

Cumberland Council Review – April 7

Cumberland Council met via zoom for a Public Council Meeting on Wednesday, April 7, 2021. The meeting opened with a territorial acknowledgement.

A public hearing was held regarding a request for a development agreement at 14 Chambers Boulevard, Parrsboro. Council previously gave notice of intention to enter the agreement at the February 17, 2021 meeting. A second reading of the development agreement will take place April 21, 2021.

Council reviewed and approved the proposed Organizational Communications and Public Relations Plan as provided by the communications committee. This plan will enable the municipality to improve upon communication practices, both internally and externally.

A draft budget for the Cumberland Joint Services Management Authority (CJSMA) was presented for council's consideration. The CJSMA must have feedback from all municipal partners prior to passing their yearly budget.

At the December 16, 2020 Council session Council approved a temporary borrowing resolution in the amount of \$482,309 on behalf of Sunset Industries Inc. This borrowing will be through the Municipal Finance Corporation. Council approved pre-approval on the borrowing, subject to interest rate resolution.

First reading was given to a public highway signage by-law and to an amendment to the land use by-law for a rezoning. A public hearing for the public highway signage by-law will be held May 5, 2021 while a

public hearing for the land use by-law amendment will take place May 19, 2021.

With the addition of committee of the whole meetings, the council meetings and proceedings policy required an update. Council gave notice to consider the policy for adoption at the next regular public council meeting which will be April 21, 2021.

Gregory Nix was formally approved as the municipality's volunteer representative for the 47th annual provincial volunteer recognition ceremony. Nix has been a champion of all things outdoors; guiding many groups in outdoor activities, teaching youth outdoor skills, and trail maintenance. The knowledge he has shared throughout the municipality and province had made an everlasting positive impact. Nix is also involved in numerous associations, including Friends of the Pugwash Estuary, Cumberland Trails, Pugwash Search & Rescue, Nova Scotia Trails Federations, Nova Scotia Trails Fundy Region Representative, Wentworth, Wallace, Pugwash and Area Health Board, Route 6 Snowmobile Club, Oxford & Area Trails Association, Cumberland Tourism Advisory Committee and Hike NS.

Revitalization of Springhill Baseball Field #2 was a project approved in the 2020/2021 capital budget. Due to staff turnover, capacity of the contracted company and the impacts of the global pandemic the project was not completed. Council agreed to consider the project in the 2021/2022 capital budget plan-

ning in the amount of \$23,400.

Council approved plans for summer recreation programming, including the recruitment of 23 summer positions. Traditionally these positions are funded in partnership with federal programs and the staff provide the capacity to run summer day camp programs and events and provide maintenance support over the summer months.

In response to the current rodent infestation in the community of Springhill council instructed staff to work with a professional exterminator to set traps in areas with rodent infestations and directed staff to work with the solid waste collection contractor to provide an opportunity for residents in the community of Springhill to dispose of excessive garbage that is properly bagged and sorted. After this opportunity to dispose of excessive garbage is provided, by-law enforcement officers will issue clean-up orders, as necessary. A communications plan will be created and implemented as part of this work.

Local councillors will collaborate with community groups to conduct a litter pick up in the community of Springhill. Finally, council committed to creating a policy with respect to rodent control so that future concerns of this nature are handled in a fair and consistent manner.

A Facebook live recording is available on the municipal Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MunicipalityofCumberland>

Committee of the Whole Review – April 14

Cumberland Council Committee of the Whole (COW) met via zoom on Wednesday, April 14, 2021. COW meetings are now held the second Wednesday of every month with delegations, presentations and petitions a major focus of these meetings.

The meeting started with a moment of silence to mark the one-year anniversary of the mass shooting tragedy in Nova Scotia last April. Flags at municipal locations will fly at half mast Sunday and Monday in honour of the victims. Mayor Scott, Deputy Mayor Redmond and members of council will commemorate the occasion privately on Sunday.

This week, the committee heard two presentations. The first presentation was from the Northern Region Solid Waste Management Committee and the second from the Cumberland YMCA. Mayor Scott proclaimed the week of May 2, 2021 as Communities in Bloom week in the Municipality of Cumberland. Currently, the communities of Springhill and Pugwash have active

Communities in Bloom committees.

