

PUGWASH VILLAGE COMMISSION
Regular Meeting #418
19th October, 2020 at 7pm
Pugwash Village Hall, Board Room

PRESENTATIONS

418.10 Fit Trails - Jennifer Houghtaling

A set of outdoor recreation equipment has been purchased by the Municipality of Cumberland County. These can be split up and shared around the county. There were some questions as to where the units would be placed that would not interfere with other facilities or the view plane. Installation would not start before next spring.

MOTION

418.11 It was moved by Commissioner Martin and seconded by Commissioner MacEwan that the Commission supports the project in principle, pending further information on installation and potential liability issues.

MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

418.12 Women's Institute

Commissioner Duncan is also newly elected president of the Women's Institute and reported that the group had identified a need for better signage on the approach to Pugwash. The Clerk explained that this issue had come up many times over the years, but no effective signage has been developed that was clear and noticeable that could also be agreed upon. There is currently a sign on the train station property, but it is not easily noticed. Commissioner Martin noted that the Municipality is working on a signage bylaw and the subject is also included in the Pugwash Waterfront Development plan.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

418.13 Clerk Treasurer's Reports

The Clerk had some information items to share:

418.13.1 **New commissioners.** Jason Haughn, the provincially appointed Municipal Adviser, will be visiting the area soon to help the new commissioners with orientation information. There is also some online coursework that will be available soon.

418.13.2 **North Cumberland Memorial Hospital.** A recent announcement was made that the new building will start construction Spring of 2021.

418.13.3 **Advanced Market Readiness.** The initial consultation is complete. Follow up meetings are being arranged. Three other organizations/businesses in Pugwash have used the services with costs largely covered by ACOA funding: The MacFarlane Lantern, the Farmers Market, and the Pugwash Yacht Club. Some

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suggestions for the Pugwash Harbourfront Centre for revenue streams and advertising have been made.

418.13.4 **Remembrance Day.** Due to COVID-19 restrictions, parades and services have been cancelled. The public is asked to stay home this year.

418.13.5 **Dangerous and Unightly Premises.** There was significant discussion about particular properties in the Village that contravene this Municipal bylaw. The Village has no jurisdiction in this area but may send a letter of complaint to the staff responsible at the County office.

MOTION

418.14 It was moved by Commissioner Duncan and seconded by Commissioner Wilson that the Commission form a committee to identify and report to the Municipality unsightly and dangerous premises within the Village limits.

MOTION CARRIED

418.15 **Committee membership vacancies** - new members are:

Dangerous and Unightly: Commissioners Duncan, Wilson and MacEwan

Audit: Commissioners Mundle and MacEwan

Communities in Bloom: Commissioner Martin

418.16 **Accessibility committee (Municipality)**

No report

418.17 **Sustainable Pugwash**

Jennifer Houghtaling reported that the first goal of this committee is to place solar panels on the Farmers Market building. The excess power would be applied against the Village of Pugwash power bills. A funding application to NS Dept Energy and Mines was submitted but denied. Next meeting is next Thursday to discuss funding from other sources. The Fit Trails project may qualify as being part of this committee. Commissioner Martin added that the formal structure of the committee is to be finalized.

418.18 **Courts**

Commissioner Martin reported that a recent sample excavation of the Village owned tennis/pickleball/basketball courts revealed that there are four layers of asphalt on the site. The conclusion would be that even 11½ inches of asphalt is no match to the poor drainage and original construction. The courts are below the level of the street in some areas. It seems clear that the entire area would have to be excavated to an estimated cost of at least \$200,000. Another problem is that the lot where the courts are located is not big enough for regulation sized

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courts. Commissioner Martin said that the Northumberland Tennis and Pickleball Association (NTPA) is looking at partnering with Sport Pugwash on the Miller Road. Commissioner Martin invited Rod Young, chair of the NTPA courts committee, to add to his report. Chair Young said that they are hoping for a long term lease for some property at Sport Pugwash. This is to be determined in the next few weeks. Other sources for funding are being investigated. NTPA courts committee Chair Young stressed the importance of having a starting balance of funds for attracting further funding opportunities. NTPA chair, Dian Burnham, spoke about looking at extending membership, particularly with youth, and with Tennis Nova Scotia.

