

SEPTEMBER 25, 2023
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A meeting of the Stellarton Committee of the Whole was held on Monday, September 25, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. in the Large Committee Room, Stellarton Town Hall.

PRESENT

Chair Deputy Mayor B. Knight, Mayor D. MacGillivray, Coun. S. Lawand, Coun. S. Campbell and Coun. G. Pentz. Also present was CAO Susan Higdon.

1. Chair. B. Knight called meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved as amended to include under Correspondence 5.c. Request for donation from the Northern AAA Subway Selects and 11. Tree Stumps on motion by Coun. G. Pentz, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

The Minutes of July 24, 2023 were approved on motion by Coun. G. Pentz, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

5. Sidewalk on Claremont Clarification – CAO S. Higdon provided update on Claremont Avenue Sidewalk as per the Town Engineer; the south side is staying between Belmont and Foord, the north side is coming out on that same side, the three properties that are there will remain with sidewalk; and everything else is status quo. Chair B. Knight re questions or comments from residents present.

Kirby Coolen, 36 Claremont Avenue comments:

- There are actually four houses
- Extend sidewalk to the pathway to Belmont Avenue; in front of two houses
- Benefits of having sidewalks

Betty Garby, 32 Claremont:

- South side where kids get on the bus on Foord Street and where they get off the bus after school on Belmont – no sidewalks
- That area will have snowbanks – no plowing

CAO S. Higdon stated that the sidewalks are remaining in that area

Roger Garby, 32 Claremont:

- Concerns re school kids and crosswalk

Coun. S. Lawand suggested that Chief Hobeck, Traffic Authority, take a look at area to determine if crosswalks are available at location.

- Would like to have more communication to keep informed of situation. Coun. S. Lawand said door-knockers are most effective.

Chair B. Knight thanked all who attended and voiced their concerns.

6. Correspondence

- a. **NSCC Pictou Campus Student Association** Re: Annual BBQ – CAO S. Higdon stated that is an annual event. \$500.00 approved on motion by Coun. G. Pentz seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**
- b. **Lions Club** Re: Annual Grant Recipient – CAO S. Higdon reported that the Town purchased ad in their calendar; as per policy in the Annual Grants, letters are sent stating that funding requests have to be received

by February 28; thanked the Town for the reminder letter. For Council's information.

- c. Northern AAA Subway Selects – CAO S. Higdon received letter of request for donation, from Ella Fitt, towards their programs. Coun. S. Lawand made motion to approve donation of \$150.00, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**

7. Sign Banner Information – Paige Draper provided update on signage; all signs to be uniform; she showed various options, sizes and gave recommendations for design and to replace the banners at Evansville Fields, the Sample Ball Field and the Horseshoe Pits. Discussion commenced. Coun. G. Pentz made motion to accept recommendations, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

8. Strategic Plan 2019-2024 – Coun. S. Lawand suggested to have another session to follow up on the 2019 session; much of the items have been completed; the mine reclamation is still being worked out; infrastructure projects to be revisited. Mayor D. MacGillivray recommends waiting until 2024 when the current plan expires. Coun. S. Campbell re small business section as it pertains to Stellarton. Council agreed to table this until next year.

9. Tax Relief Request – Roots for Youth – CAO S. Higdon reported that Roots for Youth is now located at 122 Stellar Street; a non-profit organization; they are asking for tax exemption, adding them to the Schedule A. Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve Roots for Youth for tax exemption, seconded by Mayor D. MacGillivray.

On the Question:

CAO S. Higdon stated that the September tax bill has been issued; this will be adjusted; all agreed effective September 1.

Motion Carried.

10. Recreation Department – CAO S. Higdon asked Council how they wanted to proceed with the Recreation Department in the Town; no recommendations yet; but looking at different scenarios; she noted that Jamie MacDonald and Paige Draper have stepped up tremendously. Council asked CAO S. Higdon to bring recommendations to Council during budget deliberations. Discussion re duties that need to be done; bookings and facility maintenance. Coun. S. Lawand re automated bookings for fields online. CAO S. Higdon will look into an online management system. Other discussion re Summer Day Camps. Coun. S. Lawand added that if a new hire is necessary, then add a public works employee who would take on some of these responsibilities. CAO S. Higdon re a public works employee dedicated to recreation facilities.

11. Tree Stumps – Chair B. Knight brought up issue of the number of tree stumps on properties; citizens are asking for removal; costs associated are high. Discussion commenced; not feasible to provide stump removal. The Town will not be responsible for tree stump removal.

12. Planning Commission Meetings – Coun. G. Pentz re no need for monthly meetings; he suggested disbanding PAC and have Council make planning decisions; or have quarterly meetings or as needed. It was decided that PAC will meet quarterly; change the Terms of Reference.

13. Next Meeting Date: Monday, October 23, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

14. Adjournment on motion by Coun. G. Pentz.