

PUGWASH VILLAGE COMMISSION
Regular Meeting #442
17th October 2022 at 7pm
Board Room, Pugwash Village Hall

Meeting Number 442

1 CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1 Chair Brent Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.
- 1.2 **Territorial Acknowledgment** – read by Commission Chair Wilson.

2 ROLL CALL

Commissioners: Chair Brent Wilson
Vice Chair Sue Duncan
Commissioner Roger Mundle
Commissioner Dave MacEwan
Commissioner Anderson

Staff: Clerk Treasurer, Lisa Betts (recording secretary)

3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- 3.1 **IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Mundle and seconded by Commissioner MacEwan to approve the agenda as presented. MOTION CARRIED**

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 4.1 **IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Duncan and seconded by Commissioner MacEwan to approve the minutes of regular meeting 441, held September 12th 2022. MOTION CARRIED**

5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- 5.1 None.

6 ACTION LIST

- 6.1 **Book of Condolences**
The book was at the Village Hall for a week. The Municipality will send it to the Queen's family.
- 6.2 **Playground audit and Fit Trail equipment**
Staff spoke with the Municipality about a potential arrangement for an audit. Ongoing repair of damages incurred by Hurricane Fiona (September 23/24) has changed the focus of all Municipal units and the public, delaying any action on this project. The Clerk spoke with the recreation department at the Town of Truro and their latest version of a

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similar project. Their equipment is grouped together as an offset grouping to a looped trail, manufactured by staff from materials salvaged from Victoria Park.

- 6.3 **NS Department Public Works – miscellaneous complaints/issues**
Communications were sent again but no reply yet received. See also Minute 8.4.
- 6.4 **Plaque**
Complete.
- 6.5 **NS Dept Municipal Affairs – Resumption of Strategic Planning workshop**
Commissioners will advise of available dates in November.

7 PRESENTATION

None.

8 CORRESPONDENCE

- 8.1 **Alice Scallion, Grade 2 CEES – thank you**
Alice sent a card to the Commission thanking it for the bursary awarded her by the Village at the end of the last school year.
- 8.2 **Wallace and District Volunteer Fire Department – annual banquet invitation**
Chair Wilson will attend the banquet to be held November 5th.
- 8.3 **Association of Nova Scotia Villages (ANSV)**
Request for comment on three recommendations from the NS Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing (DMAH) on changes to the Municipal Government Act. The Commission agreed with all three of these particular suggested changes. There will be a Zoom meeting with the ANSV and DMAH on October 25th.
- 8.4 **Nova Scotia Department of Public Works - sidewalks**
The Clerk presented a draft of a letter to be sent to Minister Masland as a formal request to the Minister to update the Village on plans to repair and upgrade the storm drain system so that plans can be made to install sidewalks.

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- 8.4.1 IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Mundle and seconded by Commissioner MacEwan to approve the letter and send to Minister Masland. MOTION CARRIED**

9 COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 Standing Committees

9.1.1 Accessibility [Betts]

No report

9.1.2 Association of Nova Scotia Villages (ANSV) [Duncan]

Commissioner Duncan and the Clerk attended the annual conference and AGM in Bible Hill. While many presentations were interesting, Commissioner Duncan was disappointed that the valued round table discussions that the commissioners and staff usually have (held separately) were cancelled due to another presentation running over time.

Commissioners Duncan and Anderson will serve on a committee to prepare for the 2023 ANSV annual conference in Pugwash.

9.1.3 Audit Committee [Duncan]

No report.

9.1.4 CN Train Station [MacEwan/Wilson]

There was much discussion on the wording of the lease agreement and whether rent should be included or deferred. This will be reviewed in two years. Jennifer Houghtaling (representing the Pugwash Farmers' Market) reported that since the last commission meeting, a partnership with the Sunset Community is being discussed, which may again change the conditions of a lease. Third party insurance will be required. Ms Houghtaling said that a long term (10 year) lease would give the Farmers' market the stability to plan longer term projects with the assurance that they would still be able to occupy the building, making renovations that benefit the Village.

An interior designer is helping with idea and drawings at no charge. Applications to variety of grants are being worked on. Other partners/non-profit organizations are interested in using the "community hub" portion of the building. A request from the

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Farmers Market is that the Village Commission prioritize funds for renovations in the shared (“hub”) area of the train station.