418.19 Communities in Bloom

Commissioner Martin reminded the commission of the upcoming Open Art Project which is soon to be unveiled.

MOTIONS

418.20 Appointment of Signing Officers

- 418.20.1 Commissioner Martin nominated Commissioner Duncan for signing officer
- 418.20.2 Commissioner Duncan indicated she would accept the nomination.
- 418.20.3 Commissioner Martin nominated Commissioner Mundle for signing officer
- 418.20.4 Commissioner Mundle indicated he would accept the nomination.
- 418.20.5 There being no further nominations, Commissioners Duncan and Mundle were appointed as signing officers for the Village of Pugwash (and *de facto* the Gathering of the Clans)

418.21 Commissioner Martin noted that as the elections for the commission had been delayed to October, the process for Chair and Vice Chair should be the same as when a special election is normally held in June. The Clerk agreed and thus, as acting chair, called for nominations for chair and vice chair.

418.22 Election of Village Commission Chair

- 418.22.1 Commissioner Wilson nominated Commissioner Mundle for Chair.
- 418.22.2 Commissioner Mundle indicated that he would accept the nomination.
- 418.22.3 The Clerk called for any additional nominations. Hearing none, Commissioner Roger Mundle was acclaimed as Chair of the Pugwash Village Commission.

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418.23 Election of Village Commission Vice Chair

- 418.23.1 Commissioner Duncan nominated Commissioner Wilson for Vice Chair.
- 418.23.2 Commissioner Wilson indicated that he would accept the nomination.
- 418.23.3 The Clerk called for any additional nominations. Hearing none, Commissioner Brent Wilson was acclaimed as Vice Chair of the Pugwash Village Commission.

418.24 Commissioner Mundle resumed the position of chair for the remainder of the meeting.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

418.25 None

NEW OR OTHER BUSINESS

418.26 RCMP Pugwash Detachment

The Clerk gave a brief update on potential, rumoured changes in levels of RCMP policing in the area. There was first a request from the Municipality to the RCMP to find a means of reducing costs. The RCMP did an internal study looking at crime and call out rates for each detachment in the county. The report suggested making staff reductions that could result in the closure of the Pugwash detachment. Since the report was released, presented and budget changes made, the mass shootings in Cumberland and Colchester Counties of last April 18th/19th occurred. A public inquiry is to be held and will likely make recommendations on levels of policing in the area. There is an increasing interest from residents in the area over this potential closure. The Clerk asked if the Commission wanted to make any public statement on the issue. Commissioner Martin reported that the Minister of Justice has the final say on any policing changes and has recently refused permission for the closure of the Pugwash detachment. More information has been requested by the Minister who may call for public hearings on the matter.

418.27 Financial Management course - for elected officials

Three 90 minute webinar sessions. It is recommended that all Commissioners attend this course. There is a fee of \$300 for each registered person.

418.28 Christmas decorations

There was a request from Communities in Bloom (CIB) as to what the Village has planned so that they could coordinate ideas. The Municipality is planning a

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county-wide idea of holiday lights. Further information is pending and will be shared with CIB.

418.29 Commissioner Martin reported he had heard complaints about noisy vehicles in the Village. The Municipality has a noise bylaw. Reports should be made to the RCMP who have the ability to enforce the bylaw.

418.29 The next regular meeting of the Pugwash Village Commission will be Monday, 7pm 9th November.

ADJOURNMENT

418.22 The meeting was adjourned at 8:53pm by motion from Commissioner Martin.

Respectfully submitted

Lisa Betts

Clerk Treasurer

Chair _____

Clerk Treasurer _____