

Approved – October 28, 2013

KENTVILLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

September 30, 2013

PRESENT

Mayor David Corkum, Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl, Councilor Nola Folker-Hill, Councilor Bernie Cooper, Councilor Bill Boyd, Councilor Tony Bentley, Councilor Eric Bolland, Solicitor Don Urquhart, CAO Mark Phillips and Recording Secretary Pat Gourley

Absent with regrets – Solicitor Cris Shirritt and Town Clerk Carol Harnes.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Corkum called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and CAO Phillips reported that, except for Solicitor Cris Shirritt who was being replaced by Don Urquhart, and Clerk Harnes whose functions as Recording Secretary would be done by Pat Gourley, all members of Council were present.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Corkum asked everyone present to stand for a moment of silence in recognizing the passing of Boyd Lutz, who was an outstanding community citizen and volunteer, whose good work in the community over a number of years, benefitted many children and adults.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Councilor Bernie Cooper and seconded by Councilor Nola Folker-Hill

that the agenda be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

NOTE

“Points from Discussion” below show various comments made by individual councilors during debate. They do not necessarily represent the opinion of the group, nor do they always reflect accurate information.

PRESENTATIONS

Matthew MacLeod – Kentville Skate Park Association
Matt MacLeod reiterated his love of the sport of

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skateboarding, and because he felt that as the sport continues to be alive and well in Kentville, that Council might consider the construction of a skateboard facility in the Town. He added that this program will support the needs of not only skateboarders, but MBX bikers and inline skaters – a group of individuals who typically do not participate in highly organized team sports. He noted that some committed individuals have arranged the registration of the Kentville Skate Park Association as a non-profit organization in April 2013; a website has been set up and tracking shows a great interest from the community; and there has been some successful fund raising and public awareness activities underway.

He presented a diagram of a proposed site, some visuals of skate parks that exist in other areas, noting that many of these have features that are portable, modular and are the traditionally designed. Subsequently, these parks tend to limit the enjoyment and challenge of skaters. He added that another type of skate park exists, with modern and more durable components that challenge the users and blend into the community, with greenery and other types of park features. This model is being proposed for the Kentville area.

The benefits of a skateboard park would be:

- Provides a social aspect which would engage a segment of our youth, which does not typically participate in team sports or other group activities.
- Provides a sense of belonging.
- Generates pride in having a facility designed for their specific use.
- Provides opportunities for physical activities.
- Would favourably add to the Town's recreational facilities and programming.
- Skate boarding is often a life time activity, and this facility would capture the older population, as well.
- It would be an opportunity for the youth to interact favourably with the police.
- Provides a facility which would be a source of pride to Town Council.

Skate Park insurance and liability rates are quite competitive. Chester, New Minas, Liverpool, Hubbards, Halifax, Glace Bay, Wolfville, etc. either have successful skate parks or are planning to add one to their recreational facilities.

Based on population, a park here in Kentville should be approximately 15,000 square feet and would cost about \$750,000 to construct. Based on those calculations, 1/3 of the cost could be paid by the Town (\$250,000), another 1/3 from fund-raising by the Association, and the remaining 1/3 from other sources such as government grants, etc.

The association has showcased skateboarding as various events, and has already begun fund-raising. \$23,000 has been made as a solid commitment and other plans are in place to reach the goal of \$250,000. In closing, he asked that the Town donate the property near the indoor soccer facility, as identified on future recreational development, and to assist in the funding of the project.

Points from Discussion

- Past efforts to create a park on River Street did not last, as the equipment was not durable.
- The project will police itself if it's located in a well-lighted area with busy traffic.
- There seems to be good support from the community for this project.
- Wolfville and Berwick are considering such a facility, and there may be an opportunity of joint purchasing to reduce costs.
- It appears that about 75% of the potential users of this facility would be from Kentville or immediately beyond the Town borders.
- Support from the County would also move the project forward and a presentation to their Council might be financially beneficial, especially as county residents will also be using the facility.
- Typically such financial requests would be considered at the next budget deliberation session.

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- The next steps will involve discussion and Council debate at a future CAC meeting.

