



Three "First Reading" Passed by Council on August 26th

By Maurice Rees

At August 26th monthly meeting Colchester Council first reading on three by-laws were approved to move forward to second reading on September 30th including: Amendments to Solar Colchester Property Assessed Clean Energy By-law; Development Agreement Application by Anglerite Dash Enterprises Ltd and Development Agreement Application by Ramar Construction Ltd.

Key amendments to Solar Colchester Property Assessed Clean Energy By-law include: addition of energy efficiency upgrades as eligible for financing; reference to the Solar Colchester PACE Program Manual, which will outline program procedures and guideline and include important details that may change from time to time and which do not need to be written into By-law or Policy; removal of sections which describe program procedures, and which can be included in the Program Manual rather than the By-law, as they may be changed from time to time;

Amendments will define the maximum amount available for financing as the lesser of \$30,000 or 25% of the assessed value of the property. In June, the Solar Colchester PACE Policy was amended to increase the limit from \$20,000 to \$25,000. The limit of \$25,000 was based on the average cost of solar projects to date, after the SolarHomes rebate had already been subtracted.

This By-law amendment will allow the Municipality to pay full invoices up to \$30,000 and then accept rebates on behalf of the participants up to \$6,000. This change will help to support small and local installers by alleviating cash

flow problems, since the SolarHomes rebate can take several weeks to be paid out; extending the maximum loan term to 15 years.

The PACE Policy may define more stringent criteria, such as for the 15-year term to be applicable to solar projects only and to be shortened once rebates have been applied.

The Development Agreement Application by Anglerite Dash Enterprises Ltd is to consider a Development Agreement request for a multi-unit residential rental development. The agreement request is for four, multi-unit townhouse-style buildings, for a total of 13 units, located on Truro Road in Hilden.

Second Reading is scheduled for September 30, 2021, at which time Council will receive a staff presentation and can debate the merits of approving the agreement. Prior to Second Reading, but on the same night, Council will conduct a Public Hearing to receive comments from the public.

The third first reading was Development Agreement Application by Ramar Construction Ltd to consider a Development Agreement request for a multi-unit residential rental development. The agreement request is for three, multi-unit townhouse-style buildings, for a total of 16 units, located on Pictou Road in Valley.

Second Reading is scheduled for September 30, 2021, at which time Council will receive a staff presentation and can debate the merits of approving the agreement. Prior to Second Reading, but on the same night, Council will conduct a Public Hearing to receive comments from the public.

Serious Accident Hwy 289 - Otter Brook

At approximately 12:40 p.m. August 17th police were notified of a motor vehicle collision on Hwy. 289 in Otter Brook. Police, fire and EHS attended the scene where it was determined that two cars, a grey car and a red car, had been travelling in opposite directions on Hwy. 289 when they collided head-on.

The driver of the grey car, a 26-year-old man from Stewiacke, and the passenger, a 26-year-old woman from Stewiacke, suffered minor injuries and were treated and released at the scene. The driver of the red car, a 19-year-old man from Deerfield, suffered serious injuries and was airlifted to hospital by LifeFlight.

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Lenore Zann, Liberal Candidate
Cumberland-Colchester

The following questionnaire was distributed to campaign offices of all candidates in Cumberland-Colchester. This submission is from Lenore Zann, candidate for the Liberal Party of Canada.



Lenore Zann

1. How will you prioritize your efforts to increase housing affordability and accessibility in the Constituency?

Housing affordability is closely linked with so many other facets of our economy, including job availability, the health and wellness of our people and keeping young people in our province while attracting more by supporting innovative business ventures and creating an environment that is sustainable for families. Along with those ventures that the federal government is actively pursuing, we plan to help address the urgent housing needs of vulnerable Canadians, the Liberal government has invested \$1 billion through the Rapid Housing Initiative in October, to secure more accessible and affordable housing and help those experiencing homelessness.

The initiative has already exceeded its initial target - creating up to 3,000 new affordable homes - and will now support the construction of more than 4,700 permanent affordable units for vulnerable Canadians.

2. With the surge of interest from people who can work from home and wishing to relocate from larger urban area to enjoy a better lifestyle or start their own business, there are two major factors: High speed broadband and condition of the rural roads. A \$-Multi-Million Broadband Construction project is in the works. What might be your plans to promote a plan with at least 50% of the significant costs funded from federal sources and remaining 50% to be responsibility of the province, municipality and taxpayers in a possible 20%, 20% and 10% contributions?

The federal government routinely consults with the province to arrange cost sharing on economic and infrastructure pursuits and we have made it a priority to have 98% of the areas across the country receiving broadband internet by 2026. It may seem like it is far away but with me as your representative, I can assure you I will not back off until that has been addressed for Nova Scotians so they can safely work from home if they choose and if it is safer.

