

# 4 of 5 Recommendations Approved

By Maurice Rees

Following the usual opening procedures of roll call, and finalizing the agenda, council ratified four of five recommendations from the February 11<sup>th</sup> committee meeting. The March issue of the Shoreline Journal provided more detailed coverage of each topic. The recommendations included: **Live Streaming of Council Meetings** - approved proceeding with the current method being used for Council and Committee meetings; **Crows in Bible Hill** - Council not proceed with the purchase of a wailer for deterring crows; **Tender - Screen and Compactor, CCWWTF** - Council approved contract for the supply of a fine screen and compactor at the Central Colchester Wastewater Treatment Facility be awarded to EEP for a total contract amount of \$140,403 excluding HST and **Low Income Municipal Tax Assistance Program Policy** - The Low Income Municipal Tax Assistance Program Policy be adopted with one rebated amount across the board at \$534.60, even though the three income maximums, will still apply.



Approved household income levels and exemption amounts are: Single income less than \$26,485; Family of 2 income less than \$34,892 and Family of 3 or more income less than \$41,978. Regardless of the income level, each property owner will receive a property tax credit of \$534.60.

The fifth recommendation which was defeated was the **Lease of Parkland to Village of Bible Hill (for Cobequid Trail)**. The recommendation from committee stated: Council approved to lease parkland PID 20319331 to the Village of Bible Hill for the purposes of development of a section of Cobequid Trail. However with additional information and a desire to proceed differently, it was recommended council defeat the recommendation and introduce a new motion.

When the dust settled, council voted to sell the parkland to Bible Hill for \$1, with stipulation if it ceased to be used as part of the Cobequid Trail, ownership would revert to the municipality.

A report from the Flood Advisory Committee meeting of January 21, 2021, under the direction of councillor Tim Johnson, contained request: for Council to approve the Flood Advisory Committee budget remaining at \$100,000 for the 2021/2022 year."

At the January meeting, A new application was received from Cindy Ryan for bank stabilization along the Portapique River. This property could be affected by shoreline erosion under the influence of tidal waters. Representatives will visit the site and determine if it qualifies before the Committee looks at proceeding.

Under new business, the Flood Advisory Committee discussed the watercourse in Old Barns near the church and how a lack of weather events in the past has created a potential for flooding issues when the channel fills with silt. Any potential channel improvements related to the dykes, aboiteaux, or agricultural lands are the responsibility of Department of

Agriculture.

In another matter discussion was held on how to improve awareness of the committee. There was a feeling not many residents are aware of the County Flood Advisory program which could be why not many projects are on the current list. In the past, items have been included in the quarterly newsletter outlining completed projects.

Committee will look at having something in the newsletter annually while asking Councillors to continue to let their constituents know.

Under action items council approved First Reading of rezoning lands on Hwy 2 for the new Hilden Fire Hall. Approval was based on report from the Property Advisory Committee, submitted by Councillor Laurie Sandeson Chair, which stated the vacant lot on Highway 2 is currently zoned residential (R-2) and needed to be rezoned Institutional (I), to allow construction to proceed.

## Colchester to Participate in Commission

By Maurice Rees

Colchester Council approved, at its February 25th meeting, a decision to submit a submission to participate in the Mass Casualty Commission on motions by councillors Bourtilier and Johnson even though it is not clear definition on what participation means.

The Commission's requests for submissions are not a request for formal participation in the hearing in the sense of 'standing', rather it is for the Commission to determine who is interested in participating, what the nature of the interest is, and at what level of involvement.

County solicitor, Dennis James advised this

item relates to Council's expressed interest in participating in the public inquiry of the mass casualty. During discussion, Rob Simonds, CAO advised written submissions had a deadline of March 5th.

During the meeting it was noted staff were not looking for specific direction rather if there is direction to proceed with a submission, an email would be sent the following day. When the commission responds, feedback will be collated and circulated back to Council to ensure that what is being submitted on behalf of Council has a degree of unanimity.

## Taggart will focus on "The Biodiversity Act"

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we can and cannot do on the land we own, for which we pay taxes each year. Taggart believes private woodlot owners, farmers and sportsmen have always been good stewards of the land. This proposed new Act lays would give government far too much government control, and lays the groundwork for that outcome.

As a Colchester councillor since 2008, Taggart, for several years, has been one of four elected officials who sit on the national board of directors for Federation of Canadian Munic-

ipalities (FCM) and has been involved in rural economic committees at that level. "That is why I have decided to step aside from the Federal race to focus my energy on fighting this threat to the communities I represent," Taggart says.

As for his support for Dr Ellis, Taggart says, "I have had the opportunity to work with Dr Ellis, most recently in his efforts to help supply fill-in Doctors at our Medical Clinic in West Colchester, as we work to secure a new full-time replacement. I have met with Stephen over the past couple

of days, and am comfortable he is a strong supporter of our rural communities. He will attract new people to our party and bring the change we need locally. I look forward to working together in this challenge.

"For now, I look forward to spreading awareness and challenging what is known as "Bill 4 - The Bio Diversity Act." There is no question we must protect our environment and fight climate change, however it cannot be at the expense of private property owners and rural communities".

## The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

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### Over \$-Million in Scholarships and awards

NSCC offers over \$1 million in scholarships, bursaries and awards to help students with the costs of education. Students could be eligible based on factors including financial need, career interest, academic merit and community involvement. An online awards directory is intended to inform prospective students and the community about the many awards and financial support options available at NSCC. Once a student is confirmed in a program, they will gain access to the **Student Awards Portal** - <https://studentawards.nssc.ca/p/a/> where they will be matched to awards for which they are eligible.

### Legislation to Allow for Open Adoption Records

Nova Scotia Legislation introduced on March 12 will change the way the province treats adoption records. The new Act to Open Adoption Records in Nova Scotia allows adopted children, once they turn 19, and birth parents to access adoption information if they want to. The change will apply to all adoption records. The act also includes measures to protect the privacy of the adoptee or the birth parent. Both will have the option to file a disclosure veto, a document stating they do not want to share information that can identify them. Either can also file a contact notice agreeing to share information that can identify them but stating their preferences on if or how they want to be contacted. The Act to Open Adoption Records in Nova Scotia will take effect fully as early as April 2022. This timeframe will allow the department to make software changes so it can receive this information. It will also allow parties to an adoption six months to apply for a disclosure veto or contact notice. Parties to an adoption should contact the department's Adoption Disclosure Services Program for more information on their options. When the legislation is in effect, disclosure vetoes and contact notices will continue to be accepted as long as the identifying information has not already been released.

The new act will also include the types of information that can be shared with relatives or birth siblings, as well as the definition of a potential birth father. Adoptions have been recorded in Nova Scotia for more than 100 years. The Department of Community Services holds the records for about 31,800 adoptions granted during this time. Over the last 11 years, an average of 150 children were adopted each year in Nova Scotia. The department partnered with the Association of Black Social Workers in spring 2020 to engage with African Nova Scotian communities on this topic. The department also received feedback from Mi'kmaq Bands. Questions about specific adoption records should be directed to the Adoption Disclosure Services Program by calling 902-424-2755 or by writing to: Adoption Disclosure Services Program Halifax District Office - Child Welfare, 103 Garland Ave., Dartmouth, NS B3B 0K5

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The Deadline for the May issue of  
**Shoreline**  
Journal is April 20



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