**APPROVAL OF THE
MINUTES**

(a) Minutes – July 29, 2013

It was moved by Councilor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Bernie Cooper

that the Minutes of July 29, 2013 be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

(b) Minutes-September 9, 2013

It was moved by Councilor Nola Folker-Hill and seconded by Councilor Bernie Cooper

that the minutes of the Special Council meeting of September 9, 2013 be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM
THE MINUTES/OLD
BUSINESS**

(a) Second Reading – KCA Rezoning

Director Gentleman noted that on July 8, CAC considered an application to rezone a parcel of land on School Street from Institutional to Commercial. On July 29th First Reading was given, following which a Public Hearing was held on September 19th. As no opposition was received to the rezoning, Director Gentleman is now recommending the process proceed.

(Note: Councilor Bill Boyd, who was not at the Public Hearing and as per the MGA, therefore, removed himself from voting on the issue.)

It was moved by Councilor Bernie Cooper and seconded by Councilor Tony Bentley

that Second Reading be given for a Land Use Bylaw Amendment – Rezoning, to the old KCA property (PID 55267488) from Institutional (I) to Commercial (C1).

MOTION CARRIED

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(b) Parking Report

CAO Phillips noted that the issue of parking in the downtown core area of Kentville was returned to this agenda as unfinished business from previous meetings. The recommendation made by staff was to change the 2 hour parking to 3 hours, however, Council was not fully in support of this change and recommended more research.

Staff presented a number of initiatives regarding signage, communication with business owners and the public, temporary parking lots, public parking on private property and so on. The motion was tabled to this meeting, and therefore, it was moved by Councilor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Eric Bolland

that the motion be removed from the table.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- The 2 hour change to 3 hour parking is not an effective and sustainable change, although the other initiatives have value.
- A better approach for 3 hour parking might be for designated areas, not a blanket change.
- KDCL has not made an official statement about this report.
- An inventory of what is needed for parking would be of value, as it appears that some businesses have private parking, some use the street, and others use all day parking. This piece of information would provide greater insight into what's needed.
- It is important that the Town provides parking for those customers who require longer periods of parking than the 2 hour lots.
- The Town must make a decision that will help customers to park in Town as they do business, so they do not get a ticket.
- Staff has accomplished the task given by Council and their recommendations should be adopted.
- Many of the action items are separate from the

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recommendation and these can be initiated.

It was moved by Councilor Bolland and seconded by Councilor Bentley that an amendment be adopted to the original motion, however, the original motion was withdrawn as it made reference to a procedural requirement that was not in order.

It was further moved by Councilor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Eric Bolland

that the recommendations in the Parking Report from staff be accepted by Council, with the exception of the change from 2 hour parking to 3 hour parking.

MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) Provincial Funding – Main Street Program

Councilor Bernie Cooper noted that at the September 9th meeting of Council Advisory Committee, CAO Phillips noted that announcements were made by the Province some time ago regarding funds being allocated to certain municipalities for downtown enhancements. This Main Street Program will be an opportunity next year for businesses to apply for a \$1000 grant for each individual project that qualifies for funding. This funding was a recommendation from the UNSM Town's Task Force, for the purpose of stimulating downtown improvements by offsetting some of the costs for façade work and the like.

Council members recognized the importance of getting the information on the guidelines and the application process to the business owners, and therefore, it was moved by Councilor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Tony Bentley

that the Community Development Officer obtains the information on the Main Street Program from the Province, and distributes that to the businesses in Town.

MOTION CARRIED

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(2) Kings Municipal Airport

Councilor Bernie Cooper noted that at the September 9th meeting of Council Advisory Committee, CAO Phillips reported that with the proposed expansion of the Michelin plant in Waterville, the municipal airport will be relocated to accommodate this construction.

As he felt that the whole region benefits from the presence of this airport in the County, Town Council should endorse its continued existence here.

Therefore, it was moved by Councilor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Eric Bolland

that a letter be sent to the County of Kings to support the continuation of a municipal airport in the Kings County area.

MOTION CARRIED

(3) KDCL Funding Agreement

Councilor Bernie Cooper noted that at the September 9th meeting of Council Advisory Committee, CAO Phillips reported that an agreement was prepared between the Town of Kentville and Kentville Development Corporation Limited for the terms 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17, which would see the funding in Schedule B as follows:

2013-14 - \$105,000
2014-15 - \$107,625
2015-16 - \$110,316
2016-17 - \$113,074

He added that the Agreement reflects the core functions and services as outlined by KDCL and agreed upon by senior staff. CAO Phillips further reviewed specific clauses in the Agreement, noting the termination and dispute resolution process. He added that the Agreement was an attempt to allow for flexibility in the relationship with KDCL, while at the same time ensuring accountability and open communication between this organization and the Town.

