



Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Committee of The Whole (COTW) Meeting
Wednesday, September 16th, 2020

1. Meeting, Date & Time:

The COTW Meeting of the St. Mary's Municipal Council was called to order on Wednesday, September 16th, 2020 at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers Sherbrooke, N.S.

2. Attending:

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

Also Attending:

Marvin MacDonald, CAO
Marian Fraser, Director of Finance
Marissa Jordan, Municipal Clerk & Special Projects Coordinator

3. Approval of Agenda:

On motion of Councillor Baker and seconded by Councillor Findlay, Council approved the agenda with the following additions:

7.d-Agenda Procedure

Motion approved.

4. Approval of Minutes:

On motion of Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Baker, Council approved the minutes of the COTW Meeting held Wednesday, September 2nd, 2020.

Motion approved.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes:

- No business arising.

6. Presentation:

a. Historic Sherbrooke Village Development Society- Dana O'Connell

- Dana O'Connell introduced himself as a member of the Historic Sherbrooke Village Development Society and works for the museum. His presentation to Council included the progress to date on the Sherbrooke Community Park and their inquiry to seek funding assistance. The project has been in the planning for 3 years and Mr. O'Connell said that some aspects of the project mirror ideas that Council is trying to promote through the Strategic Plan.
- Historic Sherbrooke Village Development Society in collaboration with the NS Museum are working together to create a 1-acre wheel- chair accessible public Park, which will have full access to the Indigenous Art Center. This site was chosen because of the location to the downtown core of Sherbrooke, a central feature to visitors, proximity to the exhibit center which will now be open to the public free of charge, convenience of accessible parking.

- There are three phases to the project:
 1. Phase 1- Excavation- Completed Dec 2019 (cost \$25,000)
 - Mr. O’Connell thanked Council for the \$5000 grant which was used in Phase 1.
 2. Phase 2- Water/electrical hookup and construction of pathways- Currently working on this phase. (Estimated cost \$39,000)
 3. Phase 3 – Creation of gardens and add garden features. (Estimated cost \$66,300)
- The Development Society has started campaigning for fundraising and has received funding from accessibility NS to help with project costs. Mr. O’Connell asked that Council consider helping to further fund the project through a 50/50 agreement to maintain the park for the 2021/2022 fiscal year.
- Councillor Kaiser-Kirk asked about the \$1M funding that Sherbrooke Village received in June from the Province and if a portion of this funding would be used for the park. Mr. O’Connell said yes, it was included in the approved document, but it ultimately is up to the commission how the funding is spent.
- Councillor Kaiser-Kirk asked if it will be open to public year-round or only during Sherbrooke hours. Mr. O’Connell said that it will remain open after regular hours of the Village and there will be a Village night watchman on duty.
- He has reached out to the St. Mary’s Garden Club and High-Crest and they both seem very interested in the development and their potential use. Mr. O’Connell is hopeful that this will mean a lot of volunteers that will come into the park to help.
- Councillor Smith asked if the request was for a 50/50 partnership of the \$4,650, Mr. O’Connell said yes it was. Councillor Smith also asked about the mentioned Corepath to be used for accessibility. Mr. O’Connell said it is a product laid under gravel paths for accessibility and ease of walking. Keeps vegetation out. It is an expensive product, but some funding has been secured through Accessibility NS.
- Council said as this is a request of 2021/2022 budget, Council would like to have a new presentation at a future COTW meeting with the new council members which would then allow for fiscal considerations.

