

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

February 21, 2005

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 7:00 p.m., in the Conference Room, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., with the following members present:

- Sterling Belliveau, Chairman
- Fred Bower
- Louise Halliday
- Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
- Eddie Nickerson (7:05 p.m.)
- Larry Stewart
- Sean Strang (7:05 p.m.)

- Brian Holland, Municipal

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Archelaus Smith Museum Request.
- Volunteer Recognition Dinner.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by L. Stewart and seconded by F. Bower that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by F. Bower and seconded by L. Stewart that the minutes of the last previous meeting held February 7, 2005 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

PROVINCIAL BAN

Correspondence has been received from the Province indicating that a ban on disposal of electronic equipment in landfills is being considered by the Province. The public and the municipalities are being asked to comment on this ban. The complete text of the proposal is available in the Municipal Office for councillors to review if they so wish.

BANNERS

It is suggested that two (2) additional banners be obtained for the coming summer to promote a tourism event in our area. The event to be promoted is the Show and Shine Antique Car event that is annually held by the Barrington Volunteer Fire Department on the ball field adjacent to the Visitor Information Centre. The cost of providing these banners is approximately \$780, including H.S.T.

Resolution COW050207

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by D. LeBlanc-Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality purchase two (2) additional banners to promote the Show and Shine annual fundraising event of the Barrington 7E Volunteer Fire Department.

<u>AFFIRMATIVE</u>	<u>NEGATIVE</u>
Sterling Belliveau	Fred Bower
Louise Halliday	Sean Strang
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger	
Eddie Nickerson	
Larry Stewart	

Motion carried.

MARCH 28TH COUNCIL MEETING

The Council meeting of March 28, 2005 falls on Easter Monday which is a municipal holiday. Council is in agreement to conduct the meeting that night in any case. The local media will be advised.

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE STAFFING

A schedule of the proposed Visitor Information Centre staffing for the coming year has been circulated to members for their information.

There followed some discussion regarding how long the Visitor Information Centre will be open and how long it will be staffed. It is anticipated that the Visitor Information Centre Manager will work at the V.I.C. year round. It is anticipated that the Centre will be open for operation from June 15th to the end of September, from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The remainder of the year the Manager will be working at the Visitor Information Centre although it will not be open during that time. The remainder of the year the Chamber of Commerce Office will be open at the Visitor Information Centre and the V.I.C. Manager will perform primarily Chamber of Commerce duties during that time.

The Manager is requesting that she be provided with an annual salary, with medical benefits, and accumulated vacation time, rather than being paid her 4% vacation. She is requesting that the Manager position be a full-time municipal position.

At this time discussion of the Visitor Information Centre staffing was deferred in order to permit the committee to speak with representatives of the various hockey teams who had arrived at the

meeting.

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REPRESENTATIVES OF HOCKEY TEAMS INTERVIEW

The following individuals appeared on behalf of various hockey groups who regularly rent at the Barrington Municipal Arena:

- Leo Atkinson, Barrington Area Oldtimers
- Andrew Holland, Barrington Recreational Hockey League
- John Nickerson, Bear Point Bandits Hockey Team
- Steve Crowell, Junior "C" Hockey Team
- Robbie Symonds, South Side Pirates Oldtimers Hockey Team
- Bob Welland, Wood's Harbour Whalers Oldtimers Hockey Team/Over 45 Group
- Julien D'Entremont, Sunday night rental group

There then followed much discussion regarding the enforcement of the "no smoking" and "no alcohol" policies at the Barrington Municipal Arena.

It was stated by the Chairman that provincial law does not allow either drinking or smoking in the facility except during special licenced events.

The sentiment was expressed that municipal employees must see offenders drinking and must at least smell smoke to conclude that an individual is either drinking or smoking at the Arena.

The discussion centered around what is to be considered "due diligence" in enforcing this policy. Sentiment was also expressed that finding bottles, cans and smelling smoke in the dressing room would be considered evidence that drinking and smoking had occurred.

Resolution COW050208

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that individuals who are actually caught drinking or smoking in the Arena be subject to the following fines or suspensions. The fines or suspensions are determined in a subsequent motion.

AFFIRMATIVE

Sterling Belliveau

Louise Halliday

Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

Eddie Nickerson

Larry Stewart

Sean Strang

NEGATIVE

Fred Bower

Motion carried.

Resolution COW050209

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by L. Stewart that it be recommended to Council that the following fines be imposed for offences for the individuals actually caught drinking or smoking in the Arena:

- 1st offence - \$100.00 fine
- 2nd offence - \$200.00 fine
- _____ - 3rd offence - \$400.00 fine

After the third offence, the individual involved will be suspended for one (1) year from the date of the offence.

