



Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Committee of The Whole (COTW) Meeting

Wednesday, July 20th, 2022

We acknowledge that we are gathering in Mi'kma'ki the traditional unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

1. Meeting, Date & Time:

The COTW Meeting of the St. Mary's Municipal Council was called to order on Wednesday, July 20th, 2022, at 4:00 pm in the Council Chambers, Sherbrooke, N.S.

2. Attending:

Warden Wier

Deputy Warden Fuller

Councillor Baker

Councillor Harpell

Councillor Mailman

Councillor Malloy

Councillor Zinck

Also Attending:

Marissa Jordan, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

Marian Fraser, Director of Finance (DOF)

Denise Dunn, Economic Development Officer (EDO)

Mallory Fraser, Municipal Clerk

3. Additions to the Agenda:

- 8e. Housing Workshop
- Move 8b. Port Bickerton Lighthouse Road to 8d. In Camera for Contract Negotiations

4. Approval of the Agenda:

On motion of Councillor Harpell and seconded by Deputy Warden Fuller, Council approved the agenda with additions.

Motion approved.

5. Approval of Minutes:

On motion of Councillor Malloy and seconded by Councillor Zinck, Council approved the minutes of the COTW Meeting held Wednesday, July 6th, 2022.

Motion approved.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes:

- There was no business arising from the minutes.

7. Presentations

a. Sherbrooke Village Old Fashioned Christmas Association (OFCA) – Dana O'Connell, Chair

- Dana O'Connell introduced himself as being apart of the OFCA for the past 7 years and is currently the chair and treasurer of OFCA. The reason for the presentation is to advise Council on the shortage of serving members on the OFCA and the effect of the lack of leadership by way of membership may have on Sherbrooke Village Old Fashioned Christmas. His intent is to seek Council's support and assistance to achieve a more sustainable OFCA represented by all key stakeholders.

- The three key stakeholders are the Municipality of the District of St. Marys (the Municipality), Sherbrooke Village Museum and the business community of the Municipality of the District of St. Marys.
- Dana O'Connell clarified that OFCA does not represent the Sherbrooke Village Museum and that OFCA is having separate discussions with the Director of the museum.
- All members of the OFCA are volunteers. They are not paid and do not represent any organization or stakeholder. The issue that has arisen with OFCA is the low and non-diverse membership. The core leadership for the Old Fashioned Christmas event is the OFCA. Without the OFCA, Old Fashioned Christmas cannot operate. There are currently only four members of the OFCA. The ideal membership would be 12-14 members.
- OFCA is a non-profit organization that has seen 26 years of success. The festival impacts thousands of people. It provides financial spin off for local businesses, spends approximately \$15,000 within the District of St. Mary's. It also supports several local non-profit organizations within the community. OFCA spends on average \$5,000 per year on advertising. Not only to advertise the event, but also the local area. It has won awards and has been named one of the top 10 events to visit in Nova Scotia. All of this brings awareness and tourism to the community.
- Last year in 2021 there were over 4,500 visitors and in recent years have had up to 10,000 visitors.
- The main role of OFCA is leadership during the off season, throughout fundraising, completing, and submitting grant applications, planning, and reporting, hands on guidance of hundreds of volunteers on day-to-day basis during the five weeks leading up to the event. After the event is over there is clean up, storage and cataloging of decorations and props.
- OFCA requires much needed support from mentioned stakeholders to continue. The OFCA are committed to making the event happen, however the OFCA been making decisions to take events off the schedule. A decision to continue with Old Fashioned Christmas in future years will be made in January of 2023.
- Recommendations from the OFCA include diversifying the committee to include representation from the Municipality, Sherbrooke Village Museum, and the business community within the Municipality. These stakeholders should represent key leadership positions within the OFCA. Community volunteers outside of these three main stakeholders would form the remainder of the committee. Through equal representation and participation by all stakeholders the OFCA has a strong chance of success.
- The OFCA has asked Council to reflect and consider the value of Old Fashioned Christmas, what it represents and means to the community, help to promote a more viable and sustainable OFCA, and to canvas your constituents and businesses connections and encourage them to act as a member of the committee.
- Councillor Malloy was thanked for her time as a member of the OFCA.
- Councillor Mailman asked what the time commitment was and what positions need to be filled. Dana O'Connell answered key positions such as president or vice president will need to be filled, there will be positions for members at large. There is no specific amount of time required to be a member. In the off season the OFCA meets once a month, within two months of the event OFCA starts meeting on a weekly basis. The committee is being restructured to operate more efficiently.
- OFCA is committed to have an event this year. It will not be like passed events, but OFCA is going to the best that they can.

