



QUISPAMISIS TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

October 19, 2021, 7:00 pm

Council Chambers

Quispamsis Town Hall

Present:

Mayor Libby O'Hara
Deputy Mayor Mary Schryer
Councillor Mike Biggar
Councillor Noah Donovan
Councillor Kerrie Luck
Councillor Kirk Miller
Councillor Emil T. Olsen
Councillor Beth Thompson
Brandon, Krista; Town Treasurer
Kennedy, Aaron; Acting CAO
Losier, Gary; Director of Engineering & Works
MacInnis, Lisa; Assistant. Clerk
Purton Dickson; Director of Community Services
Shannon, Katherine, HR Manager
Snow, Catherine; Town Clerk

1. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY Deputy Mayor Schryer

SECONDED BY Councillor Olsen

The Agenda be approved as prepared.

Motion Carried

2. Mayor's Comments

Mayor O'Hara reminded those in attendance October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Also, she noted the red lights installed in front of the Town Hall in recognition of Dyslexia

Awareness Week. She further added for those using the Dog Park, children under the age of 12 are not permitted in the fenced in area.

3. **Treaty Acknowledgement - Moment of Reflection** – Councillor Olsen read the Treaty Acknowledgement – Moment of Reflection.
4. **Disclosures of Interest** - No disclosures were declared.
5. **Presentations**

5.1 Hammond River Angling Association - Crowley's Pool & Stock Farm Road Restoration Project

In Attendance: Sarah Blenis, Project Coordinator & Environmental Educator, (Virtual Attendance)

Ms. Blenis made presentation to Council concerning Crowley's Pool Restoration project. She made reference to the 2017 Dillon Consultant's Report entitled, "Hammond River Angling Association - Crowley's Pool Hydraulic Assessment". The remediation of the bank erosion that is occurring along the Hammond River near the cemetery on the Stock Farm Road, will address aquatic species at risk, and will be mutually beneficial to both the HRAA and to the Town. She feels it is a good fit for the Town's Climate Change Adaptation Plan and flood resiliency. Dillon Consultant's 2017 Report estimated the cost of this remediation in the area of \$579,000, which she expects will be closer to \$643,852 in today's dollars.

Ms. Blenis stated, based on discussions with various engineers and fluvial geomorphologists, it is quite possible that the site has stabilized at the lower portion near the river, and would require significantly less riprap than originally anticipated, thus decreasing the cost. Other similar projects have had success with restoration design that relies more on nature-based solutions, she noted, i.e. replanting and revegetating of the slope with less riprap.

Ms. Blenis informed Council Canada's Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk will provide funding at a 50:50 matching ratio, (\$300,000 towards the restoration project, HRAA and partners will be required to provide the remaining \$300,000). This fund is based on up to four years to complete the project (April 2022-March 2026). The whole first year of the project, provided it is approved, will be to solidify restoration design and overall cost. For this coming year, 20221, she stated, the HRAA would appreciate a letter of support to accompany their application, with potential financial contributions pending until a full cost analysis can be done after year one of the project.

Moved By Councillor Thompson
Seconded By Councillor Donovan

Ms. Blenis be thanked for her presentation, and Council issue a letter to the Hammond River Angling Association in support of their application for funding under the Canada's Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk Program for the remediation of Crowley's Pool; and also offer in-kind technical services and information related to GIS mapping, provision of data, etc., and Council refer any potential financial contribution to the 2023 budget process, following an update from the HRAA as to a full cost analysis after year one of the project.

Motion Carried

6. Public Hearings (none)

7. Minutes of Previous Meetings

7.1 October 5, 2021 - Regular Meeting

Moved By Deputy Mayor Schryer

Seconded By Councillor Donovan

Minutes be approved as prepared.

Motion Carried

8. Unfinished Business

8.1 (June 15/21) Mr. Brian Gillis Re Active Transportation Safety for Cyclists - In Attendance

Mr. Gillis stated his name and his Rothesay address and proceeded to expand upon his correspondence. He noted it has been ten years since the Town implemented its Active Transportation Plan and there is still much more to be done, especially for cyclists. He suggested Council and Staff ask, when reviewing roadway or recreation infrastructure budget items, how does this expenditure improve the Active Transportation system with connectivity being the primary goal for all Active Transportation systems. Years of development without Active Transportation being paramount, he stated, has left limited opportunity to create off road connections to the main destinations. However, by including Active Transportation when roadways are being updated will over time increase safety and connection. He stated Active Transportation should be featured prominently in the new master transportation plan and read a quote from the Town's current AT Plan, "the transportation hierarchy must place Active Transportation within equal context of all motorized in existing areas and as the primary element in future developing areas."

