

STELLARTON TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING
MARCH 8, 2021

A Public Hearing of the Stellarton Town Council was held on Monday, March 8, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Present

Present were Mayor D. MacGillivray, Couns. B. Knight, S. Lawand, S. Campbell, and G. Pentz.

Also present Town Clerk S. Higdon, Building Inspector Mannie Withrow, and Town Solicitor Craig Clarke.

Agenda

The agenda was approved as received on motion by Coun. G. Pentz, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

Dangerous and Unsightly Hearing for 127 & 129 Hudson Street

Mayor D. MacGillivray asked if anyone would like to speak.

Melissa MacDonald, the niece of property owners, addressed Council requesting a postponement due to a death in the family.

Mayor D. MacGillivray re timelines and plans to fix up the property.

Ms. MacDonald commented on letter they received to clean up the yard; unsure what needs to be done to the inside of house.

Coun. G. Pentz recommended informing stakeholders of what has to be done and go through regular procedures of 30 days.

Ms. MacDonald re boards on the house preventing them access.

Town Clerk S. Higdon stated that access is allowed by appointment.

Coun. S. Lawand re clarity and have an official provide details to property owners of the Unsightly and Dangerous status along with timeframe for remediation; if required work is not complete in the determined timeframe, then Council can move forward with demolition.

Building Inspector and Dangerous and Unsightly Administrator Mannie Withrow to Council; reviewed the sequence of events followed by photos.

Sequence of events:

Complaint received November 10, 2020;

Property inspected on November 18, 2020 and deemed to be Unsightly;

Stellarton Police Service requested Building Inspector to perform inspection of the interior of the structure on February 18, 2021;

Photographs were taken of the interior; due to the conditions found, issued an Immediate Cease Occupancy Order, and boarded up the building with Town Staff.

Recommends a Demolition of the unsafe structure; therefore a Hearing was set for today; Notices were posted and mailed to the owners.

M. Withrow reviewed photos with Council and provided comments of property; one side being abandoned; photos taken November 27, 2020, representing First Order.

M. Withrow showed more photos taken on February 18, 2021 of the interior of property; showing unsafe woodstove, ceiling falling down, bedrooms with no proper egress, condition of the stairwell, electrical, attic area, leaks, etc. In its current condition, M. Withrow's recommendation is for the owners to submit a structural report on the entire building from an engineer licensed to practice in Nova Scotia with all remediated work outlined in said report by April 8, 2021 and to be corrected within 60 days.

M. Withrow stated that if the conditions are not met by April 8, 2021, he would recommend demolition; removing all debris from property.

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Comments/Questions:

Coun. S. Lawand re sharing information with residents; agrees with Building Inspector's report and recommendation; feels that it will be very expensive to fix property; willing to work with property owners.

Ms. MacDonald commented re new wiring done recently; furthermore, the pipes froze and broke; who is responsible for damage.

Mayor D. MacGillivray replied that there was no legal heating system in the house; but suggested they seek legal advice.

Mayor D. MacGillivray read the Dangerous or Unightly Premises Order, addressed to John and Melburn Cornett, for the record. Order attached, dated 8th day of March 20201.

Coun. S. Lawand made motion to approve Order, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell.
Motion Carried.

Adjournment

Public Hearing adjourned at 5:25 p.m. on motion by Coun. G. Pentz.

MAYOR

TOWN CLERK

MARCH 8, 2021
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A meeting of the Stellarton Town Council was held on Monday, March 8, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT

Mayor D. MacGillivray, Couns. S. Lawand, B. Knight, S. Campbell and G. Pentz. Also present was the Town Clerk S. Higdon.

1. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved as amended to include under Correspondence 5.b. Community Spirit Plaque, on motion by Coun. G. Pentz, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from February 9, 2021, Council meeting were approved on motion by Coun. G. Pentz seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. Acknowledgement – International Women's Day

Mayor D. MacGillivray acknowledged today March 8, International Women's Day.