3. Although more of a provincial responsibility what might you be able to do to assist, mentor or help community organizations obtaining significant financial support to spearhead development of assisted senior housing and medical services / outposts in rural areas in excess of 30Km from larger urban centres?

We are all Canadians, and the two levels of government work together more than they work separately. In fact, Since 2019, more than \$145 million has gone to community organizations and infrastructure renewal projects in Colchester, Cumberland and our local Indigenous communities alone to replenish the services and better our environment.

4. Wait times for ambulance service has reached crisis proportions. What do you vision as your role to assist in financial, establishment and operation of EHS ambulance services located at new medical centres / outposts?

Unlike the Conservatives, we do not believe a two-tiered health care system will fix all that ails us. We commit to making thoughtful and steady investments in public health care so that people do not feel they have to go broke just to get services they desperately need. COVID-19 has added stress on our system that none of us anticipated, but I am committed to working with open doors with the people who have placed their trust in me and finding the holes in the system that are letting them down.

5. Racism and cultural exclusion continues to be prevalent in rural and urban areas. What plans do you have to encourage and develop broader basis of ethnic inclusion in all areas?

Unfortunately, this is not a new issue in our province, nor is it one in any other province. I believe that the idea of inclusion has to start in the early years, through education, open dialogue and a better understanding and appreciation of other cultures. No good comes from ignorance.

6. School dropouts, lack of life-long learning and skill development continues to hamper improvements in skills in trades and job readiness. How do you propose developing "grassroots" led initiatives to increase the earning capacity of residents close to their residence?

Our province has no shortage of entrepreneurs or natural resources that

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can be sustainably developed to create green jobs and give back to both our economy and our environment. You do not have to look very far to see how many ideas borne out of Nova Scotians have become successes.

Our Liberal Government's plan to ensure affordable childcare for women and families means that mothers, many young women, will have better access to education and employment opportunities and the opportunity to grow their earning capacity.

7. What government programs are most lacking in Cumberland-Colchester? How would they help business and residents? What will you do to encourage community-led groups to put these programs in place?

The things I hear most from my constituents are lack of access to transportation, health care and community services. We all know the price of gas fluctuates, we know we have an aging population and the thing that I hear more and more is the frustration about waiting. Whether it be for doctors appointments, mental health consultations, grants for new businesses, Veterans Affairs programs, all require long waits. We need to work with the province to find the best way to help people within a far more reasonable amount of time.

8. What infrastructure is needed in Cumberland-Colchester to implement government programs to reduce reliance on government assistance, yet increase the incomes above the poverty level?

I don't think you could find anyone in rural Nova Scotia who wouldn't mention the state of a nearby road or the delays they have receiving broadband internet connections. The Liberal government plans to work to get 98% of Canadians connected in the next 4 years. While we are in our summer months, and see roadwork all around us, we don't forget the challenges that the winter months bring. Roadwork is an ongoing battle, is always a top priority and a frequently discussed topic between our two levels. I can speak as loud as is needed to get things like this done.

9. If you were to "think outside the box" what initiatives would you propose to significantly increase the economic viability of businesses; community focused groups and residents? How would the goals be achieved?

I think people sometimes forget about the importance of the Arts as an economic engine, particularly in rural areas. We are blessed in Cumberland and Colchester counties with great theatre, artists, galleries and all manner of facilities.

The arts span community and business and increase our overall quality of life - one of the real draws for living in this part of the world. I think we have great potential for more movies and TV to be made in the Province. The Creative Economy is HUGE! As we saw during the pandemic - many people work in the arts, and other sectors, as 'gig workers'. They do not always have a stable income. By investing in the arts we can grow and create a more secure economy. The arts make a big economic impact and need to be supported.

10. If you were elected on September 20th what will you do to change the momentum of economic development from "top down" to "grassroots bottom-up"?

I think it works both ways at the moment. The government helps enable businesses and development through programs that support local ideas and grassroots initiatives. Giving entrepreneurs government supports to start and grow their small and medium sized businesses will make a huge impact on the economy. Promoting and buying local is another important way to keep local economies strong and vibrant. Our government has put supports in place for Chambers of Commerce to mentor and help local businesses promote the 'buy local' message. Everyone wins when we support businesses in our own communities.

11. What personal talents and efforts do you promise to commit to the constituency to "Champion a movement to improve economic well-being and improved lifestyle for all residents and businesses?"

I have never backed down from a fight, I am not scared to confront my own caucus, members of another, or any department until I have answers about what is needed by my constituents. I am otherwise diplomatic, but my pride as a representative means I take on your issues as if they are my own.

12. Why should people vote for you?

Experience, tenacity, and a voice for the people of Cumberland-Colchester fighting for you in Ottawa and wherever I am needed. With 12 years as an elected representative in this area – I have proven that I deliver. You are my neighbours and community and I've got your back.

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