

PUGWASH VILLAGE COMMISSION
Regular Meeting #459
8th April 2024 at 7pm
Board Room, Pugwash Village Hall

1 CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1 Chair Brent Wilson the meeting to order at 7pm.
- 1.2 An *in camera* meeting was held prior to this meeting.
- 1.3 Chair Wilson welcomed those present and reminded them that members of the gallery are only permitted to speak to the meeting when invited by the commission and that the meeting is recorded.
- 1.3 **Territorial Acknowledgment** – read by Chair Wilson
We acknowledge that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

2 ROLL CALL

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

Staff: Clerk Treasurer & recording secretary, Lisa Betts

3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

- 3.2 **Call of Declaration of Conflict of Interest**
None.

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 4.1 **IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Duncan and seconded by Commissioner MacEwan to approve the minutes of regular meeting 458 held March 11th 2024.**
MOTION CARRIED

5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- 5.1 **Canada Post** – Ross Hamilton commemorative stamp
A letter of support will be sent when signed.

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- 5.2 **Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing** – request for Village to divest 10260 Durham Street. Letter to be sent now minutes are approved.

6 PRESENTATION

- 6.1 **Sunrise Development** – Dean Pounder, Director Community Integration, Planning & Development, The Sunset community.

Pounder gave a brief history of Adult Residential Centres and why they are all to be decommissioned. The Sunset Community owns land that, in partnership with Crossroads Cycle Sales, is to be developed to provide housing for the Sunset residents who wish to remain in Pugwash, staff and members of the public. Some of the public housing will be for low income households and some will be at the market rate.

- 6.2 **Walkability Project** – Norene Smiley, Gillian Forward, Jill Black.
Communities in Bloom

This is a project to promote healthy lifestyles in collaboration with the Municipality, Nova Scotia Dept. Public Works, Pugwash District High School and a number of local volunteer organizations. Maps will be linked to online apps will be developed and small street signs will be erected. The large Google image of the Village on the east wall of the CN Train Station is outdated. The group is applying for a grant that would cover the cost of an updated image. From the gallery, Matt Parker offered to erect the new map.

6.2.1 **IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Mundle and seconded by Commissioner MacEwan support Communities in Bloom in this project.**
MOTION CARRIED

- 6.3 **PEACE Society** – Emily Moore, Tamara Jamieson and Boyd Moore
Emily describes some of the events planned which included beach clean-up, *kites and bubbles* event coinciding with the re-opening of the ice cream parlour and public presentations. Commissioner Mundle asked that good communications be kept when booking Village facilities.

7 CORRESPONDENCE

- 7.1 **TEDxPugwash** – Gordon Johnson

Johnson described an upcoming event at The Peace Hall using the TED Talk format. The TEDx talk will be recorded and presented on the TED Talks website. Local speakers will include PDHS students. A news release

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will be made available April 22nd. The event will be June 9th with a catered lunch.

8 COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1 Standing Committees

8.1.1 Accessibility [Betts/MacEwan]

MacEwan: In person meeting at Springhill April 3rd. Further review of the 2022 plan and discussion of possible updates.

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

The next quarterly meeting will be in Bible Hill on April 11th.

8.1.3 Audit Committee [Duncan]

Met recently. Internal practices were reviewed with no problems identified. The committee discussed avenues for increasing revenue.

8.1.4 Policy Review [MacEwan/Wilson]

No report.

8.2 Special Committees

8.2.1 CN Train Station [MacEwan/Wilson/Houghtaling]

Houghtaling reported that renovations completed enough at “The Hub” for the health inspector to visit the site. The Electric Vehicle (EV) station is working. Hoping for a soft opening in the next week or two. Houghtaling asked if the parking area could be re-painted to clearly show the EV station site.

8.3 Advisory Committees

8.3.1 None.

8.4 Community Committees or organizations with Village Commission/staff representation.

8.4.1 Communities in Bloom (CIB) [Betts]

The annual community garbage pick-up day is April 27th and the plant sale date is to be confirmed.

8.4.2 Physician Recruitment and Retention [Duncan/Bill Martin]

No report.

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

8.5.1 The Clerk reported that investigation of the rules on tax exemption find that the rules allow for exemption for registered non profit organizations. The Sunset Community is a registered non profit organization and thus qualifies, if exemption is the wish of the Commission. The motion from the 11th March 2024 meeting was re-presented:

8.5.1.1 **IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Mundle and seconded by Commissioner MacEwan to exempt the property tax for the Sunset Community, Sunrise Landing Development.**

MOTION CARRIED

8.5.2 **Action List** – completed items:

- Letter to Canada Post
- Letter to Minister Lohr

8.5.3 **Gathering of the Clans**

- The Canada Day theme is yet to be determined. The Clerk explained that where the festival attracts thousands of people from all over the region and is Cumberland County's largest Canada Day event, the theme is deliberately kept general, rather than too Pugwash-centric.
- There will be a demonstration of Highland Dance at the elementary school on May 1st.
- Tartan banner – there has been some interest in having family tartan banners put up around the Village.

8.5.4 **Village Tax rate**

Various taxation rate options have been discussed in budget meetings. The assessed value of the Village has increased somewhat, increasing income modestly. However, to fulfil some mandated requirements, such as building up capital and operations reserves, and to be able to maintain the properties the Village own and pay staff a reasonable wage, it is the recommendation of the Clerk that the rate be increased by 2 cents per \$100 assessed value to 37c for residential and resource properties and 44c for commercial properties. This will increase taxes of a typically valued property in Pugwash (Statistics Canada: \$194,000) by \$38.80 a year.

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8.5.4.1 **IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Duncan and seconded by Commissioner MacEwan to raise property taxes by 2c on \$100 assessed value for residential and commercial properties.** **MOTION CARRIED**

9 MOTIONS

9.1 None.

10 NOTICE OF MOTION

10.1 None.

11 NEW OR OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Nomination Day – 8th May. There is one vacancy.

11.2 Annual General Meeting 7pm May 30th, 2024.

11.3 The next regular Village meeting is 7pm, May 13th, 2024.

12 ADJOURNMENT

12.1 The meeting was adjourned at 7:14pm by motion from Commissioner Mundle.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Betts

Clerk Treasurer

Chair _____

Clerk Treasurer _____