

MAY 27, 2019
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A meeting of the Stellarton Committee of the Whole was held on Monday, May 27, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

PRESENT

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

AGENDA

The Agenda was approved as amended to include 6.(g) Municipal Affairs memo, on motion by Coun. S. Lawand, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of April 23, 2019 were approved on motion by Coun. S. Campbell seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- a. Letter from Cheryl Gallant – Town Engineer Blaine Murray re letter received from MP Cheryl Gallant expressing concerns over Bill C68; changes to the Fisheries Act. Town Engineer B. Murray provided comments on how this may impact the Town of Stellarton; gave some history on the Fisheries Act; this Bill is currently before the Senate; looking at reversing the changes that happened in 2012. B. Murray continued - as per the opinion of political leaders throughout the country, if Bill C68 is passed, their concerns about the work done in and around water courses will require further paperwork, permits and assessments. Projects may require impact assessments, and studies resulting into red-tape, longer processing times, and additional financial burdens on the municipality. Discussion – Chair B. Knight re the East River, and how will it affect Town. B. Murray comments re areas where fish may pass, hence the East River would be a concern.
Coun. S. Lawand re culvert work beneath the East River; future work will require additional studies as well as financial impacts. B. Murray agreed, adding that even small projects could be lumped into the new regulations causing delays, and higher costs.
Coun. G. Pentz re letter of support of not passing Bill C68.
Town Clerk S. Higdon quoted from letter, “that all municipalities should be demanding the federal government provide regulatory certainty before this legislation is passed into law”.
Coun. S. Lawand re consulting with the NSFAM for more feedback
Coun. S. Lawand made motion to send letter to the NSFAM regarding this issue, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**

PRESENTATION AT PLAN PARKLETS

Rachael McLean, Paul Corbin and Blaine Murray
R. McLean re Pilot Project, as presented in the Active Transportation Plan, for Parklets; provided information on these parklets which are designed to give more amenity space in the downtown to slow traffic by creating a smaller visual plane, and to introduce green space. Presented slide show with recommended area for parklets, across from the Post Office; flush with the sidewalk; since this is a Pilot, they propose using pallets as the base with plywood on the top; green area, with plants, seating, colorful. Looking for \$2,500 for Pilot Project; get people introduced to the idea. Paul Corbin comments re

green space and safety for pedestrians; and permanent structure material for future ones.

Questions/Comments:

Chair B. Knight re concerns from business owners and losing a parking spot.

R. McLean stated that it is not a legal parking spot, not enough room.

Coun. G. Pentz suggested talking to the affected business owner prior to installation.

Coun. S. Lawand suggested alternative location.

P. Corbin commented that during survey discussions with downtown business owners, street parking was not an issue; safety was more important; parking issues will be addressed further into the Active Transportation Plan.

Coun. S. Campbell asked about the width of parklet; visibility concerns. R. McLean stated that it would be the width of a parking stall and will not impede visibility.

Town Clerk S. Higdon added that the Town Engineer will be doing a "Parking Plan" for Council's consideration and information in September.

Mayor D. MacGillivray fully supports parklets, have the businesses agree; concerned about the use of pallets and how they would look; suggested other concepts.

Chair B. Knight recommends contact with the business owner prior to going forward.

Town Clerk will work with Planner and Community Development staff to iron out final details and costs.

Coun. S. Lawand motioned for the Town Clerk, Planner and Community Development Recreation Director revisit the plan for space and materials, and consultation with business owners, to present three options to Council, seconded by Mayor D.

MacGillivray. **Motion Carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

- a. NSCC Donation (Annual Grants) – Town Clerk S. Higdon reported that Council approved under the annual donations, \$500 to go towards NSCC's "Make Way Campaign", which after three years has been completed; looking at two other options for donation: 1. a direct donation to the NSCC Stellarton Campus, or 2. urgent student aid to help students who face unexpected financial challenges. Town Clerk S. Higdon added that with the recent retirement of Mr. Frank Sobey, this could be used for a scholarship in his name (if he agrees). Mayor D. MacGillivray supported the scholarship idea; some discussion; Town Clerk will contact Mr. Sobey. Mayor D. MacGillivray made motion to approve the \$500 donation in Mr. Frank Sobey's name to NSCC, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**
- b. Dog Show(s) Soccer Field usage – Town Clerk S. Higdon re dogs shows at the Sobey's Sports Complex as well use of the adjacent soccer field; some concern raised about fertilizer on field; there are scheduled dog shows upcoming, next one in June; the Town was unaware; looking for Council approval to use the field. Coun. S. Lawand in support of dog shows, however, organizers should book any and all field requirements in advance. Coun. S. Campbell asked about potential damage and users be responsible for any damage caused. Coun. S. Lawand made motion to approve the usage of the soccer field for the pre-booked, upcoming dog shows, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**
- c. Correspondence referred from May Council meeting Re: Karl Sorenson request to put a mural on his apartment building with message of Equal Opportunity. Mayor D. MacGillivray comments on Stellarton's heritage. Coun. G. Pentz agreed with Mayor MacGillivray re Town's rich history in coal. Council not in favour of proceeding.
- d. Update from Recreation Committee – received as information. Coun. G. Pentz made motion to put a water station at the Town Square, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

- e. Update from Planning Advisory Committee – received as information. Coun. S. Lawand comments re façade program for business owners in the downtown core; applications available June 10 in the Town Office; for renovations; matching grant up to \$5,000. Further commented on the first draft of the Rev. George Munroe Grant Plaque. Coun. G. Pentz asked about community groups' signage. Coun. S. Lawand provided update, looking at a signage update / strategy for entire Town.
- f. Sidewalk Café Bylaw – Recommendation from Town Planner Rachael McLean; a bylaw for the downtown that will further support the Land Use Bylaw; currently a development permit is required for any sidewalk café; the proposed bylaw details exactly what is allowed and requires businesses to have five million dollars liability insurance which can be critical.
Questions/Comments: Coun. S. Lawand re liability insurance and discourages putting too much red tape on businesses.
Coun. G. Pentz re the cost of a \$5 million liability insurance policy.
Mayor D. MacGillivray added that businesses would carry liability insurance and this would be an additional to current policy, may not be a huge increase.
R. McLean will draft a Sidewalk Café Bylaw as well as communicate with current sidewalk businesses and bring back to Council for review.
- g. Municipal Affairs, 12 Month Letter – Coun. S. Lawand comments to make public aware on the provisions of the Municipal Government Act, the Minister of Municipal Affairs must provide to the NS Federation of Municipalities a 12 month notice which included:
 - Short term accommodation pertaining to Bed & Breakfasts and Inns, taxing them at the residential rate instead of commercial rate; not applicable to Stellarton; possible Air B & B.
 - The Equalization Grant (renamed the Municipal Fiscal Capacity Grant) and its effectiveness, concerns that municipalities may get less money resulting in tax increases.
 - The Accessibility Act re municipal accessibility plan and the establishment of an accessibility advisory committee. Town Clerk S. Higdon stated that an accessibility plan will be completed in the future.

OPEN FORUM

Brian Atkinson comments:

- Damages to boulevard on Acadia; needs to be re-sodded
- Planning Advisory Committee should review the Parklets proposal
- Short-term rentals

NEXT MEETING DATE: June 24, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT on motion Coun. G. Pentz.