

Pugwash Village Commission

Regular Meeting #466

18th November 2024 at 7pm

Board Room, Pugwash Village Hall

Minutes

1 Call to Order

1.1 Vice Chair Sue Duncan called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm

1.2 An in-camera meeting was held prior to this meeting.

1.3 Territorial Acknowledgement- 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—absent—arrived at 7:21 p.m., and Chair Wilson resumed control of the meeting from Vice Chair Duncan.

Commissioner and Vice Chair Sue Duncan

Commissioner Dave MacEwan

Commissioner Matthew Parker

Commissioner Margaret Anderson

3 Approval of Agenda

3.1 Commissioner Parker moved and seconded **Commissioner MacEwan** to approve the agenda.

Motion Carried.

3.2 Call of Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None.

4. Approval of the Minutes

4.1 IT WAS MOVED by **Commissioner Parker** and seconded by **Commissioner MacEwan** to approve the minutes of Meeting #466 held November 18th, 2024.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

5.1 O2 students will be participating in various activities with the Village of Pugwash.

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5.2 Jennifer Houghtaling and the Clerk will meet to discuss Storm Drains and village-related issues. Councillor Houghtaling says that the approval to begin was pushed to the spring of 2025 to begin this project. The Storm drains run into the sewer that the county takes care of, and a letter of support is created to send to the province from the village. The study was completed two years ago. Roads and bridges are also an issue in the province, so this is a priority for the province's budget. Including the MLA will be critical in this matter.

Action: The village will create a form to see if community members are having flooding in their basements while their sump pumps work. The village will also support the need for the storm drains to be repaired in 2025 in collaboration with Councillor Houghtaling.

5.3 Creating an events committee for the village as the Clerk in charge of the monies and arrangements is seen as an asset. Over 250 trick-or-treaters attended Halloween at the Village Hall. Organizing the 1st Annual Christmas Parade for Christmas by the Sea weekend, December 6 and 7th. Tree lighting in the park will be on December 6th, and Santa will be visiting with the children at What's for Dinner. Matt Parker has wanted to be part of the event committee.

6. Presentations

6.1 Communities in Bloom—to have a shared expense of 1992.83 each to rebuild the planter boxes and benches. This has been tabled to January.

7. Correspondences

7.1 Clerk was asked to research the village's bylaws and rules around using harmful pesticides.

7.2 The Code of Conduct Adoption to the Village was discussed, and it was decided that we could work with the county to use their investigator. All commissioners must attend a training session for the Northern Zone on January 25, 2024. The resolution to adopt the Code of Conduct will be passed at the next meeting.

7.3 Clerk-Treasurer Blackie will attend training sessions that are vital to her job based on the preset Budget.

8. Committee Reports

Standing Committees

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8.1.1 Accessibility (MacEwan) Commissioner MacEwan spoke at the great turnout at the meeting to hear what Adam Fraser from Community Services said about the remedy and the changes that will take place from institutional living to community housing. I spoke about the transportation issues, but few communities and organizations know what is happening. Awareness and community transparency will be necessary for residents to understand the changes and that people's rights have been violated. The province has passed this law to change all communities to follow the law. Councillor Houghtaling spoke to this matter and informed the commission that there will be a community engagement meeting **on February 28th** at the Curling Club to discuss the changes.

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

The meeting is in January.

8.1.3 Audit [Duncan]

Preparing the files and working with the auditor. Clerk Blackie is now a signing officer and uses an assigned debit card in her name to conduct village business.

8.1.4 Policy Review [MacEwan/Wilson]

Bank of Nova Scotia to Credit Union – Clerk Blackie will investigate this and bring back more details. Commissioners agree that this is important to investigate.

8.2 Special Committees

CN Station has applied for and received an infrastructure grant. The Pugwash Farmers Market applied for and was awarded \$29,000.00, and the additional \$8,000.00 was covered by the county to help with repairs to the train station. We are looking at trying to make some sort of barrier to stop the water from running into the market and will keep the commission apprised.

8.3 Advisory Committee

8.3.1 None.

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8.4 Community Committee or Organizations with Village Commission/Staff Representation

8.4.1 Communities in Bloom (CIB) (Blackie)

Greg and Steve were awarded special recognition for all their hard work in the village, and their award hangs in their office.

Continuing to find solutions to the sign issues.

8.5 Clerk-Treasurer Reports (Blackie)

The village office Renovation is complete, and the plans for the Christmas by the Sea Parade and craft day are continuing.

Creating a volunteer registry will be an excellent asset for the community.

9. Motions

9.1 None.

10. Notices of Motion

10.1 None.

11. New or Other Business

11.1 The next regular Village meeting is at 7:00 p.m. December 9th, 2024

12. Adjournments

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m. by motion from Chair Wilson.

Respectfully submitted,
Christie Blackie
Acting Clerk-Treasurer

Chair _____

Clerk Treasurer _____