



Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting

Place: Council Chambers, Zoom, streamed live to Facebook
Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2024
Presiding Officer: Deputy Mayor Arnold MacDonald
Councillors Present: Mayor Greg Henley, Carla Black, Olivia Canning, Brenton Colborne, Chrystal McNutt, and Paul Jones
Councillor Regrets: Nil

A quorum was present throughout the meeting.

Staff in attendance: Linda Cloney - CAO, Stan McDougall - Admin Assistant (recording secretary), Ruthann Brookins - Manager of Finance, Nick Purdy – Public Works Supervisor (via Zoom), Bruce Rushton – Fire Chief, and Kyle Purdy – Deputy Fire Chief

Presenters in attendance: Nil

Media and Gallery in attendance: Mark Rushton, Six Rivers News, Radio, and TV, and Jason Haughn, Municipal Advisor, Department of Municipal Affairs, Province of Nova Scotia

Bruce Rushton and Kyle Purdy left the meeting at 6:09 PM

1. **Call to Order – Welcome**

At 6:00 PM, Deputy Mayor Arnold MacDonald called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance at the meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda, Pages 1 – 2

Moved by Mayor Henley and seconded by Councillor Jones that the agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting for Wednesday, May 8, 2024, be approved, as presented.

Motion Carried

3. Approval of the Minutes – April 10, 2024, Pages 3 – 7

Approved by



Deputy Mayor Arnold MacDonald, Chair, on May 8, 2024

4. Town Departments Reports

4.1 Public Works Department – presented by Nick Purdy, Public Works Supervisor, Pages 8 - 9

4.2 Fire Department – presented by Bruce Rushton, Fire Chief and Kyle Purdy, Deputy Fire Chief, page 10

4.3 Administration Report – presented by Linda Cloney, CAO, Page 11 – Admin Assistant Report

Submitting separately – Dangerous and Unsightly Update

Linda Cloney, CAO presented that currently, the Town of Oxford has 11 cases of Dangerous and Unsightly residences. One case has been completely cleaned up. The remainder are under initial inspection or further in progress.

Submitting separately – Municipal Election Update

Linda Cloney, CAO presented that weekly meeting with the Returning Officer has commenced, working on the alternative voting bylaw.

It was also announced that anyone planning on running for Council at the next election, there is a free webinar for potential Councillors called “Inside the Civic Chamber – Insights from

Municipal Leaders”. The webinar was on serving and running for office. It was coordinated by the NSFMM and is scheduled for May 29th from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. A link to register for the webinar was posted on the Town of Oxford Website and on Facebook.

Submitting separately – Foundry Street Water Main Replacement Update

Linda Cloney, CAO presented that the tender package is now out for the Foundry Street Water Main Replacement project and posted to the public. Foundry Street was identified as part of the Asset Management process along with a few other streets including Main Street and Waverly Street. However, Foundry Street was pushed to the front due to the number of water main breaks on that street and the condition of the road. To get to this point, funding was sought from various sources.

Proceeding with this project is contingent on the quotes for the project, which are still outstanding.

Deputy Mayor Arnold MacDonald thanked the Town staff for their respective reports.

5. Council Committees and Boards Reports – presented by Linda Cloney

5.1 Accessibility Advisory Committee, Verbal report

The next meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee is Monday, May 27, 2024. Julie Glasier, the Municipal Accessibility Support Coordinator for AMANS is a guest speaker at this meeting. Julie will be presenting the new Accessibility Audit Tool to the committee and staff. This tool will aid in compliance with accessibility standards.

5.2 Recreation Commission, Verbal report – including Walk & Wheel Public Meeting

Councillor McNutt discussed with the Council that Volunteer Week was a success with many volunteers and a special thanks is extended to all that participated. Earth Week cleanup was also well attended. A random draw was held and the winner was the Grade 9 class at OREC. The prize for this draw will be presented soon.

The public session of the Walk and Wheel-ability was well received. With the public session, the data will be gathered and used with data obtained from performing a tour of Oxford's trails, roads, streets, and sidewalks. A full report will be put together for the end of May 2024 for review. A follow up meeting would be scheduled for May 29, 2024, to discuss the report and view a video on active transportation in the Town of Oxford. The report will also aid in sourcing potential funding options for active transportation improvements in the future.