Mr. Gillis applauded the Town for developing the Q/R Trail, noting it is an excellent example of a safe off-road route that connects neighbourhoods with destinations, and hoped that it would extend out along the new sewer easement to the Hillhurst Road area. He concluded by presenting photos of some existing roads suggesting they could be improved from an AT point of view by simply realigning and adding pavement markings. He invited Members to cycle and/or walk on the Town's streets to fully appreciate the intent of his Active Transportation presentation.

Councillor Luck expressed her agreement with Mr. Gillis' comments, noting it is a topic near and dear to her heart, and the timing is good with budget deliberations currently underway. She read from a prepared statement and in closing accepted his offer to cycle or walk along one of the Town's streets.

Council Members thanked Mr. Gillis for his presentation noting some components of Active Transportation will be addressed during the 2022 budget discussions as part of the Street Capital discussions.

Moved By Councillor Thompson

Seconded By Councillor Biggar

Mr. Gillis be thanked for his correspondence, and he be informed that Council at its June 15, 2021 meeting, referred the consideration for Active Transportation infrastructure, including sidewalks, bicycle and pedestrian lanes, as well as community walkability, to the Town's Master Transportation Plan and the Town's Strategic Plan as these are all important components of the Town's strategic planning and determination of level of services' discussions.

Motion Carried

9. Correspondence

9.1 Letter from Mr. Brian Conley - Longbow Place - Rat Issue

In Attendance, (Virtual): Pamela White Conley

Ms. Pamela White expanded upon her husband's correspondence informing Council that their neighborhood is overrun by rats. The Pest Control people have stated it is a community issue and needs to be addressed on a larger scale to help combat the issue. The rats have no fear of daylight and are visible throughout the day. The residents fear potential health issues and/or someone getting bit. She asked if the Town could look at funding a blanket program to help their neighbourhood combat this problem.

The Director of Engineering & Works acknowledged the Town does not have a nuisance animal program for wildlife, including rodents, and homeowners, in these

cases will look to professional pest control options, and/or eliminating any food sources, garbage, etc. from the property.

Council Members expressed their sympathies to Ms. White and her neighbourhood, with some Members noting their neighbourhoods have also experienced issues with rats, and the best way to combat them is to remove all sources of food, and the rats will move on.

Correspondence from Joe Kennedy, Wildlife Biologist with DNR, noted rats are difficult to control, with the main option being to kill them. The only non-lethal option is to eliminate as many food sources as possible. He suggested an education outreach requiring residents to restrict or eliminate all potential rat food on their property.

Mayor O'Hara read the following steps to combat rat issues from Brenda MacCallum, Public Relations Officer, Fundy Region Service Commission:

- Store garbage in sealed containers;
- Bury backyard compost piles in yard waste;
- No fats, meat, fish, bread or grain products in backyard composts, only fruit and vegetables and yard waste;
- Place food scraps, (compost), in the supplied green cart. If rats are getting into the green cart – it will be apparent by chew holes
 - Add lots of yard waste to the cart (or wrap food in newspaper) to help absorb the smells;
 - If the vent holes at bottom have been chewed through - stuff a rag soaked in bleach in the vent or steel wool in the hole. Also shaved Irish Spring soap works well to deter them.
- For damaged carts residents can request a replacement cart at <https://www.fundyrecycles.com/solid-waste/garbage-recycling/composting/>;
- Freeze smelly food scraps (meat, fish) until collection day;
- Rinse compost cart after collection day with detergent, (or a small amount of bleach ~5% bleach/water)

Moved By Councillor Thompson

Seconded By Councillor Olsen

Correspondence be issued to Ms. White and Mr. Conley responding to their concerns re the rat infestation problem in their neighbourhood. The letter to acknowledge the Town does not provide Pest Control Services on private property; and it be suggested to the residents to either independently hire Pest Control Services to kill the rats, or use rat trap devices; and/or take measures to remove as many rat food sources from their property as possible, as per the suggestions noted by Joe Kennedy, DNRED and Brenda MacCallum of FRSC.

Motion Carried

9.2 Councillor Emil Olsen, Chairman, Climate Change Committee - Smart Energy Community Benchmark Report

Councillor Olsen's Report, written on behalf of the Climate Change Committee, indicated QUEST has completed its Benchmark Report as to where Quispamsis ranks as a Smart Community. The Town's overall score was 70%, ranking highest in its Transportation, Buildings, Water & Waste, and Energy Networks categories, one of the higher scores in NB. He noted the document identifies the Town's local strengths and potential areas for improvement that can be used to update the Town's Smart Energy Community score year after year. Actions identified in the Report to improve the Town's Smart Energy Community score will be reviewed and implemented as a long-term plan when it makes good environmental and economic sense to do so, and as resources permit, keeping in mind the payback periods often associated with such initiatives.

Moved By Councillor Olsen

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Schryer

Council accepts the Climate Change Committee's recommendation that the Benchmark Report be referred to the Strategic Plan discussions to ensure language reflecting a Smart Energy Community lens and climate change culture will be incorporated into the Town's new Strategic Plan.