Therefore, it was moved by Councilor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Tony Bentley

that the Funding Contribution Agreement (attached) between the Town and KDCL, be

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approved.

MOTION CARRIED

(4) Kings 2050 – Funding Request

Councilor Bernie Cooper noted that at the September 9th meeting of Council Advisory Committee, Director Bev Gentleman reported that a Memorandum of Understanding, signed by the municipal units in Kings County, confirmed their shared interest in long-term sustainable development through the Kings 2050 initiative.

Since then the Management Team has been meeting, has seen the completion of Phase 1 (The 2050 Vision) and has presented this to all municipal Councils. During the presentation, three options for continuing the regional planning efforts were identified. Following an in-depth review of each of the options, the Kings 2050 Management Team agreed to make a recommendation to their respective Councils, to commit to further discussion on the development of a regional planning framework, through the engagement of a consultant.

She noted that the funding formula was based on 50% population and 50% assessment, and that its forward movement would be contingent upon all four units being in agreement. As such, she recommended that Council gives its support at this time.

Therefore, it was moved by Councilor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Eric Bolland

that using the Kings 2050 Vision as a guide, and contingent upon the commitment of all four municipalities in Kings County, that Town Council commits \$4,200 towards hiring a consultant to facilitate discussions between those municipal units, for the purpose of developing a regional framework.

MOTION CARRIED

(5) Tax Collection Policy Amendments

Councilor Bernie Cooper noted that at the September 9th meeting of Council Advisory Committee, Director Crowell reported that this policy needs to be amended due to the phase-out of the Business Occupancy Tax. As this tax has been abolished, all references to its collection are redundant.

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Therefore, it was moved by Councilor Tony Bentley and seconded by Councilor Eric Bolland

that Town Council amends the Tax Collection Policy, as attached.

MOTION CARRIED

(6) Kentville Regional Library

Councilor Bernie Cooper noted that at the September 9th meeting of Council Advisory Committee, CAO Phillips reviewed an updated report on the library, which identified the requirements for the construction of this facility, the site development, its location within the community, the size in relation to population served, and the operational costs of the current building.

He added that it has become apparent that the original plans for a new library would not be feasible at this time, although, an existing space in the downtown could possibly be repurposed to provide suitable accommodations for the library service. There appeared to be interest for this project by some developers and two potential locations have been identified.

Therefore, CAO Phillips proposed that Town Council proceed, on the condition that the County shares the financial responsibility for the facility and its on-going operation.

Therefore, it was moved by Councilor Eric Bolland and seconded by Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl

that an RFP is prepared for the repurposing of a current building in Kentville, to be used for a new Public Library.

MOTION WITHDRAWN

(Note: As some conditions were included in the introduction to the motion (ie. County support of the costs) and others restricting the location, Council felt some rewording should be made. As a result, the motion was withdrawn.)

It was moved further moved by Councilor Eric Bolland and seconded by Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl

that Town staff creates an RFP for a new Public Library.

MOTION CARRIED

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(7) Kentville Water Commission – Citizen Appointees

Councilor Bernie Cooper noted that at the September 9th meeting of Council Advisory Committee, Town Clerk Carol Harmes reported that the term of service of a citizen appointee on the KWC is coming to an end this fall. As this particular individual is very knowledgeable in the infrastructure, technology and projects currently being addressed by this committee, she asked if Council would consider a special concession to the currently existing policy, thereby allowing this citizen to serve another term of office. Similar allowances have been made in the past when specialized skill-sets were required to carry out the committee work.

Therefore, it was moved by Councilor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Tony Bentley

that if possible, the recruitment of citizen appointees for vacancies on the Kentville Water Commission, will be conducted by KWC members themselves, and brought to Town Council for ratification.

MOTION CARRIED

(b) Fire

(i) Department Report

CAO Phillips reported that a report from Fire Chief Ryan MacEachern was attached, in which he noted that there are 56 active members and the operations are proceeding well. He added that work is being done on cost analysis for such things as heating the building, upgrading the telephone, internet and cable systems in the building, shutting down the fire horn as a community alarm system, selling the fire van and purchasing a new unit.

He added that should the fire chief position become a volunteer one, administrative help is required to attend to the day-to-day business of the service. The audit is also well underway and Matt Boates has been working on the documentation regarding the charity status of the department, and other procedural issues. He noted that it is important for the communication between the Town, County and Fire Department be open and direct.