5.3 Communities in Bloom Committee, Verbal Report

A committee meeting was held on Monday, May 6, 2024. Funding has been applied for seeds, soil, and plants to revitalize the community gardens near Black River Park and near the trailhead on Water Street. Potentially one would be added near the food bank, and an accessible garden established at the "blueberry chair" at the corner of Water and Main St. Unfortunately, the gardens were attacked by an invasive species and all soil must be removed from each of the gardens and replaced with new soil. A total of four rain barrels would also be needed at these gardens. A "digging party" was scheduled for June 3, 2024, and everyone is welcome to come down with their shovel to assist in reestablishing the gardens.

5.4 Source Water Protection Committee, Verbal Report

From the previous meeting, items are being worked on including finalizing a Source Water Protection Plan for approval and contacting residents who live near the Oxford well field. Work is still being done to further develop the Source Water Protection Committee.

5.5 Road Trails Act Review Committee, Verbal Report – including Public Information Meeting and next steps.

A successful first meeting of the Road Trails Act Review Committee was held and included a member of the RCMP. The public information session held prior to the meeting was discussed which saw about 50 in attendance not including the panel and speakers. More regarding the Roads Trails Act Review and the bylaw development would be discussed later in this meeting.

5.6 Oxford Capitol Theatre Update, Verbal Report

The Oxford Capitol Theatre is busy this May! May 9, 10, and 11th “The Sound of Music” is playing at the Capitol Theatre presented by the Cumberland Performing Arts Group. Youth under 12 was \$15.00 and general admission was \$20.00. Two “Jamming it Up” sessions are scheduled on May 17th and May 31st, 2024. June 2nd is the “Johnny Cash Songbook”

5.7 Library Report, Page 12

A report from Denise Corey, the Chief Librarian of Cumberland County was presented to the Council and was included in the agenda package.

The Cumberland Public Libraries posted that they were looking for members to join the Library Board and were seeking applications for a Community Board member passionate about public libraries and their contribution to the community. Those interested should bring a lived experience in diversity, equity, or inclusion, and foster productive discussion to move the library forward in Cumberland County. The member would sit for a term of 2 years with an option to renew for an additional term of 2 years. Those interested could apply on the Cumberland Public Libraries website.

5.8 Audit Committee Report, Verbal Report

The Audit Committee meeting was held on May 1st. The draft Operating and Capital Budgets for 2024-2025 were reviewed in detail and is now ready with recommendations to the Council for their approval. A Special Council Meeting, immediately following this Committee of the Whole meeting will be held to present the draft budget to the Council.

5.9 Police Advisory Board Report Pages 13 – 17 - January 30, 2024, approved minutes, Pages 18 – 22 - RCMP Report

5.10 Northern Region Solid Waste Report, Pages 23 – 25 – February 2, 2024, approved minutes

Deputy Mayor Arnold MacDonald thanked all Council Committees and Boards for their respective reports.

6. Items of discussion and correspondence – presented by Linda Cloney

6.1 Alternative Voting Bylaw – discussion

Linda Cloney, CAO discussed the Alternative Voting Bylaw with Council and the need to clarify the wording of the bylaw. In specific, Section 3 will need to change to include the option to have fully electronic voting which allows for voting by telephone and by personal computing devices shall be the only means of voting for an election. A copy of the amended bylaw will be presented at the next Council meeting for the first reading.

6.2 Roads Trails Designation Bylaw - discussion

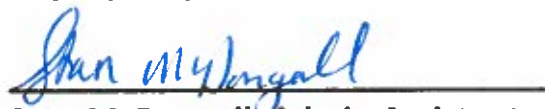
The Roads Trails Designation Bylaw is currently being drafted. A meeting was held and the consensus was given to present to the Council a first reading of the Roads Trails Designation Bylaw with the option to present a designated route rather than to enable all the streets in Oxford. The draft bylaw will be presented at the May 22, 2024, Council Meeting.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 PM.



Deputy Mayor, Arnold MacDonald, Chair



Stan McDougall, Admin Assistant

06-12-24

Date Approved