5. Proclamation – Proclamation of Purple Day (Epilepsy Awareness)

Mayor D. MacGillivray read Proclamation of Purple Day in recognition of Epilepsy awareness, designating March 26 as Purple Day in Stellarton. Coun. S. Campbell made motion to proclaim March 26 as Purple Day, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

6. Presentation – Deborah Searle, Pictou County Solid Waste

Deborah Searle, from Pictou County Solid Waste made presentation to Council highlighting:

- Waste management program
- Past practices; changes over the years
- Sorting waste
- Recycling
- Local facility; operations
- Transfer station, not a landfill – our garbage gets transferred to the Guysborough landfill
- Second-generation landfill liner; treatment; environmental safeguards
- Recyclables are transferred to the Colchester Materials Recovery Facility in Kemptown
- Recyclables are hand-sorted; cleaning and sorting is important
- Hazardous materials / medical materials; proper disposal
- Compost facility on site; processes
- Statistics
- Environmental regulations in place; air and water quality issues; litter
- Budgets; Waste reduction; EPR
- Free Resources include website, sorting guide, apartment kits, educators for businesses, social media, and an app
- Community Outreach; webinars

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- Household Hazardous Waste disposal; community paper shedding event in June free of charge
- Litter clean-ups; Pictou County Go Clean Get Green April 19 – 24; Adopt a Highway
- Compliance Officer for enforcement
- Reduce Reuse Recycle
- Positive changes

Coun. S. Lawand re EPR cost clarity. Deborah Searle stated the EPR is collected; an industry association; already built in the price of product; not every province has the EPR; hoping that Nova Scotia will utilize the program.

Mayor D. MacGillivray re common markets for paper and plastic products. D. Searle replied that it depends on the specific types/numbers; a lot of paper will go to Thermal Cell in Debert; plastics go various places, some local.

7. Reports from Staff - for information; reports attached.

- a. Chief Mark Hobeck – Stellarton Police Service
Coun. B. Knight made motion to accept Police Service Report, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**
- b. Fire Chief Mike O'Sullivan – Fire Department
Coun. B. Knight motioned to accept Fire Department's report for February 2021, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. Mayor D. MacGillivray commented on February being a quiet month. **Motion Carried.**
- c. Paige Clarke – Marketing & Communications
P. Clarke presented report
Questions/Comments:
Mayor D. MacGillivray re the Buy and Exchange Sign. P. Clarke reported that many municipalities are designating a well-lit, video-monitored area for people who use on-line buy and sells (i.e. Kijiji); a safer place to meet. She stated that the sign will be posted on the back of the Town Hall, multiple cameras, parking spots.
Mayor D. MacGillivray re the NSCC Achieve Class.
Mayor D. MacGillivray re upcoming Tax Sale.
Coun. S. Lawand re the Buy and Sell; any update on the Business Advisory Committee. P. Clarke reported that the business owners she met with were very receptive; lots of potential; next meeting is March 15, small group of 5.
Coun. S. Lawand re expectations and limited budget; other ways help.
Coun. S. Lawand re Water Testing – Geosmin/Microcystin sampling in June; suggested including this information on the website to update public. P. Clarke will also include information in next month's Newsletter.
Coun. S. Lawand made motion to approve the Marketing & Communications report, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**
- d. Blaine Murray – Town Engineer
Town Engineer B. Murray presented his reports,
Questions/Comments:
Mayor D. MacGillivray re PRV 1. B. Murray stated that it is a "pressure reducing valve".
Coun. G. Pentz re expensive repairs to equipment; are they wearing out. B. Murray confirmed that the oldest sidewalk plow would need to be replaced in the near future.
Coun. G. Pentz re ice build-up at the corner of Rutherford and Kirk Avenue. B. Murray will look into it and report back.
Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve Town Engineer's Reports, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**
- e. Sally O'Neill – Active Pictou County Report

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve Active Pictou County Report, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

8. Correspondence

a. Letter from Mayors & Warden of Pictou County to Premier Rankin Re: Mental Health. Town Clerk S. Higdon stated that letter was sent to Premier Rankin on March 1, and signed by all Mayors and Warden of Pictou County; to address the needs for improved mental health and addiction services in our area; recently met with Central Nova MP Sean Fraser who mentioned he will make himself available for a meeting with the Premier, the Minister of Health and Wellness, and Municipal officials to discuss the issue.

Coun. G. Pentz re the County sent letter about COVID 19 and their concern with vaccines; no clinic in Pictou County.

