UARB)

303.9 Chair Benjamin reported there was currently no change in the status. The County had been asked to prepare a study which had been submitted.

Commissioner Farley commented that he had read the study and thought it fair to all parties. Commissioner Farley invited Councillor Gillis to comment from the gallery. Councillor Gillis said that Council had met *in camera* to discuss the study and therefore had no public comment at this time. Councillor Gillis said that a lot of time had been spent on the study and commented that it was “very difficult to write a report based on assumptions”. The study will be assumed to be a public document once it has been added to the UARB website.

(Note. County CAO Rennie Bugley had requested from the UARB a time extension for the study to be submitted, which was granted. The study was sent electronically on the due date of October 14th and hard copies arrived by courier at the UARB offices on October 17th).

Pugwash and Area Master Plan

303.10 The four Action Teams have been actively meeting and will soon have initial reports ready to send to the Steering Committee.

Village Commission Staff

303.11 Maintenance worker, Andrew Pye has been laid off from full time employment with the Village, but will remain available for occasional work as it arises.

303.12 The Clerk has suggested that the Village Hall office hours be reduced to 9am to 1pm, Monday to Friday for the winter months. The Clerk’s working hours may well extend past those posted office hours (as Gathering of the Clans Coordinator or for other clerical duties) but she would not be normally be available for general inquires outside of the new office hours. These new hours may be reviewed later in the season if necessary.

Old fire hall – paint tender

303.13 One bid has been submitted to the Clerk’s office in response to the advertised tender to paint the exterior of the old fire hall. The total amount which includes materials and labour is \$2,950

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303.14 It was moved by Commissioner Farley and seconded by Commissioner Langille that the tender submitted to paint the old fire hall be accepted.

MOTION CARRIED

Sidewalks

303.15 Costin Paving is hoping to get to the Pugwash Village sidewalks as soon as they catch up with their backlog of work. This backlog is primarily due to the cold, wet weather conditions of this past summer.

Solid Waste

303.16 The new rules for the disposal of solid waste, due to become mandatory on January 1st, 2012 have the Clerk very concerned for Village maintenance staff's health and safety. Garbage must be left for curbside pickup using all clear bags, except for one opaque bag for privacy reasons.

Residents and visitors have been long abusing the "no household garbage" rules and dump a wide array of items in the Village public garbage bins. Kitty litter, clothing, dead animals and food waste are some examples. The resulting refuse is teeming with maggots and is patently unhealthy for anyone to be handling at all. The new rules would suggest that maintenance staff would now have to break open all the opaque bags, which are the vast majority of the bags found in the garbage.

The Clerk has been trying to arrange a meeting with the staff at the County responsible for this issue to discuss what solutions could be found. This has proved to be very difficult. Councillor Gillis offered to ask the appropriate person to call the Village Hall office as soon as possible.

LED light exchange

303.17 This has been arranged with Nova Scotia Power for Friday, December 2nd from 2pm to 6pm. The Village Commission will host an Open House at the same time. This will all tie in with the official lighting of the Village Christmas tree, which will be at 7pm. Councillor Gillis agreed to be at the tree lighting.

NEW BUSINESS

Bethlehem Live

303.18 The organizers would like to have the use of four ticket booths. The Commissioners agreed to loan the booths for the event.

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Snow removal

303.19 Chair Benjamin explained that historically the Village has only cleared off the snow from sidewalks abutting its own properties. The remaining sidewalks have been left for the remaining property owners to keep clear of snow, resulting in a wide range of conditions of the sidewalks through the winter. A bylaw was drafted, but the problem of enforcement remains. The Commission agreed that the Village should clear off all sidewalks, as do most other Villages. This additional coverage will be explained in the published advertising for the tender and also in a letter written directly to the affected properties.

Use of the Village Hall

303.20 Can-U Read classes are booked for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings for the next several months. There are three students.

303.21 Master Plan Action teams have been meeting regularly and exclusively at the Village Hall at a variety of times.

Request for Leave of Absence

303.22 Commissioner Danny Brooks has sent a letter to the Village Commission requesting a leave of absence for the next six months due to personal reasons. The request was granted.

MOTION

303.23 It was moved by Commissioner Farley and seconded by Commissioner Whitman that the Commission approve Commissioner Brooks' request for a leave of absence.

MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you cards

303.24 Thank you cards were received from organizations and individuals who were supported by the Village Commission, financially or by making resources available:

Girls senior softball team
Communities in Bloom

Requests for funding

303.25 Pugwash Co-Op requested donations for the annual toy bingo (not held last year).

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303.26 It was moved by Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Commissioner Farley that the Commission give the Co-Op a \$200 donation for the toy bingo.

MOTION CARRIED

303.27 The Pugwash Ground Search and Rescue team has agreed to help with the Village Christmas tree – to put it up, decorate and later remove it.

303.28 The Village Commission sent letters of support to CREDA and the Pugwash Parks Commission chairs thanking them for their hard work to restore Thinkers' Lodge.

TREASURER'S REPORT

303.29 The Clerk Treasurer presented the Treasurer's Report.

MOTION

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

MOTION CARRIED

303.31 Treasurer Betts reported that the Lee Trenholm Memorial Fund has been closed. There was \$810.15 in it from donations from the public plus a small amount of interest. This will pay for nearly half of the cost of the memorial bench.

INFORMATION ITEMS

303.32 The next regular meeting of the Pugwash Village Commission will be Monday, November 14th.

303.33 The Village Hall will be closed for the Christmas holidays from December 23rd to January 3rd. It was pointed out that New Year's Day will be on a Sunday, making a Levee at the Village Hall on that morning problematic, because it will coincide with church services. The Commission agreed to cancel the inaugural New Year's Day Levee at the Village Hall on January 1st, 2012.

303.34 The Thinkers' Lodge grand reopening was October 7th. There were representatives from all levels of government present.

303.35 The Premier, Darrell Dexter, made an announcement at the North Cumberland Memorial hospital on Friday October 7th that Pugwash is to have a "Collaborative Emergency Centre" – the third such centre in the Province.

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303.36 There will be an official ceremony to mark the designation of the CN train station as being a Provincial Historic building on October 18th at noon. The Minister for Communities, Culture and Heritage, Dave Wilson, will make the presentation.

303.37 Central Nova Tourism Association will be running a presentation for all stakeholders. This will be in Wallace on Friday, October 28th, 2011.

303.38 The latest village newsletter was issued today.

ADJOURNMENT

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

(Note: Meeting ended at 7:55pm)

Respectfully submitted

Lisa Betts

Clerk Treasurer

Chair _____

Clerk Treasurer _____