7. Other Matters of Business:

a. Elections Update

- Marissa Jordan, Municipal Returning Officer updated Council on the 2020 Municipal Elections. Nominations closed on September 8th with the following results:

DISTRICT	CANDIDATES
District 1	Courtney Mailman- Acclaimed
District 2	Michael Mosher (Incumbent) Charlene Zinck
District 3/5	Gregory F. Wier- Acclaimed
District 4	Beulah Malloy (Incumbent) - Acclaimed
District 6	James Fuller- Acclaimed
District 7	Everett G. Baker (Incumbent) - Acclaimed
District 8	Peggy Kaiser-Kirk (Incumbent) - Acclaimed

- Telephone and Internet Voting will occur for 24 hours a day during the Election Period which is Sat. Oct 10 at 12 noon- Sat. October 17 at 7pm. There will be a phone number available for a Help Desk line that will be staffed by the Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer.
- Advanced Polls for Paper Ballots are scheduled for Sat. October 10-noon-8pm, Tues. October 13-noon-8pm and Election Day is October 17th- 8am-7pm. The only polling station for the election is at Municipal Office. Elections staff hired- DRO, Assistant DRO, Poll Clerk, Systems Elections Officer (Auditor).
- The Municipal Returning Officer has been continuing to work with Intelivote on various stages of the elections including Voter Information Letters, which the drafts are complete and will be printed and sent out Sept 28-Oct7. Other areas that are being finalized includes the upcoming approval of recordings for telephone voting and training for different system modules.
- Voter information will be in October newsletter and in addition, District 2 will be receiving a mail out with additional alternative voting information/instructions.

b. Internet Update- Develop NS Announcement

- Develop NS recently announced the second round of Internet for Nova Scotia Initiative Projects. In this second round, areas of the Eastern Strait/Guysborough Zone will be covered. The Internet Service Provider for these areas will be Bell Canada.
- Round 2 projects announced in August 2020 mean an additional 32,000 homes and businesses will have access to high-speed Internet in the form of fibre to the home: 11,000 by summer 2021, 21,000 by end of 2021 and all 32,000 by summer 2022.
- Staff showed Council the existing maps of some of the areas that will be covered. Councillor Smith asked when other area maps will be developed. The CAO said he wasn't sure of the exact dates.
- Councillor Kaiser-Kirk asked if this information will be added to the October Newsletter and staff said that it will be added.

c. Council Meeting Dates

- Council held discussion on upcoming Council Meeting dates including the Inaugural Meeting. They decided on the following dates:
- COTW- October 7th at 7:00pm
- Council Meeting – October 14th at 7:00pm
- Inaugural Meeting- October 28th at 7:00pm

d. Agenda Procedure

- Councillor Smith advised Council that she had sent email requests on September 8th, 2020 to Warden Mosher and CAO MacDonald to have three items added to an upcoming agenda. These topics were an update on Develop NS internet funding, an update on training for inclusivity and diversity, and recording and livestreaming meetings. Councillor Smith did not receive a reply and only one item was on the current agenda.
- Councillor Smith expressed that it should not solely be up to CAO and Warden to decide what should be on an agenda and that there is nothing in the Council Procedural Policy for excluding content due to time restraints. Councillor Smith said she conferred with other municipal colleagues who said that they do not exclude content and would allow breaks and recesses if there were many items on the agenda.

- Councillor Smith requested that Council consider holding discussion on the topic of “Agendas & Time Limits” being added to the Council Procedural Policy in order to allow for a proper debate, followed by a vote on these items.
- Councillor Malloy pointed out that Council had a discussion on this matter at a previous meeting and thought that it was mutually agreed to that items shouldn’t be added to the agenda the night of meeting because it does not allow for all Councillors to prepare for adequate discussion. Councillor Smith said that that consensus would be overridden by the passing of the new Council Procedural Policy.
- Warden Mosher said that he agreed that items should not be added to an agenda at the last minute for the purpose of one Councillor grandstanding. He also stated that this does not allow for the added topic to proceed in the proper manner due lack of time and insufficient information.
- Councillor Smith stated that she did not believe she was grandstanding.
- Councillor Malloy asked if an adjournment would be appropriate at this time and Warden Mosher called for an adjournment.

8. Adjournment:

On motion of Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor Findlay there being no further matters of business, Council adjourned at 7:56pm

Motion approved.



Recorded By
Municipal Clerk/Special Projects Coordinator



Approved By
Warden Mosher