

**Municipality of the District of St. Mary's**

**Committee of the Whole**

**Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**MEETING, DATE & TIME:**

The Committee of the Whole meeting of St. Mary's Council was called to order on Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 1:00 pm in the Council Chambers, Sherbrooke.

**ATTENDING:**

Warden Mosher  
Deputy Warden Dort  
Councillor Malloy  
Councillor Findlay  
Councillor Kaiser-Kirk  
Councillor Baker  
Councillor Smith

**ALSO ATTENDING:**

Marvin MacDonald, CAO  
Denise Sawlor, Municipal Clerk/Special Projects Coordinator

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR BAKER AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR FINDLAY COUNCIL APPROVED THE AGENDA WITH THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONS:**

- 10. d) Coastal Waters
- 10. e) CAO Letter
- 10. f) Legal matter ( In-Camera)

**MOTION CARRIED**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**ON MOTION OF DEPUTY WARDEN DORT AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR FINDLAY COUNCIL APPROVED MINUTES OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 20th, 2017.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:**

- a) Solar Project – Nothing new to report expecting a response by early November
- b) Recplex roof structure – no new information
- c) Sobeys property – no new information

**DEANS – Karen Wenaus**

- Cindy MacKinnon was unable to attend due to death in her family. Council sends its sympathies.
- DEANS (**D**estination **E**astern and **N**orthumberland **S**hores)

- Non-Profit that facilitates sustainable and economic tourism growth.
- Focus on destination marketing organization, visitor servicing and industry partnerships.
- 10,000 copies of both the Eastern Shore and Northumberland Shore visitors guides were produced and all copies appear to have been distributed to the public. Also produced a map highlighting attractions which has been very helpful.
- The 2017 Marketing Initiatives included increased partnership with Northumberland Ferries, Saltscapes Expo 2017, Motorcycle show 2017, easternshores.ca, Discover St. Mary's Night, support for the nine Visitor Information Centers, social media campaign, Wild Islands (recent meeting in Sherbrooke)
- The September 23<sup>rd</sup> Ferry Dinner was a great success this year with 200 people attending and 100 of those were not from Nova Scotia.
- There were 17 booths at Saltscapes this year, within the DEANS membership.
- Revenue – 58% Projects, 34% Municipal, 5% Members and 3% Provincial
- Expenses – 60% Projects, 34% Salaries, 6% Other
- Budget for 2017 \$221,423
- Budget for 2018 \$231,052
- Pending funding approvals will move ahead with market research with brand testing, inventory assessment, inventory of audio/visual assets, event strategy (include sport events in Antigonish), Mini TMAC, Industry familiarization tours (encourage tourism and community engagement), Visitor Services (Halifax waterfront, VIC positive aging program)
- All projects lead to website to lure and sell with buy button and DEANS dollars.
- Tourism business builders – Ambassadors program (TIANS), business development workshops, mystery shop
- Branding – how many kms of coastline, market testing (Toronto, New England, Quebec, Alberta)
- The DEANS levy committee will be reforming.
- Overall municipal investment for 12 municipalities is \$75,000
- DEANS is requesting funding from council in the amount of \$4,019.02. This amount is calculated based on the area's population.

### **Recreation Update – Kerri Penney, Director of Community Development and Recreation**

- Fall programs are underway. Trail Blazers, Open Gym, Happy Feet as well as adult programs
- Waiting on the final conceptual plan for the Play Space Project in Port Bickerton. There will be a grand launch once the plan is complete.
- Successful in obtaining \$4,300 from TD Bank for the natural play space area of the Play Space Project in Port Bickerton.
- Grants
  - Assisted in development of 4 New Horizon for Seniors grant proposals
  - Assisted in development of several grants to help the Stillwater Community Centre
- Stonewall park cleanup planned for Oct 28, 2017
- Old Fashioned Christmas
  - Recreation will be fully operating the Jingle Walk/Run this year and has plans to make it family and youth focused.
  - Tree lighting event has been moved into Sherbrooke village to better accommodate the growing number of people at the event (safety issues/traffic control).

- There was a Recplex public meeting held Sept. 6, 2017. Total of 11 people attended. There are some new programs planned for this year including Over 40 Men's Hockey, Morning Adult Free Skate and Craft program for youth in the warm room.
- Special Recplex pamphlet was sent as an attachment to the newsletter this month.
- The Shared Strategy Resolution
  - St. Mary's has connected it's 10 year Strategic Plan to the Shared Strategy for Advancing Recreation in Nova Scotia
  - Resolution has five goals – Active living, Inclusion and access, Connecting people and nature, Supportive environments and Recreation capacity.
  - Would like Council to consider formally endorsing the Shared Strategy Resolution set out by the province. The Municipality of the County of Pictou and the Town of New Glasgow have already adopted it.
  - A draft resolution has been developed and circulated for councils review.