Coun. G. Pentz motioned to send letter of concern and support the County's position regarding a vaccine clinic in Pictou County, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

Coun. B. Knight voiced concern that Pictou County is being left out in many health-related areas; lack of doctors.

Coun. B. Knight made motion to send letter to Nicole LeBlanc requesting a report on the recruitment of doctors to the area, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**

b. Community Spirit Plaque: Town Clerk S. Higdon read letter received from the Hon. Arthur J. LeBlanc regarding a Community Spirit Plaque; in recognition of those who contributed to aiding their fellow citizens during the 2020 pandemic; Town Clerk S. Higdon stated that the plaque will be displayed in the main foyer of the Town Hall.

9. Committee of the Whole Report

The following recommendation is for Council's consideration from the Committee of the Whole meeting held on February 22, 2021:

Recommendation #1 – On recommendation of Committee of the Whole Council approve the donation of \$100.00 to Big Brothers Big Sisters Pictou County for lane sponsorship for Bowl for Kids 2021.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve Committee of the Whole recommendation, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

10. Ratification of Superintendent Position Jamie MacDonald

Town Clerk S. Higdon reported that Jamie MacDonald has been hired effective March 1, 2021, and needs ratification from Council.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to ratify the superintendent position, Jamie MacDonald, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

11. Dangerous & Unsightly Motion Re: 127 & 129 Hudson Street

Town Clerk S. Higdon reported that a Public Hearing was held at 5:00 p.m. today; Council approved an Order by motion where 127 & 129 Hudson Street will have to prepare a structural engineer report for the Building Inspector by April 8, 2021; and to be corrected within 60 days of the Order; if that does not take place, Council has moved to demolish after April 8.

12. Open Forum

Brian Atkinson comments:

- Vaccines; limited numbers available; follow the recommended advice

David Pettipas comments:

- Problems on Marie Street; thanked all for their efforts

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13. Next Council Meeting

Next Council meeting will be Monday, April 12, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

14. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned on motion by Coun. G. Pentz.

MAYOR

TOWN CLERK



STELLARTON POLICE SERVICE

Report for March 1st to March 29th, 2021

Calls for Service

Total: 168

Activities

Arrests

3- 911 Act Other Activities	
1- Abandoned Vehicle	
1- Animal Call	
1- Assault	
8- Assists to Can. Police Agency	
27- Assists to the General Public	
1- Assist to the RCMP	
1- Breach of the Peace	
1- Break and Enter	
1- Cancellation of Occurrence	
2- Crime Prevention	
1- Criminal Harassment	1
3- Disturbing the Peace	1

1- Dog Act Other Activity	
2- Driving while Disqualified	2
1- Fail to Comply Probation	1
1- Failure to Attend Court	
4- False Alarms	
4- Family Relations Act	
3- Firearms Act	1
2- Flight from Police	
1- Fraud	
1- Harassing Communication	
1- Health Act Covid	
1- Identity Fraud	
1- Identity Theft	
3- Information Files	
4- Liquor Control Act	2
7- Mental Health Act	
7- Mischief	
1- Mischief Data Breach	
20- Motor Vehicle Act	7
3- Motor Vehicle Insurance	1
1- Moving Traffic intersection	

12- Municipal Bylaws	
2- Operation while Impaired	1
1- Other Moving Traffic	1
1- Other Prov./Terr.	
4- Thefts	
1- Parking Offence	
1- Peace Bond	
2- Persons Reported Missing	
1- Possession of Property Obtained by Crime	
10- Suspicious Persons	
2- Thefts of Gas	
2- Traffic Collisions	
1- Traffic Complaint	
1- Traffic Enforcement	
2- Uttering Threats	
5- Well Being Checks	

Open Cases 17 Open Cases (YTD) 22

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Qty. Type

None to report due to COVID-19 Restrictions.