Turning to internal matters, a memo was provided to council detailing work accomplished to date on the development of commercial development districts. Staff were provided guidance from the committee of the whole regarding the goal of instituting a commercial assessment phase-in program and the potential areas for commercial development districts. The goal of the commercial assessment phase-in program is intended to manage the financial impact to business owners over time as a result of the increased municipal investment through the creation of commercial development districts. Potential areas for commercial development districts are Springhill, Parrsboro, Maccan, Fox Harbour, Pugwash and the Biggs Drive area.

The audit and financial sustainability committee provided an update. New members of the committee were added through citizen appointments and the commit-

tee is currently completing mandatory training from the Department of Municipal Affairs.

In March of 2020, the previous council approved free ice time for organized on-ice activities for youth at the Dr. Carson and Marion Murray Community Centre's Richard Calder Arena. An overview of free ice time was provided in a memo. Memos were also supplied outlining the successes of the 2021 editions of the Fundy Winter Carnival and Chilli Willi Winter Festival.

Councillor Gilroy asked for information on options for updates to the grants to community organizations program. Further information will be presented to council at a later date.

Formal minutes of the April 14 meeting are available: <https://cumberlandcounty.ns.ca/2021-council-minutes.html> Facebook live recording is available on the municipal Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MunicipalityofCumberland>

Cumberland Council Review – April 21

Council of the Municipality of Cumberland met via zoom for a Public Council Meeting on Wednesday, April 21, 2021. The meeting opened with a territorial acknowledgement. A public hearing was held regarding an amendment to the land use by-law to rezone an area in Tidnish Cross Roads. A second reading of the amendment will take place at the May 5, 2021 council meeting.

At a joint council meeting on March 23, 2021, the councils of the Municipality of Cumberland, Town of Amherst and Town of Oxford were presented with a Joint Community Economic Development Strategy. At that time, members of all three councils provided feedback and a revised document has been presented separately to all three councils. Council approved the revised version during the April 21st meeting.

Council received a business plan for the Pugwash Multipurpose Centre. The business plan proposes what it could cost to manage, maintain and operate the building year after year if construction was to proceed as proposed.

The plan can be found at <https://cumberlandcounty.ns.ca/pugwash-waterfront-development-master-plan.html> Council will take the report under advisement for future budget considerations.

A second reading of a development agreement at 14 Chambers Boulevard, Parrsboro was held. As she had done in each of the other occurrences of this matter on the agenda, Councillor Goodwin declared a conflict of interest.

Council gave notice of intent to consider for adoption the reimburse-

ment policy for council and the CAO at the May 5, 2021 meeting. This is due to a housekeeping edit in the wording. As a result of the dissolution process, several by-laws from the former Town of Springhill are still enacted. The policy and by-law committee of council has reviewed these by-laws and have found the need to repeal the old by-laws, now covered under the by-laws of the Municipality of Cumberland. First reading was given to a by-law to repeal the Springhill by-laws. This will now follow the regular course of action of a public hearing and second reading before the repeal can be formalized.

At the April 7, 2021 meeting council approved plans for summer recreation programming, including the recruitment of 23 summer positions. Traditionally these positions are funded in partnership with federal programs and the staff provide the capacity to run summer day camp programs and events and provide maintenance support over the summer months. The federal funding applications have been submitted, but have not been responded to, and the response may not come in time for the 2021/22 budget deliberations. Council approved the budget required for summer recreation supervisors.

In preparation for summer programming, council approved \$10,020 for rental of the Parrsboro Lion's Recreation Centre. This allows staff to provide a safe and effective space for summer programs, events and recreation and sport programs in the community of Parrsboro.

An update on the success of the

March 16, 2021 tax sale was provided to council. The tax sale resulted in 38 of the 40 accounts being sold. Two of the accounts sold have since been redeemed. Of the total outstanding receivables of \$247,192.06 the tax sale process collected \$127,606.84.

Councillor Houghtaling requested council consider the inception of a youth council. Council agreed a youth council was a method of engaging youth for the future of the municipality. The policy and by-law committee will work on a policy for council to consider.

Council decided to amend meeting times. Public council meetings will now be held at 3:30 p.m. and committee of the whole meetings will also be held at 3:30 p.m. A committee of the whole meeting will be held May 12, 2021 at 3:30 p.m.

Formal minutes of the April 21 meeting are available at <https://cumberlandcounty.ns.ca/2021-council-minutes.html> A Facebook live recording is available on the municipal Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MunicipalityofCumberland>

Deadline for the June issue of *South Cumberland NEWS* is May 18

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