



TOWN OF KENTVILLE COUNCIL MEETING COVID-19 PROTOCOL Meeting Minutes: June 8, 2020

This meeting was held via electronic means in accordance with the Direction from Minister Chuck Porter: "Effective at 2 pm on March 22, 2020, all municipal councils will discontinue holding their meetings in person, instead only virtual meetings may be held by video or telephone. Those virtual meetings must be recorded, and the minutes posted on a public website within 24 hours of the meeting."

Town Hall is closed to the public. Council voted by poll.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Sandra Snow called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

PRESENT

Chief Administrative Office (CAO) Kelly Rice reported that all members of Council were present: Mayor Sandra Snow, Councillor John Andrew, Councillor Eric Bolland, Deputy Mayor Craig Gerrard, Councillor Cathy Maxwell, Councillor Cate Savage and Councillor Lynn Pulsifer.

Staff in attendance included Chief Administrative Officer Kelly Rice, Solicitor Geoff Muttart, IT Manager Jason Bethune and Recording Secretary Jennifer West.

REGRETS

None.

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Councillor Andrew declares a conflict of interest around issues relating to 118 Oakdene Avenue. Councillor Pulsifer declares a conflict of interest around issues relating to the Kentville Historical Society.

Note: "*Points from Discussion*" below show various comments made by individual councillors during debate. They do not necessarily represent the opinion of the group, nor do they always reflect accurate information.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved that the agenda of June 8, 2020 be approved with one addition

- Addition: 6.a Correspondence – David Mangle

MOTION CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

(a) Minutes of Council meeting on April 29, 2019

It was moved that the minutes of Council meeting on April 29, 2019 be approved as distributed.

MOTION CARRIED

(b) Minutes of Council meeting on May 19, 2020

It was moved that the minutes of Council meeting on May 19, 2020 be approved as distributed.

MOTION CARRIED

(c) Minutes of Council meeting on May 20, 2020

It was moved that the minutes of Council meeting on May 20, 2020 be approved as distributed.

MOTION CARRIED

(d) Minutes of Council meeting on May 25, 2020

It was moved that the minutes of Council meeting on May 25, 2020 be approved as distributed.

MOTION CARRIED

4. DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) Finance

(1) Director's Report

Mayor Snow received the report for the period ending May 31, 2020.

See report for more information

(b) Planning and Development

(1) Director's Report

Mayor Snow received the Planning report for May 2020.

See report for more information

• **Points of Discussion:**

- What are the details for the public hearings planned in the coming weeks? These meetings will be livestreamed, with opportunities for submitting questions prior to the meeting, and to call in during the meeting.
- Regarding the proposed changes to the Land Use Bylaw for the Valley Community Learning Association- is the department moving forward on this? The Town has not received the application yet, but it will likely be an amendment to the Land Use Bylaw.

(2) Community Economic Development Coordinator's Report

Mayor Snow received the CEDC report for May 2020.

See report for more information

- Points of Discussion:
 - What is the status of the opening of the Visitor Information Centre? There may be a virtual phone-only VIC opening soon. There is an issue with public washrooms, and with distributing materials to the public. Anyone serving the public is required to have a plan that shows they are meeting provincial guidelines.

(c) Parks and Recreation

(1) Director's Report

Mayor Snow received the Parks and Recreation report for May 2020.

See report for more information

- Points of Discussion:
 - What is the status of opening of the swimming pool this summer? The pool will not open this summer. Social distancing and gathering make it difficult to open this facility.
 - Could the splash pad be opened? It is a possibility.
 - In the inclusion and accessibility community, Kentville has been a leader for the recreation departments work on play kits.

(d) Police

(1) Police Commission Report

Mayor Snow received the Police Commission report for May 2020.

See report for more information

- Points of Discussion:
 - The Commission will next meet on June 19th.

(e) Engineering and Public Works

(2) Director's Report

Mayor Snow received the Engineering and Public Works report for May 2020.

See report for more information

- Points of Discussion:
 - What is the status of removing weeds at Belcher Street along the sidewalk? The CAO will consult with the Director and find that information.
 - What is the status of the Unsightly Premises report? A committee is working on this issue, and is reviewing all identified properties. Letters have been written to several property owners.
 - Has the 2019 survey responses on Unsightly Premises from the business community been reviewed for this committee? This has not been reviewed, parameters were used from the Municipal Government Act.

(f) Administration

(1) Communication Report

Mayor Snow received the Communications report for May 2020.

See report for more information

- Points of Discussion:
 - What is the intent to facilitate communication between the Town and the Kentville Business Community (KBC)? Is there a need to have more formal communication between the Town and KBC to ensure positive relations?
 - Who was responsible for telling KBC that the project would include removing 56 parking spaces, and that KBC should release a survey? Wording of a motion needs to be much more specific. Staff determined that input from the business community was warranted for this issue. More information needs to be collected around this issue.
 - The business community was alarmed by this Council motion.
 - The first step after making this motion was to reach out to the business community for their input.
 - Many businesses currently have lineups into stores, which makes physical distancing impossible on the sidewalks. There are challenges and opportunities to making more room for pedestrians, and for keeping parking and making room for more cars.
 - KBC should deliver a message to their members with the correct information as part of the engagement process. It is a difficult situation, perhaps a no-win situation.
 - During the May 25 meeting, several issues were brought up including closing Aberdeen and making more room for pedestrians. The motion was in principle and did not have specifics, in order to flush out more details.
 - The intention is good to bring more people downtown, but it is important to respect the business community.