Other Activities

Foot / Bike Patrol 6.0
Radar Patrol 142.50 hours

Fleet

Patrol Car 36 March 3124 km traveled Year to Date 9745 km travelled
Patrol Car 38 March 5561 km traveled Year to Date 15665 km travelled

Gas Used

Patrol Car 36 March 610 Litres Year to Date 1710 Litres
Patrol Car 38 March 1021 Litres Year to Date 3164 Litres

Respectfully Submitted:

Mark Hobeck
Chief of Police

Crime statistics

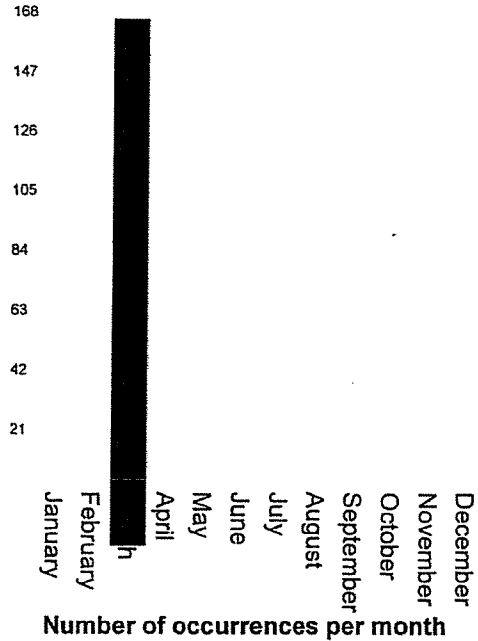
RCMP-GRC, Stellarton NS PS
 Valid as of 2021/03/30 13:59:56
 Printed by #E00036135 THIBEAU, M.

Daily and hourly occurrences

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	UNKNOWN	TOTAL
NUMBER OF EVENTS -	19	36	32	26	24	14	13	4	168
0:00 TO 3:59	1	3	2	2	2	1			11
4:00 TO 7:59	2	4	5	3	3	2	1		20
8:00 TO 11:59	2	7	7	3	2	4	4		29
12:00 TO 15:59	6	12	8	7	6	5	2		46
16:00 TO 19:59	4	10	7	8	9	1	4		43
20:00 TO 23:59	4		3	3	2	1	2		15
UNKNOWN HOUR								4	4

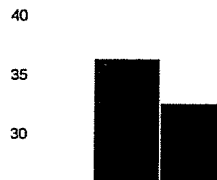
Breakdown by month:

Month	Number of occurrences	Percentage of total
January	0	0.0%
February	0	0.0%
March	163	97.0%
April	0	0.0%
May	0	0.0%
June	1	0.6%
July	0	0.0%
August	0	0.0%
September	0	0.0%
October	0	0.0%
November	0	0.0%
December	0	0.0%
Unknown	4	2.4%
Total	168	100%



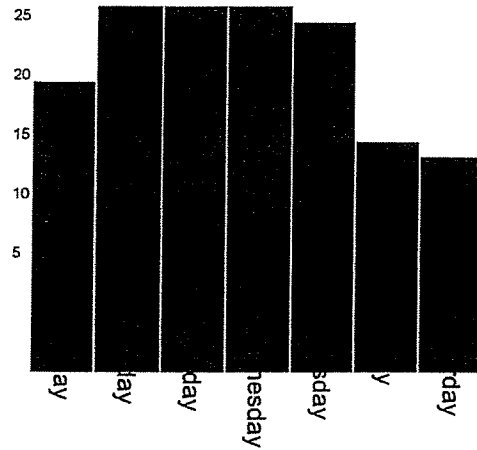
Breakdown by day of the week:

Weekday	Number of occurrences	Percentage of total
Sunday	19	11.3%
Monday	36	21.4%
Tuesday	32	19.0%



Protected B

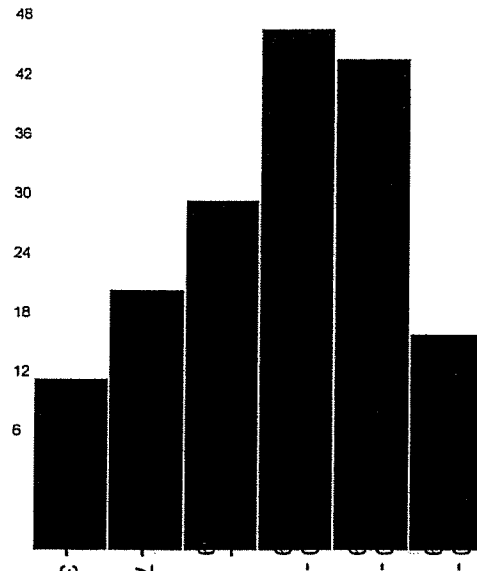
Wednesday	26	15.5%
Thursday	24	14.3%
Friday	14	8.3%
Saturday	13	7.7%
Unknown	4	2.4%
Total	168	100%



Number of occurrences per weekday

Breakdown by time of day:

Time	Number of occurrences	Percentage of total
0:00 - 3:59	11	6.5%
4:00 - 7:59	20	11.9%
8:00 - 11:59	29	17.3%
12:00 - 15:59	46	27.4%
16:00 - 19:59	43	25.6%
20:00 - 23:59	15	8.9%
Unknown	4	2.4%
Total	168	100%



Number of occurrences per time of day

Protected B

Stellarton Fire Department
Monthly Report – March 2021

The month of March was quiet around the Fire Department.

CALLS:

We did not have any calls for the month of March. We did however have 1 mutual aid call.

PRACTICES:

Practices continue to happen on Thursday evenings. We try to follow Public Health Protocols. On average 17 members attended.

EQUIPMENT CHECKS:

Checks were completely weekly with 4-5 members performing the equipment check each week.

At this point in time our department is still not responding to medical calls and the Hall remains closed.

Respectfully submitted by Mark Fortune(secretary)

April Council Report

Marketing & Communications

- *Heritage Committee, Final Plan*; The final Heritage Plan was submitted by our consultants, WSP. The extensive plan was presented to the Committee of the Whole for discussion and consideration. The Heritage Committee is meeting later this month to review the implementation table and recommendations presented in the plan. They will be determining which items will be easiest to complete this fiscal year.

- *Accessibility*; I continue to attend virtual presentations regarding accessibility within the province and within individual municipalities. The Province of Nova Scotia held an informative session earlier this month on "Recommendations for an Accessibility Standard in the Built Environment." They have made the presentation slides available to us. As we work towards the end of our Accessibility Plan, this will be a good reference point for our Built Environment section as we finalize the plan.

- *Buy & Sell Exchange Zone*; The signage for the Buy & Sell Exchange Zone has been placed on the building outside. We have received a tremendous amount of positive feedback after the information was posted online. Both the Pictou Advocate and The News ran stories in addition to our Facebook post – this post reached approximately 56k people organically.

- *Business Advisory Committee*; The BAC held their first meeting earlier in March to establish the terms of reference and express the goals and vision for the group. We have created a private Facebook group for Stellarton business owners/managers/designated staff to join so that the business community can have informal business conversations for the BAC to bring to future meetings. The BAC members will be the main facilitators of this group. I am working towards creating a fully developed Business page, in accordance with the Communications Plan, for our website that will include the minutes from the BAC meetings. These minutes are available for anyone who wishes to read them.

- *Newsletter*; The spring edition of the newsletter has been completed with lots of important information. This edition features: Mayor MacGillivray's letter/update, a segment on summer employment opportunities, information on how to report plow damage, our Volunteer of the Year, information on tax billings and low-income exemptions, as well as important information regarding Stellarton's Water Contingency Plan and additional water updates.

- *Volunteer of the Year*; The recreation committee selected the recipient of the Francis "Bud" MacKay Memorial Volunteer of the Year Award. This year's representative is Tanya Oldford-Cowley. She will represent Stellarton on the provincial level at their Volunteer Awards being held virtually on April 26, 2021. Although not yet confirmed, it is likely we will need to look at hosting a viewing party for our VOY, similar to what we did last year, versus a full event due to COVID-19 restrictions.

- *Sunday Fundays*; The YMCA has set aside time on Sundays for funding municipal partners to utilize for their residents. I have attended a couple planning meetings with the other municipalities and YMCA staff to help streamline the process. During the planning sessions, Stellarton has been scheduled to use the facility on Sundays in May. We currently do not have the full details or registration links yet. The Municipality of Pictou County is slotted for Sundays in April. We will use their experiences and will meet with the working group to decipher to best tactics moving forward into our month. Additional marketing and communication work will be completed in the upcoming month to ensure Stellarton residents have the resources they need to access the facility during our designated times for free.

- *Purple Day*; As proclaimed at last month's council meeting, we acknowledged Purple Day on March 26. The photo that was made on our social media channels organically reached 3k people.