The CN Station is a provincially registered historic building. Certain aspects of the exterior of the building cannot be modified without first consulting with the province. Kevin Barrett, Coordinator of the Heritage Property Program for Nova Scotia Department of Communities Culture Tourism and Heritage, will do a presentation to the Commission at the November meeting and also make a site visit to discuss with staff and the committee about the property and granting opportunities.

9.1.4.1

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Mundle and seconded by Commissioner MacEwan that a letter of support from the Village be sent to the Farmers’ Market supporting the application to the Community Health Board’s Wellness Fund.

MOTION CARRIED

9.1.4.2

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner MacEwan and seconded by Commissioner Mundle to sign a ten-year lease with the Pugwash Farmers’ Market for the use of identified areas of the interior of the old CN Train Station. The lease will be reviewed annually.

MOTION CARRIED

9.1.5 **Policy Review** [MacEwan/Wilson]

No report

9.2 **Special Committees**

None

9.3 **Advisory Committees**

None

9.4 **Community Committees or organizations with Village Commission/staff representation.**

9.4.1 **Communities in Bloom (CIB)** [Betts]

The volunteer appreciation luncheon will be Wednesday, October 19th at the Lobster Factory. Commissioner Duncan will represent the Village Commission. The Pugwash Community Profile Book is now available on the Village website.

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9.4.2 **Physician Recruitment and Retention** [Duncan/MacEwan]
Commissioner Duncan reported that a potential candidate was introduced to the committee and many of those with whom he would be working if he chooses to come to Pugwash. The candidate is already very familiar with the Village.

9.5 **Clerk Treasurer's Reports** [Betts]

9.5.1 **Solar Panels at the Farmers' Market building**

From recent power bills: the system has already generated 5,386 kWh of energy, which more than covered the power usage at the Village Hall and Train Station, leaving 3,255 kWh in credit that will be applied to future bills.

The Village is classified as a commercial customer in the "small general tariff" category. Energy is charged at two different rates. After 200kWh, the consumption rate/kWh is less.

9.5.2 **"Hurricane" Fiona**

Post-tropical cyclone Fiona (September 23/24th) brought hurricane strength winds to Atlantic Canada with record breaking winds (sustained 160 km/h with gusts to 180km/h) and barometric pressures (932mbar)[Wikipedia]. Tidal surges and high winds heavily damaged the sea wall along Eaton Park, lifting the boardwalk and concrete benches. Several trees at the north end of the park were lost. No other damage to Village property has been found yet. It will be some time before it is known whether, or to what degree, the insurance company will cover losses. They did cover most of the losses sustained during (Hurricane) post-tropical storm Dorian (2019). Meanwhile, for safety's sake, Village staff is pulling the boardwalk sections away from the shore and pushing the heavier rock back towards it. There was some discussion as to whether the wooden boardwalk should be reused/reconstructed or to use crusher dust for a path along the shore.

9.5.3 **Police Services Review**

One of the county-wide public sessions was held in Pugwash September 20th at St Thomas More church hall and was attended by Commissioner Anderson and the Clerk.

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- 9.5.4 **Nova Scotia Federation Municipalities** – invoice reminder
Nova Scotia Municipalities are billed 2.5% of their insurance premium to go to NSFM membership. It is not an automatic payment but is the responsibility of the Municipal unit to send payment. Villages are not recognized by the NSFM as a Municipality so, for many years, most Villages have boycotted payment for membership. This was confirmed in a recent survey to Villages. The only Village who reported paying for membership was also benefitting from an insurance program. The Clerk will investigate if this is a program from which Pugwash would benefit enough to warrant making the payment for NSFM membership.
- 9.5.5 **Eaton Park** – picnic park pads
About half of the pads have been renovated through the summer with new 4x4 sides. They should be topped off with gravel to complete.
- 9.5.6 **Website updates**
Ongoing.
- 9.5.7 **September newsletter**
Completed, distributed and available online
- 9.5.8 **Budget**
Meetings will start in the next month.

11 MOTIONS

11.1 None.

12 NOTICE OF MOTION

12.1 None.

13 NEW OR OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 The next regular Village meeting will be 7pm, 14th November, 2022.

14 ADJOURNMENT

14.1 The meeting was adjourned at 8:39pm by motion from Commissioner Mundle.

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Respectfully submitted
Lisa Betts
Clerk Treasurer

Chair _____

Clerk Treasurer _____