- OFCA is in discussions with Sherbrooke Village Museum and is hoping that Council might have the opportunity to speak at a business gathering.
- Warden Greg Wier suggested engaging with the youth. Dana O'Connell replied that the youth have been very involved in the past.
- OFCA hopes Old Fashioned Christmas goes ahead in future years but needs Council's help and leadership, and input.
- Warden Wier stated that Council will put this as an item on COTW agenda for September for discussion.

9. Other Matters of Business:

a. Council Meeting Locations

- Council agreed to defer this matter until September.

b. Presentations to Council

- The purpose of the Presentations to Council Policy is to provide an opportunity for members of the public to make presentations to Council and Municipal Committees. It is intended to guide the CAO when approving or scheduling requests from the public to make a presentation and help manage the impact of public presentations on Council and Municipal Committee agendas.
- Staff identified that presentations were not being received in enough time to distribute to Council prior to a meeting.
- Staff have recommended to amend the policy to include presentations must be submitted within five business days.
- Council discussed the Presentations to Council Policy.

On recommendation of Councillor Malloy, and seconded by Councillor Mailman, Council agreed to adopt the amendments to the Presentations to Council Policy as presented.

Recommendation adopted.

c. Land Development Committee Policy & Applicant Selection

- The purpose of the Land Development Committee is to provide recommendations to Council regarding strategic municipal land use planning and development, guided by the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law in accordance with St. Mary's 2026 A Ten-Year Strategic Plan. Land planning initiatives on municipal land shall aim to be cohesively connected with Active Sherbrooke Plan, Climate Change Action Plan, Sherbrooke Streetscape Plan, Source Water Protection Plan, and the St. Mary's Active Living Strategy.
- The objectives of the Committee are to provide direction for the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's land use planning and development on municipal lands, with the purpose of achieving the strategic goals of the community, and to provide recommendations or best practices to achieve the desired priorities. Topics for consideration include business and commercial development, housing development opportunities, incentive and instrument programs, neighbouring community land development plans, inventory and rating system of municipal land, sustainable land development and increase residential and commercial assessment tax base.
- The committee term is set at one year with a maximum of three consecutive terms.
- Staff have recommended that the first meeting occur in September where the frequency of meetings will be determined.

On recommendation of Councillor Baker and seconded by Councillor Harpell, Council agreed to adopt the Land Development Committee Policy as presented.

Recommendation adopted.

- The Committee will be comprised of two members of the public that can offer perspective in more than one specified area and or an appropriate representative attend, present, and discuss the relevant perspective in relation to the topic at hand. Perspectives for consideration may include member(s) of the home builder's community; member(s) of the business community, member(s) of the agricultural community, member(s) of the sustainability-climate change community, member(s) of the coastal, ocean and fisheries community, member(s) of the affordable housing community and member(s) of the health and wellness community.
- Council reviewed the received applications for the Land Development Committee.
- Council asked if more than two community members could be members and the Economic Development Officer clarified that the maximum is two at this time.
- Council recognized and is aware that Applicant B has indicated a conflict of interest relating to real estate.

On recommendation of Councillor Baker, and seconded by Councillor Malloy, Council agreed to appoint Applicant B (Jake Chisholm) and Applicant C (Leigh Ellen Walsh) as committee members from the public to the Land Development Committee.

Recommendation adopted.

d. In Camera – Tax Sale. Personnel & Contract Negotiations

On motion of Councillor Baker, and seconded by Councillor Zinck, Council moved to an in camera session at 4:43 pm.

Motion approved.

On motion of Councillor Harpell, and seconded by Councillor Baker, Council reconvened to regular session at 5:20 pm.

Motion approved.

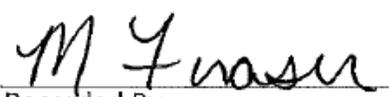
e. Housing Workshop

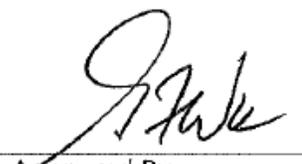
- The Guysborough County Housing Network would like to ask Council to save the date for a Housing Workshop for the County of Guysborough occurring on September 16th, 2022 from 10:00 am – 3:30 pm.

Adjournment

On motion of Deputy Warden Fuller, and seconded by Councillor Baker, there being no further matters of business, Council adjourned at 5:21 pm.

Motion approved.


Recorded By
Mallory Fraser, Municipal Clerk


Approved By
Warden Wier