

**MINUTES
TOWN COUNCIL
October 13, 2009**

Minutes of a meeting of Town Council for the Town of Bridgewater, held in the Council Chambers of Town Hall, 60 Pleasant Street, Bridgewater, Nova Scotia on Tuesday, October 13, 2009, commencing at 6:00 p.m., with Mayor Carroll Publicover presiding. Those in attendance: Deputy Mayor David Walker; Councillors Jim Bell, Patrick Hirtle, Bill McInnis, David Mitchell, and Greg Ritcey. Also in attendance were Ken Smith, Chief Administrative Officer; Harland Wyand, Town Engineer; Eric Shaw, Director of Planning; Dawn Keizer, Director of Finance; Carol Pickings-Anthony, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture; Leon de Vreede, Sustainability Planner; and Sandra Porter-Lowe, Executive Assistant.

ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO AGENDA

It was requested that the items "Brookside Cemetery Commission" be added under **Sundry** on the October 13, 2009 agenda.

09-230 Moved by Councillor Ritcey, seconded by Councillor Mitchell that Town Council for the Town of Bridgewater accept the October 13, 2009 Town Council meeting agenda as amended. Motion Carried.

DELEGATIONS

Ida Scott appeared before Council on behalf of Skate Bridgewater, a sub-committee of the Youth Action Team of the Bridgewater Development Association. Ms. Scott noted that the Chairperson of Skate Bridgewater, Vaughn Whynot, was unable to attend the meeting due to illness.

Ms. Scott advised that Skate Bridgewater is requesting Council's approval of providing a one-acre parcel of land in Generations' Active Park for the location of a permanent Skateboard Plaza.

Council and the public were advised that the goal of Skate Bridgewater was to create a permanent, interesting and pleasant skate plaza in the Town of Bridgewater. It was noted that this will be a facility of which the Town would be proud. It was noted that there was a need to establish a permanent facility as soon as possible for many reasons. Some of those reasons were so the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg would release the funds approved in their 2008/2009 budget (need a site and a plan first); so that the appropriate design for the land can be commenced; and so that fundraising can begin.

Ms. Scott provided a slide presentation, and explained that the park would be designed in sections, and that the proposed pavilion, water, and electricity would be part of the first phase.

Ida Scott introduced Jim Barnum of Spectrum Skate Parks. Mr. Barnum advised that skateboarding and other 'extreme' and 'individual' sports are very popular currently due to being unstructured, non-competitive, low-pressure, and available anytime (no schedule). He noted it was a great way to reach out to the non-joining segment of the youth population. He stated that a skateboard park provides an area that is 'their own' and shaped by the youth. Further, skateboarding helps to combat the prevalent childhood obesity problem by taking kids outdoors

to be active and become fit. Mr. Barnum noted it has been documented that sports can induce positive attributes in people, and that skateboarding produces such qualities as discipline, determination, self-motivation, happiness, a sense of accomplishment, stress release, camaraderie, physical fitness and many more. Further, Mr. Barnum noted that skateboarding requires courage, imagination, creativity, agility, skill and physical fitness.

Mr. Barnum provided many examples of successful skate parks which had been welcomed by established communities in reaching out to the youth and families.

Mayor Publicover thanked the speakers for the informative presentation, and advised this matter would be considered by Council later during this meeting.

SHEILIA SPERRY

Sheilia Sperry appeared before Council with respect to undeveloped lots on Pine Street. She noted that it is beautiful land, and she has turned down offers to purchase in the past. Ms. Sperry noted that she would like for the property to be left as it is, knowing it is 'protected'. Ms. Sperry indicated she would offer this land to the Town of Bridgewater as a donation for a tax receipt with the proviso that it be left as a passive park, establishing at most a pathway, picnic table, and benches.

Mayor Publicover thanked Ms. Sperry for considering this donation to the Town, and advised it would be considered by Council.