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It was moved by Councilor Bill Boyd and seconded by
Councilor Bernie Cooper

**that the report from the Kentville Fire Department
be accepted.**

MOTION CARRIED

(ii) Joint Fire Services Committee Report

Councilor Boyd noted the next meeting will be on October 30th.

**(c) Valley Waste Resource Management Authority's
Representative's**

Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl reported that the Management
Minute has been included in Council's agenda package,
however, pointed out that:

- The statistics on waste disbursement remain fairly
consistent since last reporting.
- A year end deficit of \$150,000 is being projected, as a
result of increased land-fill costs with Chester, with
processing fees to Scotia Recycling and cost of living
increases.
- There will be a significant increase in curb-side
collection – EFR Disposal Limited has been awarded
the contract following an RFP, however, with an
increase of about 10%.
- A graft has been included on recycling costs and
collection costs, with indications being that Valley
Waste is below the Provincial average.
- Nine new vehicles have been tendered by ERF
Disposal, and their own costs have increased.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Pearl and seconded by
Councilor Tony Bentley

**that the report from the Valley Waste Resource
Management Authority be received.**

MOTION CARRIED

(Note: Annapolis Royal has joined the Valley Waste partnership.)

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(e) Kings Transit Authority's Representative's Report

Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl reported that the interim General Manager only works part time and was unable to provide a report. The interview process for a full time GM has had some stumbling blocks, as the candidate of choice has taken another position. More will follow on this issue.

From an operational perspective, the core area showed an increase of 8.33% in ridership over the month, revenue was up 4% and the numbers remain fairly consistent.

The Worker's Compensation premiums are being reduced as a result of prudent care and driving of the vehicles. The Pete's bus will be out on the road soon and will be an attention-grabber when it makes its debut.

It was moved by Councilor Eric Bolland and seconded by Councilor Bernie Cooper

that the report from Kings Transit Authority be received.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- A survey is being done as to why people take the bus and at what points they are embarking and disembarking along the route.
- The financial situation appears to be at break-even at this point in time.

(h) Councilors' Report

Councilor Bill Boyd – He attended all the meetings required and noted that he has received some calls regarding the Kings Coalition and Kings Partnership's role in the regionalization issue.

Councilor Tony Bentley – He attended all meetings and a webinar.

Councilor Nola Folker-Hill – She attended all meetings, along with the Continuing Care Forum at Evergreen and brought greetings from the Town. She will be going to Toronto for a retreat for the Canadian Association of Police Boards, instead of Harvest Festival this year.

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Councilor Bernie Cooper – He attended all meetings and the webinar.

Councilor Eric Bolland – He attended all meetings and some webinars, some Eco Kings meetings, a transit study was done (i.e. commuter to the city), a regional sustainability coordinator is being considered on a cost-sharing basis to look at several initiatives; the Shannex Pumpkin Mile will take place on October 20th.

Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl reported that he attended the Police Chief and Boards Conference in Amherst and was pleased that topics like cyber bullying were on the agenda. A panel discussion was held on this topic. Also the economic situation of policing was discussed and it was widely recognized that the old model is broken and a new one must be created.

(i) Mayor's Report

Notes from Report were:

- He and the CAO met with the Annapolis Valley First Nations Chief Jeanette Peterson to discuss the property in the Industrial Park. It appeared that expansion in that area is not being considered at this time. Members of this organization were also invited to attend REN meetings.
- He wanted to thank Princess Kentville for being on his team with the Goat Milking Contest in Sheffield Mills, although they didn't take the trophy.

CORRESPONDENCE

(a) UNSM – Key Municipal Issues for Provincial Candidates

CAO Phillips reported that a letter from President Russell Walker noted a number of items that would be important for municipalities to bring forth when discussing election issues with the Provincial candidates: They are:

- Only 8 cents of every tax dollar collected goes to municipalities.
- 65% of infrastructure in Canada is owned by municipalities.
- Almost 18% of municipal budgets pay for provincial services (education, housing and corrections)

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- New federal and provincial regulations will require more than \$1 billion from municipal taxpayers.
- Service costs are escalating.
- Service levels are suffering due to declining populations.

Points from Discussion

- These concerns were sent to each of the political candidates and each has responded.
- There will be a Valley meeting in Windsor on Thursday.

NEW BUSINESS

(a) none

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(a) none

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor Nola Folker-Hill and seconded by Councilor Bernie Cooper

that the meeting adjourns at 8:34 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED