

Solid Water By-law Passes Second Reading

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to an approved disposal location.

The current collection contractor, when capacity allowed, would collect bagged leaf and yard waste material that were set curbside in paper bags. This was beyond the requirements of the curbside collection contract and not identified in the Solid Waste By-law.

There are 16,561 single unit homes and 371 duplexes in the Municipality of Colchester. Most homes in the rural areas of the Municipality typically do not dispose of excess leaf and yard waste in paper bags. This practice is more commonly found in the urban areas where the properties are smaller and near other dwellings. (see breakdown of dwellings in urban area in accompanying table).

Analysis:

By being prescriptive of geographical areas of who can and cannot use paper bags for excess yard waste will be challenging for the educational messaging. Presently, all residents receive the same level of service and are given the same educational messages. All residents are paying for the same amount of services.

The collection tender could identify pricing for various options for the collection of leaf and yard waste in paper bags with the By-law being amended to include a clause which could allow the collection of these materials through Council policy.

Curbside Salvaging

Currently, salvaging is prohibited under Chapter 33 - Solid Waste By-law. Once the material is at the curb, it is owned by the Municipality. This is to ensure materials are collected and processed in an appropriate, environmental, and secure manner. Bagged materials could contain private and personal information or property that the residents do not want in the public domain.

It is known that during Spring Clean Up and throughout the year when one bulky item is placed curbside, the public have removed some of the items for repurposing or selling for income. This is neither endorsed nor discouraged

by the Municipality if there is no mess left behind or no complaint received. However, at present, the By-law states that persons could be charged for violating the "No Salvaging" section of the By-law.

Analysis:

Although salvaging is currently prohibited under the existing By-law, this is not 'strictly' enforced by the Municipality unless there is a complaint received. It is known that during Spring Clean Up and throughout the year when one bulky item is placed curbside, some salvaging takes place.

During previous discussions, Council indicated their wishes to allow for exceptions to permit the removal of designated items by persons other than the Municipality or collector which could be established through Council policy.

Resources Implications:

Should Council choose to include an option for the collection of leaf and yard waste in paper bags, this could have financial implications. However, until the tenders are received, staff have no way of knowing exactly how it would impact the budget.

There could be increased efficiency in sorting materials with less garbage processed.

Educational messages for blue bags only does not impact the Town of Truro or Stewiacke residents nor the municipal processing contracts. Education messages would state that blue bags would be preferred for these areas.

Colchester Helpline could receive complaints regarding blue bags only during the transition period.

Educational resources such as curbside stickers would need to be redesigned and purchased.

A pilot or partial implementation of collection of leaf and yard waste in paper bags will take resources to educate collection drivers and education staff of boundaries and updating specific civic addressing in the Recollect electronic calendars software.

Colchester Helpline could receive complaints about leaf and yard waste if not a consistent program throughout the Municipality.

11 items added to Committee Agenda

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Colchester will host a delegation from Jordan, with all costs covered by Global Affairs.

Councillor Taggart added two items to the agenda. The first to be dealt with was his concern about possible closing of the Great Village Post Office. The current postmaster is retiring and the current location does not meet building standards. The Post Office might be closed while a new location is found. Taggart asked for letter be sent requesting assurance possible closure would be temporary.

Taggart's second item dealt with concern about the FORCE / Cape Sharp Tidal Turbine spinning in the water without being connected to the electrical grid and no environmental monitoring. A letter will be sent expressing concern about the possible affects to the Bay of Fundy and various fishers, including a number of weir fishing operators.

The motion on the matter was seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh.

Concern by residents about 35 bee hives in a backyard in subdivision on Glenn Abbey Lane caused Councillor Gibbs to bring the matter to council. Staff was asked to check regulations, determine if there is any danger and how to solve any problems.

The other four matters added to the agenda were all scheduled for the closed session. Two were to deal with negotiation matters, while the remaining would deal with personnel matters.

On motions by Councillors Cavanaugh and Gibbs council committee accepted annual audited statements at Colchester Council committee meeting on August 9th. On further motions by Councillors Cooper and Stewart the Mayor and CAO were authorized to sign acceptance on behalf of the municipality.

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