PLANNING ITEMS

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Eric Shaw, Director of Planning, advised that from December 7 to December 18, 2009, governments of the world would gather in Copenhagen, Denmark at the United Nations Climate Change Conference 2009. Global leaders are charged with the task of negotiating a new international agreement to respond to the issue of global climate change.

Town Council has an opportunity to support and endorse immediate and effective action on climate change by resolution.

Scientists agree that the long-term global goal for greenhouse gas emission reductions needs to be set at 350 parts per million (ppm) of atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO₂). Currently global concentrations of CO₂ are at 385.92 ppm and rising. Scientists indicate that 350 parts per million CO₂ is the safe upper limit if we wish to have a planet similar to the one on which civilization developed and to which life on earth is adapted. Scientists predict that limiting global greenhouse gas concentrations to 350 ppm will assist in keeping global temperatures from rising above 2 degrees Celsius (pre-industrial levels), thus reducing the probability of catastrophic climate change, resulting from human interference with the global climate system.

Meeting this goal will require the countries of the world to collectively reduce global greenhouse

gas emissions by at least 45 per cent from 1990 levels by 2020 and by at least 95 per cent from 1990 levels by 2050.

Worldwide, civil society groups are focusing efforts to ensure that the new global climate agreement is strong, equitable, grounded in the latest science and appropriate to meet the scale of the crisis.

350.org is an international campaign dedicated to building a movement to unite the world around solutions to the climate crisis - the solutions that science and justice demand. The mission of 350.org is to inspire the world to rise to the challenge of the climate crisis - to create a new sense of urgency and of possibility for our planet."

On October 24, 2009, a planetary day of action is being planned through 350.org to share the united worldwide message of the urgent need for global leadership to respond appropriately October 24th.

Leon de Vreede, Sustainability Planner, appeared before Council to provide an overview of the South Shore 350 event on October 24th. As the Director of Planning explained, it is important to reduce the CO2 level to 350 from its current level. Accelerating arctic warming and other early climate impacts have lead scientists to conclude that we are already above the safe zone at our current 390 ppm, and that unless we are able to rapidly return to 350 ppm this century, we risk reaching tipping points and irreversible impacts, such as the melting of the Greenland ice sheet and major methane releases from increased permafrost melt.

Mr. de Vreede noted that getting to 350 ppm would be no easy task, but it would not be impossible either, and it would mean very positive changes for communities worldwide.

The number one way to cut emissions quickly would be to stop burning dirty coal as soon as possible. Without coal, a cheap, renewable energy source widely available must be found. The second important step for getting to 350 ppm is improving land use - both agriculture and forests - in order to reduce emissions and sequester carbon.

Getting back to "350" is a unique opportunity to remake our communities in ways that are healthier, more locally self-sufficient, and honour traditional and indigenous wisdom.

The South Shore 350 (Climate Celebration) event will be held on Saturday, October 24 and will feature music, theatre and entertainment at Riverside Park. It is an opportunity for each citizen to join the global "350" movement.

09-231 Moved by Councillor Mitchell, seconded by Councillor McInnis that

WHEREAS local governments play an instrumental role in ensuring and protecting the safety and well-being of current and future generations of local citizens; and

WHEREAS citizens, members of the Sustainable Bridgewater Partnership program and Town Council have expressed a strong desire in becoming a more sustainable community, as articulated in Council's Community Plan and in the draft Goals and

Strategies of the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT The Town of Bridgewater supports and endorses the global need for all the countries of the world to collectively reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by at least 45 per cent from 1990 levels by 2020 and by at least 95 percent from 1990 levels by 2050 to meet the target of 350 ppm of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere to:

- a) limit global temperature increases to below 2 degrees (pre-industrial levels); and
- b) reduce the probability of catastrophic climate change impacting on communities; and

THAT the Town of Bridgewater supports and endorses the need for the new global climate agreement to be strong, equitable, grounded in the latest science and to appropriately meet the scale of the climate crises; and

THAT the Town of Bridgewater supports and endorses the planetary day of action being planned for October 24, 2009, through 350.org to share in the united worldwide message of the urgent need for global leadership to respond appropriately to the issue of global climate change. Motion Carried.

