Staff to Review Beautification Program

By Maurice Rees

A request by Councillor Taggart to explore funding for a Beautification and Streetscaping Program for municipalities was sent to staff for review during February 11 council committee meeting. The program is designed to develop beautiful areas that attract tourists to the municipality.Application dates are from April 1st to June 1st.

Funding of 50% forgiveness for projects up to $25,000 is to be used to beautify, improve or maintain property that the municipality owns or leases. Or the funding needs to be used to pay grants to an organization for beautifying a business district.

Eligible project costs include: signage; beautification fixtures like baskets, banners, benches, bike racks, waste receptacles, planters and flowers; planting shrubs and trees; lighting; building façades; kiosks and other amenities directed at a tourism audience; beautification and streetscaping plans; contracted labour (non-staff) and professional services.

Only municipalities can apply for funding. Villages and community groups can partner with their municipality on a joint application. The application needs to demonstrate the project's potential to increase tourism revenues. Total eligible project costs need to be at least $20,000 to be considered.

Streaming of Meetings to Remain Unchanged

By Maurice Rees

On motions by councillors Cooper and Sandeson council committee unanimously approved to continue with current methods of broadcasting council proceedings.The decision maintains the Status quo – registering to join Council meetings as an attendee on the Zoom Platform

At their meeting on January 28, 2021, Council received correspondence regarding the live streaming of Council meetings. The matter was referred to staff to investigate and bring back options for Council consideration. Staff report stated: "It is the recommendation of the Manager of Information Systems that Council Committee recommend to Council to proceed with livestreaming via Facebook Live, which would provide the public with the most interactive and streamlined method of accessing the live stream and allows for easier promotion of Council meetings for the Research, Policy, and Community Engagement Officer".

Several councillors spoke on the matter with some comments as follows:

Councillor Cooper - Not in favour of going on Facebook, comfortable where we are. Councillor Johnson – not in favour of Facebook.

Councillor MacKenzie: - this falls in line with on-line voting. We need to modernize. Not interested in comments, but live streaming is okay.

Councillor Taggart indicated he would prefer to stay with same format, as he feels social media has been very toxic and negative comments do not help.

Councillor Boutilier: In favour of public being able to watch. Benoit: What is town of Truro doing? Steam directly onto Facebook. Supporting of live feed to public, but concerned about negative comments.

Councillor Gregory: Can disable comments on Facebook feeds.

Mayor Blair: when asked stated, Only one request was received. Meetings are open to public except "in-camera". Minutes are open to public. If we go forward prefer Zoom and live streaming through Zoom.

EEP Awarded Screen and Compactor Tender

By Maurice Rees

On motions by Councillors Boutilier and Sandeson council committee unanimously recommended the award of a tend for supply and installation of a fine screen and compactor at the Central Colchester Wastewater Treatment Facility (CCWWTF) for $140,403, excluding HST.

In background information Director of Public Works, Michelle Newell, stated, The CCWWTF receives, on average, 18 million litres of sewage per day from the central core of the County. Within the sewage, there are many items such as flushable wipes and sanitary products which need to be screened out ahead of the treatment process. When the plant was expanded in 2012, a ½ inch bar screen was installed on the main trunk line into the property to capture larger debris.

Newell's notes also indicated, further downstream in the treatment process, where grit chambers remove the heavier sands and sediment from the sewage, there is also a grinder system which chops up any remaining textile debris which was missed by the bar screen. This grinder was also installed in 2012 and has reached the end of its useful life.

While the grinder system helps improve debris handling, it does not entirely solve the issue of flushable textiles. The chopped textiles accumulate in the aeration basins at the plant, getting tangled up in equipment and causing maintenance issues. Instead of replacing the existing grinder system, staff budgeted to install a finer screen at the grit chamber to remove most remaining textiles from the sewage.

Staff issued a public request for proposals for the supply of the fine screen for the CCWWTF.The specified equipment must have a ¼" self cleaning perforated screen. A total of three submissions were received by the closing date of January 21, 2021, and results were as follows: EEP, $140,403; Nulantic, $195,501 and APS, $227,571.

