

Is a Noise by-law Needed Again?

By Maurice Rees

Unacceptable noise levels, especially late at night, was added to council's agenda by Councillor Doug MacInnes for the February 23rd meeting. It had originally been on the agenda for the mid-month committee meeting, but councillor MacInnes, who was unable to attend due to illness, had it removed from the committee meeting agenda.

In explaining the matter, MacInnes said he has received numerous complaints about unacceptable noise from landlords, who had called the RCMP only to be told there was nothing they could do as the municipality does not have a noise by-law. He said something can be done because other municipalities have similar by-laws.

Councillor Stewart interjected he has faced similar situations, and again RCMP refused to attend to the call telling the complainant to contact local councillor as a noise by-law is non-existent.

In providing some background on the matter, Mayor Blair said the municipality did have a noise by-law, but it was rescinded at the suggestion of the RCMP in 1999, who stated at that time, the bylaw was not

needed and they could handle the matter. She also stated the matter had been discussed at a Police Advisory committee meeting, and the committee would not have a problem revisiting the matter again.

Rob Simonds, CAO informed council he would be meeting next week with the RCMP Staff Sergeant to discuss other matters, but would raise the matter, asking for consistency of service. Council agreed to gather all the information and bring the matter back to council at the appropriate time.

Sidewalk Plowing Always a Problem

By Maurice Rees

During severe snowstorms municipalities face the situation and almost everyone understands it may take 24 hours to clear all roads and sidewalks. However, the dilemma is that everyone wants their road and sidewalk cleared first.

During Colchester council's monthly meeting on February 23rd, councillor Karen MacKenzie brought forward concerns from a resident in her area for the Salmon River Road and Spring Waters Place area that her sidewalk had not been cleared by 8:00 am in order to take her disabled child to school via a wheelchair or scooter.

Councillor MacKenzie said she could understand if the situation only happened once, but she has received a complaint from the same constituent for each of the three storms, this year.

MacKenzie said that each time, when she checked with staff, she was given a different reason each time.

In defense of staff and delivery of service, councillor Stewart who also does snow plowing in the Brookfield area, said that if a storm starts at 5 am and is still ranging until mid-morning, it is impossible to clear sidewalks until the storm has abated.

Debate around the table questioned if some part-time staff is needed, or should additional expensive equipment be purchased. Public works director, Michelle Powell suggested council needed to provide direction if priority should be placed on clearing streets, or sidewalks at are near schools. She also suggested it is not appropriate to move equipment from the garage and move directly to a school area, by passing a num-

ber of sidewalks to move equipment to a specific area, that might take over an hour.

Deputy Mayor Masters offered the comment there might be other ways to circumvent the problem. He said in his area a student in a wheel chair is picked up and transported to and from school on a daily basis, with or without a snowstorm.

ROB Simonds, CAO, suggested perhaps a more detailed review of the standards for delivery of service should be studied, and a plan implemented for next year. Councillors, were not in

favour of spending money for equipment that might sit idle most of the time, as each piece of equipment could cost in excess of \$150,000.

Mayor Blair concluded the discussion, by informing councillor MacKenzie that she would personally contact the resident and explain the situation and what steps council are taking. Other comments around the table included, it is almost pointless to clear sidewalks until TIR staff have finishing "winging back" on streets or roads they handle.

Council Approves Taxpayer's Requests

By Maurice Rees

Approval of locating a new sidewalk on the east side of Carter Road, Brookfield was the highlight of Colchester's council meeting on February 23rd. It became the highlight because councillors voted in support of property owners and in doing so went against recommendations of staff and Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure, who wanted the sidewalk located on the west side.

The matter had previously come before council at its committee meeting on February 15th, but was tabled on motion of Brookfield councillor, Geoff Stewart who requested a public meeting be held with Carter Road area taxpayers.

Staff arranged a public meeting with area taxpayers on February 22, which was attended by 15 residents along with Mayor Blair, Deputy Mayor Bill Masters, area councillor Stewart and staff. Fourteen comment sheets were returned prior to

the end of the meeting.

The proposed sidewalk would measure 270 m from Highway 289 along Carter Road to the Brookfield Sportsplex. It has been include in the 5 year capital budget with an estimated cost of \$250,000. Even though 14 of the 15 taxpayers in attendance requested location on the east side, staff brought back a recommendation to construct the sidewalk on the west side, which was in accordance with the desires of TIR.

Most of the affected properties are located on the west side, which caused owners to be concerned about loss of mature trees, relocation of power poles, and there would be less impact to the sanitary sewer if east side was chosen. Taxpayers also suggested many more construction obstacles on the west side would mean higher construction costs and an east side location would be safer for children to cross Carter Road at the Sportsplex away from the

fire station.

Even though 14 of 15 attending taxpayers asked for an east side location staff's final recommendation was on the west side citing safety concerns as the main focus. In the end when it came time to make a decision council voted to support taxpayers request to construct the 270 m sidewalk on the east side.

On another action item council approved \$12,500 per year for three recently installed flow monitoring stations. The stations, installed in 2016, on North River, Salmon River and McClures Brook are already collecting data, which will be used for future planning of flood mitigation projects and emergency preparedness efforts. The stations were installed and are being maintained by Environment Canada at an annual cost of \$12,500. Source of funds will come from the Joint Flood Advisory Committee budget.

My Favourite Pet

Lauren Levangie, 12, a member of the Truro North River 4-H Club is shown with Clover, a Polypay/Border Leicester cross triplet lamb who was born over Christmas break at her grandparent's farm.



Lauren and Clover will receive a \$20.00 Gift Certificate from The Shoreline Journal and Clarence Farm Services.



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