

PUBLIC HEARING RE AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL PLANNING STRATEGY AND LAND USE BY-LAW RE COASTAL WETLANDS ZONE

The Public Hearing was called to order by the Warden at 7:05 p.m., in the Council Chambers, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., with the following members present:

- Warden Sterling Belliveau
- Deputy Warden Fred Bower
- Councillor Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
- Councillor Eddie Nickerson
- Councillor Larry Stewart
- Councillor Sean Strang

- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk
- Lesa Rossetti, Deputy Clerk
- Gary Saunders, Municipal Planner
- Andrew Goreham, Development Officer

There were seventeen (17) members of the public present during the Public Hearing.

The Clerk reported that the required Public Participation Meeting had been held and the required notices had been advertised in the Coast Guard Newspaper. Notification was also given to adjacent municipal units.

Mr. Gary Saunders, Municipal Planner, addressed the meeting and reported that the Public Hearing was being held to deal with proposed amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law to permit single detached dwellings, tourist cabins and other tourist accommodations in the Coastal Wetlands Zone.

The Planner informed members that there are actually two (2) amendments being considered this evening. One is the proposed amendment as it relates to the request of Dean Nickerson and the other amendment relates to proposed changes suggested by the Planning Advisory Committee.

Mr. Nickerson is requesting that he be permitted to construct tourist cabins on his property located in South Side.

It was reported that 68 emails, faxes and letters have been received in opposition to the proposed amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law.

At this time members of the public were given an opportunity to address Council. Presentations were made by Anna McCarron, Coastal Guardian Program; Jim Wolford; Joan Czapalay, President, Federation of Naturalists and member of other birding associations; Lillian Perry and Reg Newell. All were in opposition to the proposed amendments to the MPS and LUB and expressed concern regarding the habitat of the piping plover, coastal access to the public, migrant birds, wetland conservation, etc.

Dean Nickerson addressed Council and indicated that he was also opposed to the proposed amendments to the MPS and LUB being considered by Council this evening. He indicated that development in the Coastal Wetlands Zone should be more restricted.

He is proposing to develop a campground which will consist of “walk in only” camping shelters/camps. Each shelter would be wood construction and would provide very basic accommodation within a Coastal Wetland. Excavation will not be necessary at the site and heavy machinery will not be brought on to the site. Each shelter will be serviced by solar electricity and composting toilets will be located at the site. The development will not affect the traditional uses in the beach/wetland area such as duck hunting, berry picking, hiking, etc.

Mr. Nickerson informed councillors that a petition had been circulated indicating his proposal and he has received 214 signatures in support of his proposed development. Copies of the petition were provided to the Municipal Clerk.

The Warden called for additional written or oral presentations from the public.

No further presentations were received.

The Public Hearing adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Secretary for the Meeting

Copied for Fred Bower and Sean Strang by Sharon Brannen and on website May 26, 2005.