Sexual Assault Program Expands

Nova Scotians who have experienced sexualized violence require specialized care. The Sexual Assault Program has expanded to Colchester and Cumberland Counties. The most recent expansion includes:

Colchester Regional Health Centre, Truro and Cumberland Regional Health Care Centre, Amherst. Delivered by the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) SANE program, it will be available in Truro by February 1 and Amherst on February 8. The Roseway Hospital in Shelburne will be included in the expansion. Program will be delivered by the Tri Country Women's Centre SANE program, as of February 1.

The services are provided by registered nurses who have advanced training and expertise to provide specialized medical care and forensic response. On-call nurses provide emergency care that includes supportive treatment, medical attention, information and additional resources, as well as the option to have forensic evidence collected.

Expansion of the VON SANE program to the Eastern Shore is planned for spring. On-site service is currently available in 17 hospitals and health centres across the province.

Taggart to Seek Federal Nomination

Continued from page 1

the "Ottawa Bubble," he knows his focus will always be on Cumberland Colchester.

He maintains, his hard work over several years on improved rural broadband would be an example where he's been a driving force on Cumberland Colchester's $64-million broadband project. When it comes to Cumberland and Colchester County cooperating with one another, Taggart says we need to look no further than the Cliffs of Fundy Geopark, where political, business and scientific leaders from both counties have shown their tenacity in bringing this project to life.

The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

Life Partners in Long-Term Care Act Proclaimed

The Life Partners in Long-Term Care Act has been proclaimed and will take effect March 1."Couples who have loved and supported each other should not have to face being separated when they enter long-term care," said former Premier Stephen McNeil."This legislation helps ensure life partners can stay together as they age, even if one person may need a different level of long-term care."

The act will allow spouses, common-law and domestic partners to be placed together at the highest care level required. For example, if one spouse requires nursing-home care and one requires residential care, the couple would be placed in a nursing home. Government will also ensure this right applies to life partners of veterans who reside in facilities where veterans' units are located. This will apply to couples as defined in the act for admission to one of the 133 long-term care homes licensed and funded by the province.

Quick Facts from recent announcements

The provincial government recently announced 236 new beds in Central Zone and the replacement or significant renovation of seven nursing homes across the province. In 2019-20, the province announced 197 new nursing home beds for New Waterford (36), North Sydney (38), Eskasoni (48), Meteghan (10), Mahone Bay (35) and Halifax (30). 3,201 Nova Scotians entered long-term care in 2019-20 - 2,936 to nursing homes and 265 to residential care facilities

Transition Trust Approves Additional Projects

The Forestry Innovation Transition Trust announced three more projects on February 4th which allows businesses focused on new ecological forestry practices to tap into additional expertise to get their products ready for market.

The Innovation Hub of Nova Scotia Inc. will receive $921,000 to support forestry related bio-economy clients at the pre-commercial stage to overcome technical and business hurdles in their development.

The Hub and its partners are working to transform Nova Scotia's renewable resources and underused waste streams into economic opportunities for the province by producing sustainable, renewable and recyclable products.

The Verschuren Centre for Sustainability in Energy and the Environment (VC Inc.) at Cape Breton University is receiving $672,500 over the next six months to support the development of a Bio-technology Acceleration Centre to help advance key forestry and biomass sector innovative technology companies towards commercialization.

Genome Atlantic will receive $315,500 over four years to support The Atlantic Tree Improvement Council (AtlanTIC) in producing more resilient, commercially important tree species in Nova Scotia. It will include collaborative breeding, field testing, and new tree improvement technologies such as genomics, which have been shown to shorten breeding cycles and increase growth rate, wood quality, pest resistance and adaptation to climate change.

The $50 million trust was announced in February 2020 and may be used by companies, organizations or post-secondary institutions to bring innovation to the forestry and biological resources sector.

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The Shoreline Journal Deadline for the March issue of is February 16

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