AFFIRMATIVE

Sterling Belliveau

Louise Halliday

Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

Eddie Nickerson

Larry Stewart

Sean Strang

NEGATIVE

Fred Bower

Motion carried.

Resolution COW050210

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that if an individual is not determined, or does not come forward to accept responsibility for the drinking or smoking offence, then the team will be fined.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was also discussed at this time that groups renting the ice would be required to obtain a key to the dressing room from Municipal Staff at the Arena and would be required to return the key to a locked box which is located in the hallway and clearly marked after their rental has been completed.

It was also indicated that the policy should include a reasonable amount of time for individuals and teams to be notified and to pay the corresponding fine. It was suggested that seven (7) days would be a reasonable amount of time.

Having completed their discussion of this matter, the representatives of the various user groups at the Arena retired from the meeting at approximately 8:30 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PERSONNEL INTERVIEW

Peter MacDonald, Regional Biologist; Randy Milton, Wildlife Division; and Art Lynds, Ecologist for Natural Park Systems, appeared before the committee for two purposes. The first purpose of this interview was to discuss the proposed amendments to the Land Use By-Law regarding development in Coastal Wetland areas. The second purpose for this interview was to

discuss the establishment of a Wildlife Management Area on Cape Sable Island.

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Mr. MacDonald informed members that he works out of the Tusket Office of the Department of Natural Resources and is part of the Regional Services Group. He covers all three (3) of the southwestern counties in Nova Scotia and deals with all aspects of wildlife in the area.

The Department of Natural Resources is concerned about development on coastal lands, especially on beaches. He indicated that they believe the existing by-law in the municipality is one of the best in the province.

He also indicated that there is a potential for extensive development in the Coastal Wetlands Areas once the door is opened by amending the by-law. Tourism in the area depends on Coastal Wetland Areas not being developed. It is possible to provide accommodations for tourists in other areas than the beach areas.

He also indicated that he has some interest in the species at risk; in particular, the piping plover, as these birds must share the beaches with residents and tourists. He indicated that development on the beaches is not a means of sharing with the birds.

Mr. MacDonald indicated that the beach from Daniel's Head to The Hawk is about 4 1/2 kilometres and is one of the exceptional and unique areas of the province. He indicated that the current by-law of the Municipality is viewed as being exemplary and would like to see it maintained as it is.

Randy Milton deals with development in coastal areas as well and in the stewardship of wetland areas. This involves the protection of human infrastructure from storms, a protection which can help be achieved by the maintenance of the natural areas along the shoreline. This would mean that development should be restricted in high risk areas and that the natural system should be kept in tact in order to prevent damage from storms.

Art Lynds is an ecologist. Mr. Lynds covered the concept of sea level rise and that it has a significant impact on the coastline of Nova Scotia. He provided some information regarding sea level rise over the past century. Mr. Lynds indicated that the shoreline is a dynamic continually changing area. He reviewed the damages that were caused in the Halifax Regional Municipality by Hurricane Juan. Mr. Lynds indicated that eco-tourism is a major attraction of the area. Tourists who come here for this purpose want to see a "pristine" area and they want to get away from human infrastructure. He believes that it would be advisable for the Municipality to minimize the impact of development on coastal areas. Mr. Lynds also indicated that insurance may become difficult to get on structures built in sensitive coastal areas. He indicated that the by-law in place best minimizes the risk to people and to the Municipality by ensuring that only developments that are compatible with the environment may be achieved in Coastal Wetland Areas.

In general, the Department of Natural Resources wishes to have development of cottages further back from the beach so that they will have less impact on the ecological system in the Coastal Wetland Areas.

These gentlemen indicated that the proper location for development would mitigate the risk to the ecology, would mitigate the risk to human use of the area, would mitigate the risk to infrastructure built in the area, would mitigate any restrictions on access to the area and would

mitigate any negative affects on eco-tourism by keeping development out of the Coastal Wetlands Area. They indicated that the developments such as cottages and residences should be in areas where there is "glacial till". This is hard ground where development should be allowed and currently is allowed.

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Having completed their presentation regarding the Coastal Wetlands amendments, these gentlemen then turned to address the Wildlife Management Area that is being proposed on Cape Sable Island. The purpose of proposing this area is to provide greater protection to the natural habitat of the area by restricting activities. The intent of establishing a Wildlife Management Area is to preserve the area for tourists, especially for bird watchers. Three areas in the province have been identified as primary areas for birdwatching. They are Briar Island, Eagle Watch and Cape Sable Island. The Department of Natural Resources wishes to maintain traditional uses such as hunting and trapping in season, and in addition wishes to develop, in particular, the birdwatching, tourism activities.