Motion Carried

9.3 Regional Facilities Approved 2022 Budgets

Council reviewed the approved 2022 Regional Facilities Budgets, as follows:

- Harbour Station, \$893,914; Quispamsis' share, \$154,981;
- Imperial Theatre, \$500,000; Quispamsis' share, \$86,687;
- Trade & Convention Centre, \$397,367; Quispamsis' share, \$68,893;
- Aquatic Centre, \$682,714; Quispamsis' share, \$118,364; and
- Arts Centre, \$290,024; Quispamsis' share, \$50,282.

Council discussed the budgets of the proposed Regional Facilities that have been approved by the Greater Saint John Regional Facilities Commission.

Moved By Deputy Mayor Schryer

Seconded By Councillor Thompson

The Town of Quispamsis' share of the Regional Facilities 2022 Budgets be incorporated into the Town's 2022 Budget documents.

Motion Carried

9.4 Director of Community Services - Requests for the Waiving or Reduction of Facility Fees at Town Facilities in 2022

Ms. Purton Dickson informed Council the Waiving or Reduction of Town Facility Fees Policy was adopted in 2018, and requests are approved by Council as part of the annual budget process. There are three applications for 2022, and the total value of these requests total \$7,005.

It was noted since the writing of Ms. Purton Dickson's memo, the Royal Canadian Legion, due to Covid-19, have cancelled Remembrance Day ceremonies at the qplex November 11, 2021.

Moved By Councillor Miller

Seconded By Councillor Luck

That the Town waive the 2022 facility rental fees for the Canadian Blood Services, KV3C and the Royal Canadian Legion and that KV3C be allowed to begin programs at the qplex this fall.

Motion Carried

10. By-laws (none)

11. New Business

11.1 Proposed 2022 Civic Relations Budget Recommendations from Finance Committee

A Staff Report from the Town Treasurer informed Council the Staff have included the Finance Committee's recommendations of \$27,960 in the Proposed Budget for Sponsorships and Grants, and \$15,800 for Civic Relations for a total of \$43,760 which is \$4,900 less than the 2021 Budget. The Community Grants Program supports groups and organizations in Quispamsis and the Greater Saint John Region who contribute to the quality of life for the Town's residents. This year six applications were received, and each application is reviewed by the Treasurer for completeness and then presented to the Finance Committee as part of the Budget process.

Council Members discussed the Proposed 2022 Civic Relations Budget Recommendations. The following clarifications were noted:

- KV Crimestoppers receive an in-kind donation, valued at \$1,850. Covers the rental costs of an advertising sign at the qplex.
- The KV Oasis Youth Centre, (\$7,500 donation), proposing to split payment over 2 payments in January and July, and only on criteria if the facility remains open.
- Saint John Theatre Company (\$500), based on the outreach program they do at KVHS.

Moved By Councillor Thompson

Seconded By Councillor Miller

Council accepts the Finance Committee's recommendations, as presented and indicated on the Civic Relations, Sponsorships and Grants spreadsheet dated October 13, 2021, and attached to the Town Treasurer's Staff Report also dated October 13, 2021.

Motion Carried

12. Reports

12.1 Councillor Kerrie Luck - October - Occupational Therapy Month - Provincial Declaration by Premier Blaine Higgs

Councillor Luck read Premier Higgs' Provincial Declaration recognizing October is Occupational Therapy Month, acknowledging all the Occupational Therapists in the community and the integral role they play in health care delivery.

12.2 Ed McMahon, Chairman, KV Remembrance Day Committee, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 58 - Notice of Cancellation of the 2021 Annual Remembrance Day Ceremony Due to COVID-19 Pandemic - Deputy Mayor Schryer read Mr. McMahon's letter which stated after a great deal of contemplating and discussion it was decided that the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 58 will once again pause the annual Remembrance Day Ceremony due to the difficult and uncertain COVID times. He thanked the Town for its continued support of allowing them to host this event at the qplex.

12.3 Town Treasurer - Unaudited Financial Statements as of August 31, 2021

12.4 Kennebecasis Valley Fire Department Inc. - September 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes & Associated Documents

12.5 Planning Advisory Committee - September 28, 2021 Meeting Minutes

12.7 Copy of Quispamsis' Climate Change Presentation to "The Energy Conscious Community: An Energy Course for Planning Professions" - Oct 13, 2021

Moved By Councillor Olsen
Seconded By Deputy Mayor Schryer

Reports be received and filed.

Motion Carried

13. **Business Arising from Committee of the Whole** (none)

14. **Adjournment**

Moved By Councillor Donovan
Seconded By Councillor Biggar

Meeting adjourn to the October 23, 2021 Special Meeting.

Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

X

Elizabeth O'Hara
Mayor

X

Catherine Snow
Town Clerk