LAND AT PINE AND SOUTH STREETS

Director of Planning Eric Shaw advised that the land referred to in the presentation to Council by Sheila Sperry was six (6) contiguous, undeveloped lots on Pine Street intended for long-term preservation purposes. The lots do not have civic addresses, but are identified as lot nos. 7, 7A, 8, 9, 9A and 13 on the final subdivision plan approved in 1974. Mr. Shaw identified the lands through a PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Shaw advised that the property is currently designed Low Density Residential in the Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS), and Low Density Residential (LDR) in the Land Use By-Law (LUB). The zoning permits the development of single-unit dwellings on the subject property, however, development potential for the property has long been limited by existing natural conditions, including Hebb Brook - a significant watercourse in the southern end of town - which bisects the lots, and very steep elevation drops leading down to the brook.

As Ms. Sperry noted, she has co-owned these lots for a number of years, and is now interested in seeing them protected and preserved by the Town. In addition to Hebb Brook, the lots are also home to hundreds of Jack Pines, Lady Slipper orchids and other miscellaneous vegetation.

In order to protect the property, it would need to be re-designated to Open Space and rezoned to Park (P). The Town of Bridgewater does not currently have a Conservation zone. In principle, based on a preliminary review of the property, Planning staff believe the Sperry property represents a valuable natural asset for the Town of Bridgewater. If it is the wish of Council,

Planning staff would support MPS/LUB amendments to ensure the property's preservation.

Since Ms. Sperry has indicated in donating the land, Council must consider costs such as a property appraisal, legal fees for land transfer/migration; surveyor fees to re-establish boundary pins; advertising fees associated with MPS / LUB amendments; clean-up and maintenance of the property, and possible purchase of benches for a passive park.

- 09-232** Moved by Councillor Mitchell, seconded by Deputy Mayor Walker that Town Council for the Town of Bridgewater acquire the Sperry property by donation for the purposes of establishing a passive park; approve a property appraisal to determine the value of undeveloped lots (nos. 7, 7A, 8, 9, 9A, and 13 on the final subdivision plan approved in 1974 on Pine Street); and other costs associated with establishing a passive park; and that the property remain in its current state until criteria for a passive park are established. Motion Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE - INFORMATION

SOUTH SHORE YOUTH DAY

A letter dated September 23, 2009 was received by Council from the organizers of South Shore Youth Day. The letter advised of the success of the event, and that plans were underway for a similar event for 2010.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION OF THE PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE COMMISSION - DEVELOPMENT OF A PERMANENT SKATEBOARD PARK

A memo dated September 24, 2009 was received by Council from the Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission recommending the location of a permanent skateboard park in Generations' Active Park.

- 09-233** Moved by Councillor Mitchell, seconded by Councillor McInnis that Town Council for the Town of Bridgewater request staff to set aside one acre in Generations Active Park for the location of the skateboard park. Motion Carried.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE - COMMERCIAL ZERO TURN MOWER

A memo dated September 25, 2009 was received by Council from the Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture recommending the award of a Request for Proposals for a commercial 'zero-turn' mower.

Carol Pickings-Anthony, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture, advised that the Department had undertaken a review of the proposals and was now recommending the award of the Request for

Proposals to Cross Small Engine Repair Ltd. at the cost of \$10,720.31. It was noted that this company's equipment provided a three (3) year warranty, local service for necessary repair and maintenance reducing transportation costs and the greatest variance in the height of blade adjustment (1" -5.5") which is optimal for our varied turf in the parks.

09-234 Moved by Councillor Hirtle, seconded by Councillor Ritcey that Town Council for the Town of Bridgewater endorse the recommendation of the Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture and award the RFP for a Commercial Zero-Turn Mower to Cross Small Engine Repair Ltd. For Model LZAS24KC604 in the amount of \$10,720.31 (including HST). Motion Carried.

AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 59 - AN ACT RESPECTING THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF BRIDGEWATER

A memo dated October 6, 2009 was received by Council from the Public Service Commission of Bridgewater. The memo advised that the Public Service Commission of Bridgewater had recently reviewed the PSC Act and considered several amendments which deal with the number of appointees, the relationship of the utility to the Town, and the supply of water to areas in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg. As the PSC is governed by a specific Act, the amendments must be forwarded to the province for legislative approval. Therefore, the PSC recommended that Town Council concur with the proposed amendments to the PSC Act.

09-235 Moved by Councillor McInnis, seconded by Councillor Mitchell that Town Council for the Town of Bridgewater concur with the amendments to the Public Service Commission of Bridgewater's governing legislation, Chapter 59 - An Act Respecting the Public Service Commission of Bridgewater, as proposed and laid out in Document 09-224. Motion Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING & UNFINISHED BUSINESS

DANNY CAREY O/A DANNY CAREY'S INSURANCE AGENCY - BUSINESS OCCUPANCY TAX

At the September 28, 2009 Council meeting, staff was directed to provide a report with respect to Business Occupancy Tax as a result of a letter received from Danny Carey, O/A Danney Carey's Insurance Agency.

Dawn Keizer, Director of Finance, advised that Mr. Carey had expressed his concern regarding the business occupancy assessment of Danny Carey's Insurance Agency and requested that Council make an exception for his business and keep his tax rate at the 2008-09 level (no rate increase related to the phase out of business occupancy tax).

Staff have discussed this matter with PVSC and understand that it was discovered that some insurance companies, brokers and agents were determined to be in the incorrect business occupancy class and were thus moved from the 50% category (reduced to 10% in 2009 and 0% in 2010) into the 75% category (remains at 75% until 2013). We were advised that this has been appealed to the UARB where it is pending scheduling of a hearing.

The matter of Council making an exception with regard to the tax rate for a particular business has been discussed with Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations and is not permitted.

Dawn Keizer advised it was recommended that Council send a letter to Mr. Carey advising that the Town is not permitted to make an exception to the Council approved tax rate.

09-236 Moved by Councillor Mitchell, seconded by Councillor McInnis that Town Council for the Town of Bridgewater advise that a response be provided to Danny Carey o/a Danny Carey's Insurance Agency advising that the Town is not permitted to make an exception to the Council-approved tax rate, as requested in his letter dated September 10, 2009 (Document 09-211). Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

UNSM - REPORT OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE TO THE 2009 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Council received the Report of the Resolutions Committee to the 2009 Annual Conference. Members expressed concern that resolutions, if they have not received 'consent' from the Resolutions Committee, were not taken for discussion and debate at the UNSM Fall Conference. In particular, members expressed concerns regarding Resolution 2A - Civic Addressing and Resolution 8A - Banning the Exploration and Mining of Uranium.

09-237 Moved by Deputy Mayor Walker, seconded by Councillor Bell that Town Council for the Town of Bridgewater provide input to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities that Resolutions 2A and 8A are, indeed, appropriate for discussion and debate at the UNSM Fall Conference. Motion Carried.

APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES - FALL UNSM CONFERENCE (MAYOR PUBLICOVER AND COUNCILLORS BELL AND MCINNIS)

09-238 Moved by Deputy Mayor Walker, seconded by Councillor Mitchell that Town Council for the Town of Bridgewater appoint Mayor Publicover and Councillors Bell and McInnis as delegates for the Fall UNSM Conference; and further that reasonable associated expenses be approved. Motion Carried.

SUNDRY

Deputy Mayor Walker reminded everyone that there would be a Work Day at Brookside Cemetery on Saturday, November 7. Refreshments will be served. Bring a rake and come help clean up the Cemetery.

ADJOURNMENT

09-239 Moved by Councillor McInnis, seconded by Deputy Mayor Walker that the October

13, 2009 Town Council meeting hereby be adjourned. (Time: 7:30 p.m.)

Sandra Porter-Lowe, Executive Assistant

Carroll W. Publicover, Mayor