***On motion of Councillor Findlay and seconded by Councillor Baker council moved that a motion be brought forward at the next Council Meeting to endorse the Shared Strategy Resolution***

***Motion Carried***

- Youth Retention Strategy
  - St. Mary's 10 year Strategic Plan references a Youth retention Strategy as one way to increase population
  - One option to engage youth in the community is a Youth Advisory Committee to Council. This committee would consist of SMECA students ages 13-18 who would meet once a month. Kerri would meet with the youth to discuss current council topics and projects which may be of interest to the youth. A report of the youth's feedback on various items would be periodically reported to council. On months without any topics of interest the youth could choose to do a community project. Could possibly start with the student council since they are already an established group. Kerri will provide a report to council on how the program will be implemented. Possible launch during Municipal Awareness Week.
- Municipal Physical Activity Leadership Program (MPAL)
  - Maggie MacLellan has been hired as our Active Living Coordinator (ALC). This is a term position filling in for Carla Archibald, who was hired in April, 2017.
  - Current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) expires March 2018. There is an opportunity to sign a new MOU with province for a five year term. The five year term would create job security and better allow the ALC to work towards achieving results in the Active Living Strategy.
  - Province is considering some updates to the MOU including link to SHIFT: Nova Scotia's Action Plan for an Aging Population.
  - Could possibly have Rae Gunn come present to Council to further discuss the MOU
  - Council requested a copy of the current MPAL document as well as the MOU.

**Correspondence**

- a) Thank you – Guysborough Options for Adaptive Living Society
  - Thanked Council for donation of \$1,000. This will help with the stipend paid to each of their clients for work they complete at their workshop.

## **New Business**

- a) Public Request for Information – Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
  - After the presentation at the Sherbrooke library on September 22, 2017 there have been several requests for information.
  - Requests have included items such as staff salaries, benefits and pension. Also, Councillor and CAO salary and expenses.
  - Marvin MacDonald has compiled a package to respond to current requests which include salary ranges for positions as well as monthly expense information for councillors and CAO (dating back to Oct 2016).
  - More detailed information would require a significant effort by staff and therefore would need to be requested through the official Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act application forms.
  - In consideration of the upcoming legislation the municipality will start posting the councillors and CAO monthly expenses on the website in the format suggested by the Nova Scotia Joint Municipal Accountability and Transparency Committee.

***Break from 2:40pm to 2:55pm***

## **Other Matters of Business**

- a) Derelict vehicle update
  - Council has authority to remove and/or demolish the vehicle. The cost to remove and demolish the vehicle in question will be looked into by Marvin MacDonald. Marvin will also confirm the vehicle's registered owner as well as the owner for the mobile home where the vehicle is parked.
  - Proper procedure requires 30 days notice which has already been sent. Next step will be to issue a minimum 7 day written notice for the meeting when the order will be considered. This provides an opportunity for the owner to appear before Council to be heard at the meeting. This notice will be either delivered in person or by registered mail.
- b) Liscomb Point update
  - A letter has been received from the Minister of Natural Resources which states that the Municipality will be contacted to set up a time for DNR and NSE staff to can come and present to Council.
- c) Tax sale vesting
  - Postponed to In-Camera session at end of this meeting
- d) Coastal Waters
  - DFO has begun a process to develop a marine protected area network plan for the coastal and offshore waters of Scotian Shelf Bioregion.
  - Several fishermen have expressed concern regarding how these planned changes could affect them.
  - More information is needed before accessing the possible economic impact on our region.

- There is possibly a public meeting Friday Oct.6 in Sheet Harbour, but there doesn't appear to be any meetings planned closer St. Mary's.
- Since some of the areas DFO is considering protecting are within our Municipality it may be possible to have a meeting scheduled in St. Mary's or have DFO present to Council.
- Councillor Findlay will acquire more information.

e) CAO letter

- Marvin MacDonald has received a letter from the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.
- Up until Oct. 31, 2017 the department is accepting applications for cost sharing projects for the coming year (similar to the Court Street paving project).
- With this year's current project plans it was decided to not apply this year and revisit the idea next year.

f) Legal Matter (In-Camera)

***On motion of Deputy Warden Dort and seconded by Councillor Kaiser-Kirk council moved into an in camera session for legal matters at 3:30pm.***

***On motion of Deputy Warden Dort council reconvened to regular session at 4:36pm***

**Adjournment**

***On Motion of COUNCILLOR Findlay there being no further matters of business, council adjourned at 4:36PM.***

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Recorded By

Municipal Clerk/Special Projects Coordinator

Approved By

Warden Mosher