As yet there are no regulations applicable to the area. The Department of Natural Resources is now waiting for public comment on their proposal before proceeding with or withdrawing the proposal.

Having completed their discussion of this matter, the gentlemen from the Department of Natural Resources retired from the meeting at 10:32 p.m.

SERVICE NOVA SCOTIA LARGE MAPPING PROJECT

Service Nova Scotia currently intends to do aerial photography and provide mapping at a scale of one to two thousand for various municipalities in southwestern Nova Scotia. This mapping is referred to as digital orthophoto mapping. It is recommended by the Municipal Planner that the Municipality purchase a variety of these maps covering the developed areas of the Municipality, and the areas which are most likely to be developed in the future. The cost for these maps is estimated to be between \$200 and \$600 per sheet. These maps will also be provided in a digital format so that they can be put on computers by personnel at the Yarmouth/Argyle/Barrington District Planning Commission and used by the Municipal Planner, Municipal Mapper, and by our Development Officer. These maps have numerous applications for the Municipality including promoting development of the Municipality, completing building activity reports, planning and zoning, civic numbering, Emergency Measures' uses, resolving issues of building position relative to property lines, identifying assessment issues, basis for adding new buildings, other building development features, identifying land for development, a greater accuracy is provided for building placement on properties, identification of recreation areas, is a basis for maintaining records of building age, demolitions, etc. and is a method of recording repairs and maintenance to sewer systems, providing this information is contained in the mapping.

The municipalities of Yarmouth and Argyle and the Town of Yarmouth are also purchasing maps through this project.

It is suggested that the Municipality request Service Nova Scotia to do the photography for 75 different map sheets and that the Municipality will include \$15,000 in its 2005/06 budget for the purpose of purchasing these maps. The Municipality would then purchase the number of maps that could be obtained for \$15,000 depending on the final cost of each map.

There then followed some discussion regarding the Municipality purchasing these maps and

selling them in return to the public who may wish to purchase maps as well. It is requested that information be obtained from Service Nova Scotia to determine whether or not the Municipality will be able to sell copies of these maps to the general public. This information will be obtained by Municipal Staff and returned to the next meeting of the committee.

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CAPE SABLE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY FUNDING REQUEST

Correspondence has been received from the South West Shore Development Authority indicating that the Seal Island Light Project has just finished its assessment of the work to be completed. It is anticipated that an extra \$40,000 will be required to complete the renovations required at the Seal Island Light Museum.

It has also been concluded by the S.W.S.D.A. that a request of \$22,000 will be made to ACOA and \$10,000 will be made to the Province for additional funding. There then remains a requirement for an additional \$8,000 to complete the project. The S.W.S.D.A. is requesting the Municipality to provide funding in the amount of \$8,000 in order for the Seal Island Light Museum Project to be completed.

Resolution COW050211

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by D. LeBlanc-Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality provide \$8,000 in additional funding for the Seal Island Light Museum Project to be provided in the next fiscal year's budget, and to be funded from Capital Reserves, and to be repaid from the General Operating Fund Budget over the next four (4) years, together with interest, at a rate comparable to the current loan rate of the Nova Scotia Municipal Finance Corporation.

Motion carried unanimously.

ARCHELAUS SMITH MUSEUM REQUEST

Correspondence has been received at this meeting from the Archelaus Smith Historical Society. The Historical Society is requesting permission to replace the downstairs windows in the museum and is requesting the Municipality to provide any financial assistance for this project which may be available.

Resolution COW050212

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by D. LeBlanc-Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality provide \$2000 from the District 6 Community Grants Fund and that Council approve the renovations to the museum to replace the downstairs windows.

Motion carried unanimously.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION DINNER

It was noted by a member that the Volunteer Recognition Dinner is scheduled to be held on April 18, 2005. This is a Monday night on which a Committee of the Whole meeting would ordinarily be held. As a result of this conflict, the Committee of Whole meeting now scheduled for April 18th will be changed to April 19th and a notice sent to all councillors.

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LAPTOP COMPUTERS FOR COUNCILLORS

Members were provided with cost information regarding the provision of laptop computers for councillors. The information provided indicates that providing councillors with laptop computers, together with the required training and software, will be in the vicinity of \$14,000, plus H.S.T.

Members then reviewed this information and indicated that it would not be necessary to purchase some of the equipment previously quoted. Instead, it would be necessary to provide at least one (1) printer to a councillor who at present time does not have one, and to provide seven (7) routers so that all councillors would be able to network their laptop computers at home.

It was agreed by consensus of members that further information would be obtained about the laptop computers to be provided prior to any decision being made. This information will be obtained and brought to the next committee meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 11:39 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary for the Meeting

Copied for Councillors on February 24, 2005 by Sharon Brannen.