Town Engineers Report

March 2021

Engineering & Public Works Report

Engineering/ Capital

1. Tender documents for the Victoria/Allan infrastructure project are out for tender.
2. Engineering staff were busy developing project documents for various tenders. These estimates will be reviewed by council during budget deliberations.

Streets/Properties

3. On March 19 we received approximately 20-25 cm. There were several small precipitation events requiring snow and ice control measures during the month of March.
4. Significant improvements have been made to the Albion Trail in terms of vegetation control. A chipper was rented and staff widened and cleared the trail. The Trail was overgrown with alders and vegetation. The efforts have significantly improved the aesthetics and usability of the trail.
5. The Town Hall flag was removed off the building due to safety reasons. The brackets and hardware were severely rusted. A flag pole will be installed on the ground which will provide a safer way of lowering and raising the flag.
6. Renovations to the entry and stairwell of the heritage room have started. New tile and stair treads will be installed.
7. Renovations were completed in the Town Clerks new office. Files in the storage room were moved downstairs to the old office.
8. Staff did some garbage pick-up around the Town as part of spring cleanup.
9. Minor work was completed on the Allan Park gravel entrance.

Blaine Murray, P.Eng.,
Town Engineer

Town of Stellarton Town Engineers Report March 2021 Water Utility Report

Water Quality Testing

1. Routine weekly Bacteriological sampling was conducted. All results were negative for the month.

Water Distribution System

2. No water main breaks to report.
3. In advance of infrastructure upgrades to Victoria and Allan, staff located the water standpipes on those streets. Standpipes were located, shot with our GPS, and uploaded to our drawings and GIS system. As part of our asset management program and inventory database we will be continuing this exercise for all standpipes within the Town. This will be ongoing as time permits.

Water Treatment Plant (WTP);

4. Staff submitted our annual report to Nova Scotia Environment. The report is a thick document that contains yearly data on the quality and quantity of the water supplied to the Town, analytical analysis, annual trends, and much more.
5. Received & Installed New #2 Zeeweed Membranes on March 30, 2021. The membranes arrived earlier than expected.
6. Floats replaced in Raw Water sump. It was discovered that the existing floats were set too low and were not working properly. The floats will shut Raw Water Pumps down in case of low level.
7. Precaustic pump rebuilt;

**Blaine Murray, P. Eng.
Town Engineer**

- \$28,000 awarded from CCRCE to support spring after school programming
 - Programming is free to attend and will be offered at the following locations from Apr 12- Jun 3: Mondays, Westville Gym; Tuesdays -Sobeys Indoor Complex; Wednesdays- Pictou Academy Gym; Thursdays- Westville Town Gym. New to the program this spring: Transportation support available.
- \$2100 awarded from CCH's Diversity and Community Capacity Fund for "Diversity and Adventure" project in partnership with Cape to Cape Hiking group, Pictou Landing First Nation and YReach Newcomers program. Project includes a Healing Hike led by Diversity and Adventure group of Cape Breton and Outdoor Council of Canada Hike Leader certification for BIPOC identified participants.
- Assisted Mountain Bike Trails Builders of Pictou County, and Pictou County Trails Association in submitting proposal to the Canada Healthy Communities Fund for trail projects connected to the Trans Canada Trail
- Presentation to Westville Town Council, Committee of the Whole, March 22nd
- Assisted Pictou County Trails Association in submitting proposal to Department of Communities Culture and Heritage Recreational Trail Expansion Fund.
- Welcome Winter project with YReach Newcomer Program held four well-attended events with 20-30 people attending each.
 - Walk and Talk English conversation walk, March 11th
 - Winter clothing demonstration and trail walk, at the DeCoste Centre March 13th
 - Newcomer Family Skating Try-it Session, Wellness Centre March 17th
 - Newcomer Family Skating Try-it Session, Hector Arena March 20th.
 - Last session was filmed by Pictou County REN as part of their business attraction promotion. Skates, Helmets and transportation were provided by Active Pictou County with support from the Province of Nova Scotia.





TOWN OF STELLARTON

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susan.higdon@stellarton.ca

Committee Report

Date: April 12, 2021
To: Mayor and Council
From: Susan Higdon, Town Clerk

The following recommendation are for Council's consideration from the Committee of the Whole meeting held on March 22, 2021:

Recommendation # 1

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole Council approve the ratification of the Stellarton Heritage Plan in principle.