

PUGWASH VILLAGE COMMISSION
Regular Meeting #354
21st September, 2015 at 7pm
Pugwash Village Hall

Minute Number 354

PRESENT

Roger Mundle, Charlie Gould, Christie Blackie and Florence Batiot

RECORDING SECRETARY

Lisa Betts

CALL TO ORDER

354.1 The Commission of the Village of Pugwash met in the Board Room at the Pugwash Village Hall on 21st September, 2015. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Mundle.

REGRETS

354.2 Kathy Redmond

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION

354.3 It was moved by Commissioners Gould and Batiot that the agenda be adopted as amended and circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION

354.4 It was moved by Commissioner Blackie and seconded by Commissioner Gould that the minutes of regular meeting 353, held 17th August, 2015 be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

354.5 **Air conditioner.** The Clerk advised that this item is a housekeeping item that is being attended to and is included in the agenda because a motion had been made at the previous meeting. An appropriately sized at a reasonable cost is being sourced. Commissioner Batiot expressed a concern about the air quality in Clerk's office.

354.6 **Mayors for Peace Membership.** The Clerk requested that the motion to pay for membership of this organization be rescinded because it is currently very expensive to send the fee to Japan. Paying for membership is optional.

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MOTION

354.7 It was moved by Commissioner Blackie and seconded by Commissioner Gould that the Village of Pugwash become a non-paying member of Mayors for Peace.

MOTION CARRIED

PRESENTATION

YREACH – Brent Noiles

354.8 Mr Noiles explained that this is a program run through the YMCA to help immigrants, temporary workers, refugees and other newcomers to Nova Scotia. Funding comes from Nova Scotia Immigration. Statistics from the Federal level only give numbers of immigrants, not who they are or where they are from. The most recent statistics for Cumberland County is for 2012 when 15 immigrants to the area were registered by Statistics Canada. Privacy issues make it difficult to find newcomers to assist.

354.9 Commissioner Gould expressed a concern that immigration into Canada continues to be fraught with bureaucracy. Commissioner Batiot asked how YREACH services are made available to clients (foreign workers). Mr Noiles said that this was primarily through employers. Mr Noiles left some printed matter for display/distribution.

OLD BUSINESS

Pugwash and Area Master Plan – Infrastructure Action Team – Municipal Water

354.10 No report.

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

354.11 This continues to be a “work in progress”.

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

354.12 The VIC continues to be busy. At this time of year it is run by the C@P Site volunteers.

Pugwash and Area Master Plan - Collaboration and Communication

354.13 This includes the use and promoting of the village website, newsletter, 911 signage projects etc. There are no new projects to report at this time.

Gathering of the Clans

354.14 The Coordinator reported that plans for 2016 have started with the booking of the Northumberland Community Curling Club for the Burns Night Supper for

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Saturday, January 23rd. A financial report was made showing a net profit of \$3,001.21 . Another report made was that the bank balance for the Gathering of the Clans has increased from \$9,163.91 (2009) to \$32,395.78 (2015). This increased reserve is useful for the initial start up costs required and in the event of a rained out festival. The coordinator suggested that part of this reserve could be used towards the cost of a new stage.

Commission Election

354.15 Only one nomination being received, there was no requirement for an election, Commissioner Florence Batiot thus being elected by acclamation.

Association of Nova Scotia Villages (ANSV) Annual General Meeting

354.16 The Clerk had attended the AGM and workshops and gave a quick background history that led to the genesis of the ANSV and the resulting *ANSV Discussion Paper*. This paper has been circulated around the ANSV, revised and sent to the Province several times for several years. More recently (2014), the *Municipal Fiscal Review*, produced by the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM) and AMANS was published. This report made recommendations about the future status of Village without having consulted Villages. There is now a set of working groups set up to review the Municipal Government Act (1999) with some representation from the Villages.

Those who had attended the AGM agreed there had been great value in the conference. The 2016 AGM will be co-hosted by the Villages of Greenwood and Lawrencetown.

Response from Auditors

354.17 A response from the auditors to the Village of Pugwash's letter questioning their invoice was received that day (September 21st). The last part of the letter was not entirely clear as to what the final invoice was or what, if any, concessions had been made. The Commissioners agreed to not respond to the letter until it had been well examined and discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Eaton Stage

354.18 The stage is in poor condition and should be replaced. The Coordinator said that an alternative, temporary stage should be considered for 2016 in the event that a new permanent structure was not ready for use by July 1st. Eaton Stage is part of what the Waterfront Development Committee is studying and this should be kept in mind if the village commission develops plans to replace the stage

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Municipal Open House

354.19 Councillor Gillis reported (from the gallery) that many County departments and associated organizations had put together good presentations; attendance from the public was poor. The Village of Pugwash was included with a presentation of services provided by the Village.

CORRESPONDENCE

354.20 Responses to the Village's letter asking if: the funding promised by the current federal government would be honoured if there was a change in government, if that was the same party as the winning candidate for MP for Cumberland - Colchester - Middle Muskquodoboit or not. Letters were sent to Bill Casey (Liberal), Scott Armstrong (Conservative) and Wendy Robinson (NDP):

Bill Casey

354.21 Responded that he would defend the promised amount.

Wendy Robinson

354.22 Responded that if the NDP won, vital infrastructure projects would be funded.

Helen and Bill Matheson

354.23 The Village was copied on a letter sent to Councillor Gillis asking a variety of questions about the proposed water supply project. Commissioner Batiot commented that there were some important questions asked in the letter. Councillor Gillis said the letter had been passed along to the Director of Engineering.

Communities in Bloom (CIB)

354.24 Request for funding to help defray costs incurred when Dr. Duinker and his students from Dalhousie University come to Pugwash next month to do a tree inventory. John Mills (past president of CIB) explained that this study would look at what trees currently grow in the village. This would give a base line and would lead to recommendations as to what species trees should be most appropriately grown to give shade without causing other problems in the community.

The Clerk briefly explained the Village of Pugwash's unique position in being able to financially support organizations. She also brought the commission up to date as to how much had been spent on grants to groups so far in this fiscal year as compared to recent years.

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Mr Mills was asked what would happen once the tree inventory report was received? Mr Mills said that there were a number of ways to make the recommended tree species more available to the public. Commissioner Mundle said he looked forward to seeing some well-informed recommendations. He also expressed a concern that inappropriately located new plantings can harm view planes later on.

MOTION

354.25 It was moved by Commissioner Batiot and seconded by Commissioner Gould that the Village of Pugwash donate up to \$750 to Communities in Bloom.

MOTION CARRIED

TREASURER'S REPORT

MOTION

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

MOTION CARRIED

INFORMATION ITEMS

354.27 There will be a meeting to discuss possible merging of local schools - September 29th at Cyrus Eaton Elementary School, hosted by school board member, Adam Davies.

354.28 The monument base has been cleaned and repainted at the Cenotaph. The statue was considered too fragile to clean.

354.29 There will be an all candidates' debate at St Thomas More Roman Catholic church hall on October 1st.

354.30 A meeting discussing certain legal issues was held September 14th. Due to the nature of the meeting, no further details can be made available at this stage, but the Village is obliged (MGA S.22[4]) to report that the meeting occurred.

354.31 The next Village Commission regular meeting will be on Monday, October 19th at 7pm

ADJOURNMENT

354.32 The meeting was adjourned at 8:27pm

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Respectfully submitted
Lisa Betts
Clerk Treasurer

Chair _____

Clerk Treasurer _____