

PUGWASH VILLAGE COMMISSION
Regular Meeting #346
23rd February, 2015 at 7pm
Pugwash Village Hall

Minute Number 346

PRESENT

Kathy Redmond (Chair), Roger Mundle, Dave Farley, Charlie Gould and Christie Blackie

RECORDING SECRETARY

Lisa Betts

CALL TO ORDER

346.1 The Commission of the Village of Pugwash met at 7pm in the Village Hall Board Room on 23rd February, 2015. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Redmond. Commissioner Redmond welcomed those in the gallery.

REGRETS

346.2 None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION

346.3 It was moved by Commissioner Redmond that the agenda be adopted as circulated.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MINUTES

MOTION

346.4 It was moved by Commissioner Mundle that the minutes of regular meeting 345, held January 19th, 2015 be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

346.5 None.

PRESENTATION

Northumberland Community Curling Club (NCCC)

346.6 NCCC President, Claude Hudson thanked the commission for the opportunity to make a presentation and introduced their presenter, Richard Grey. Mr Hudson said that the NCCC was looking for tax forgiveness. He said that this was not to do with money but with principal that volunteer groups should not be taxed.

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Mr Grey said his PowerPoint presentation would be largely the same as previous presentations, with a few updates; but should still be useful for newer commissioners. Mr Grey reviewed the history of the establishment of the curling club. He went on to explain how the club is run, who uses it and their weekly/seasonal schedules. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) the club has with the Municipality of Cumberland County that allows for tax exemption at the County level was explained. Mr Grey displayed a slide of the club's 2014 tax bill, which showed that the club was being taxed at the Village commercial rate equalling \$1,791. Mr Grey said a request for tax exemption could be made in writing if required.

Some points made in particular:

- NCCC Mission Statement: To strengthen the social, recreational health and economic fabric of the community.
- Sustainability: Run club as a business, inclusive to all, entirely run by volunteers.
- Request: In view of the social health, recreational and economic infrastructure benefits to the community, at no direct cost to the Village, and in view of the fact that NCCC is run entirely by volunteers, we request that you reverse the decision 14 November 2011 and grant exemption of Village property taxes.
- Purpose of request is not for money but for the support of volunteerism in the form of tax policy.

There were some questions and comments from the commission that were answered by different members of the NCCC. Subjects covered included degree of use by school aged children, types of membership, membership dues and free use of facilities by non profit groups. When asked why the club's request focused more on tax exemption than for a grant, Dr Felderhof explained that a "tax exemption policy" would give a stronger message that the NCCC is supported in what it does than a monetary grant.

Chair Redmond thanked the members of the NCCC present and that no decision would be made at this meeting as there seemed to still be unanswered questions for some commissioners.

[Note: The Village reduced NCCC property tax to the residential rate in 2012. Why this has not been passed along in their County billing is under investigation.]

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OLD BUSINESS

Pugwash and Area Master Plan - Infrastructure – Municipal Water

346.7 No report.

Pugwash and Area Master Plan – Multi-purpose Centre (MPC)

346.8 No report.

Pugwash and Area Master Plan – Tourism – Visitor Information Centre (VIC)

346.9 No Report

Pugwash and Area Master Plan - Collaboration and Communication (CCAT)

346.10 The Clerk reported that the rebuilt website is now live. The structure of the website is similar to some other municipal sites. The same content found in the old site is included, but in a more organized manner. An important page for the CCAT Action Team is the volunteer organization page which currently lists 60 organizations and groups. Each group may have its own page of contact/mandate information. This is hoped to encourage new membership and better communication between groups. The Clerk welcomed comments or input for this ongoing project.

Gathering of the Clans

346.11 The Event Coordinator reported that things were still in the early stages of preparations.

Accessible Parking

346.12 There had been a request from an individual as to whether accessible parking could be introduced on Water Street. The Clerk reported that, upon investigation, there was little enthusiasm for restricting parking from Water Street businesses. The District Traffic Supervisor would have the final say on designating a handicapped parking area on a public street. This must be with a posted sign. Painting the street is not permitted. Lack of parking spaces is a persistent problem on Water Street and the recent heavy snowfall has made that even worse. The Clerk suggested that additional parking spaces could be painted in the Municipal car park on the waterfront, which has never had painted car parking lines. Currently, only one line of cars park in an area that could easily make room for an additional rank of parking spaces. Once these spaces are marked out, drivers requiring long term parking would hopefully make better use of the car park and thus ease the parking pressure on Water Street.

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Banner design

MOTION

346.13 It was moved by Commissioner Blackie and seconded by Commissioner Gould that the new banner design proposed by Communities in Bloom at the January village meeting be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Local Prosperity conference - April 9th

346.14 Bonnie Bond from the gallery was invited to explain what this conference is about. It is part of other conferences that have looked at encouraging businesses in rural areas. It is hoped that Pugwash could host a one day conference later in the year. No Commissioners were available to attend.

CORRESPONDENCE

Requests for Funding

Thinkers Lodge Society

346.15 Commissioner Farley explained that these funds would be used as “seed money” to get this important group started. Much time and energy has been spent in forming the Society. The Village and the Municipality are currently the only funding partners approached.

MOTION

346.16 It was moved by Commissioner Farley and seconded by Commissioner Mundle that the Village of Pugwash should grant the Thinkers Lodge Society \$2,500 as requested.

MOTION CARRIED

Cyrus Eaton Elementary School

346.17 The school has requested \$2,500. This is the first time the school has asked for funding for sporting equipment.

MOTION

346.18 It was moved by Commissioner Farley and seconded by Commissioner Gould that the Village of Pugwash should grant Cyrus Eaton Elementary School \$1,250.

MOTION CARRIED

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Communities in Bloom (CIB)

346.19 CIB is asking the Village to split the cost of new banners and brackets.

MOTION

346.20 It was moved by Commissioner Blackie and seconded by Commissioner Farley that the Village of Pugwash should grant Communities in Bloom \$1,900.

MOTION CARRIED

Farmers Market

346.21 The Farmers Market is requesting to purchase the buildings they have been using and repairing. The Commissioners agree that until the permanent site of the multi-purpose centre is determined, that the building cannot yet be sold.

Cumberland Library Board - report

346.22 Monthly report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

346.23 It was moved by Commissioner Mundle and seconded by Commissioner Blackie that the Treasurer's un-audited report be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

INFORMATION ITEMS

346.24 The next Village Commission Meeting will be on Monday, March 16th at 7pm.

ADJOURNMENT

346.25 The meeting was adjourned at 8pm by Commissioner Gould.

Respectfully submitted
Lisa Betts
Clerk Treasurer

Chair _____

Clerk Treasurer _____