(2) Chief Administrative Officer's Report

Mayor Snow received the CAO's report for May 2020.

See report for more information

- Points of Discussion:
 - The Town has a backyard pool bylaw, and a resident has a pool that is not being maintained. Does the Bylaw wording around "fail to maintain the pool" apply to a pool that is not being used? Yes, and the Bylaw Officer will look into this issue.
 - What is the status of the regional recreation strategy? Is has stalled due to the Covid pandemic.

It was moved by Councillor Cate Savage and seconded by Councillor Eric Bolland

That the reports from the directors be received.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillors who voted in favour of this motion:

Andrew, Bolland, Gerrard, Maxwell, Pulsifer, Savage and Snow

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/OLD BUSINESS

(a) Banning of Municipal Election Signs

CAO Rice read the staff report outlining the challenges and opportunities to banning municipal election signage.

Report available

- **Points of Discussion**

- Councillor Bolland brought this to Council in 2019. This is an important issue for the environment, and also is an expensive requirement for candidates. It would be good for Kentville to make a change on this issue.
- Council sought legal input on this issue, and a report is not ready yet. Solicitor Muttart believes that a ban may not withstand charter scrutiny. There could be a regulation around the material that signs are made of.
- Signs are an eye-sore for the Town, and purchasing them is a barrier for some people to enter politics. There may be newer and more innovative ways to promote candidates. The signs may be an opportunity for people to engage with elections without internet access.
- Will the sign ban cover municipal, provincial and federal election signs?
- The environmental issues are separate from prohibition issues.
- How do other municipalities manage to have no signs? Some might have “handshake agreements” between candidates not to use signs. There is a chance that a judge could rule against this action with expensive repercussions.
- It may be more difficult to campaign with social distancing in the fall. New candidates may be at a disadvantage.

Councillor Maxwell calls Point of Order on Mayor Snow regarding a comment Mayor Snow made to Councillor Bolland.

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- Signage could be upcycled, and could be recycled to reduce plastics going to landfills. An alternative is to limit the number of signs for each candidate, and to have designated areas for signs.
- The Town of Yarmouth has passed this in that area. All Kentville residents have internet access. There is additional information about the Yarmouth ban.
- Does Valley Waste send this material to Chest to be processed? Where does Valley Waste send this material? The signs are not recyclable in this jurisdiction, and Valley Waste is not aware of recyclable election signs.
- This subject requires more dialogue, and deserves respectful discussion and research.
- The discussion should be continued during an In Camera session in order to disclose further legal information.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

It was moved by Councillor Eric Bolland and seconded by Councillor John Andrew

That Council approve the banning of Municipal Election signage in the Town of Kentville and direct staff to move forward with the required amendments to the Land Use Bylaw for a public hearing in July.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillors who voted in favour of this motion: Andrew, Bolland, Gerrard, and Maxwell

Councillors who voted against this motion: Pulsifer, Savage and Snow

(b) Kentville Historical Society Grant Request

CAO Rice read the staff report outlining the details of the Kentville Historical Society grant applications in 2019 and in 2020.

Report available

7. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) David Mangle – June 8, 2020

The organization Extinction Rebellion wrote to Councillor Eric Bolland to support his request for a ban on municipal election signs.

Letter available

8. NEW BUSINESS

(a) Kentville Historical Society

Councillor Pulsifer removes herself from the discussion of this item.

CAO Rice read the report outlining a request to move forward with the development of a small legacy green space near the Kentville Historical Society Heritage Centre.

Letter available

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

It was moved by Councillor Cathy Maxwell and seconded by Councillor Cate Savage

That Council approve the creation of a legacy green space, celebrating the 150th anniversary of the first Masonic Lodge #58, adjacent to the Via station on Town of Kentville owned land in partnership with the Kentville Historical Society at no cost to the Town of Kentville.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillors who voted in favour of this motion: Andrew, Bolland, Gerrard, Maxwell, Savage and Snow

9. IN CAMERA

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Craig Gerrard and seconded by Councillor John Andrew

That Council proceed to a closed session at 5:19 pm to discuss a legal matter.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillors who voted in favour of this motion: Andrew, Bolland, Gerrard, Maxwell, Savage, Pulsifer and Snow

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Craig Gerrard and seconded by Councillor Cate Savage

That Council return to open session at 6:30 pm

MOTION CARRIED

Councillors who voted in favour of this motion: Andrew, Bolland, Gerrard, Maxwell, Pulsifer, Savage and Snow

It was moved by Councillor Eric Bolland and seconded by Councillor John Andrew

That based on legal opinion shared in camera that Council rescind the motion to approve the banning of the municipal election signage.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillors who voted in favour of this motion: Andrew, Bolland, Gerrard, Maxwell, Pulsifer, Savage and Snow

It was moved by Councillor Craig Gerrard and seconded by Councillor Lynn Pulsifer

That Council direct staff to draft an amendment to the Land Use Bylaw to limit the number of municipal election candidate signs to 6.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillors who voted in favour of this motion: Andrew, Bolland, Gerrard, Maxwell, Pulsifer, Savage and Snow

10. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councillor John Andrew and seconded by Deputy Mayor Craig Gerrard

That the June 8, 2020 meeting of Council be adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED