

**Beautification and Land Rehabilitation Committee Minutes  
May 11, 2010  
Town Council Chambers**

**Present**

Deputy Mayor L. Chisholm, Chair  
Mayor C. Chisholm  
Councillor D. Roberts  
M. Amit  
A. Arnold  
L. Jewkes  
O. Landry  
D. Miller  
A. Murray

A. Paon, Antigonish Regional Development Authority

D. Kampen, MPA, Chief Administrative Officer  
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk

**Absent**

Councillor D. MacInnis  
B. Wainwright  
J. Hamilton

**Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

The Chair welcomed new Committee Member, Mr. B. Chisholm, roundtable introductions were made, and the Chair provided background information on past activities of the Committee for the benefit of the new member.

**Approval of Agenda**

Moved by M. Amit

Seconded by A. Murray

“That the Agenda be approved with additions.” Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes**

Moved by Councillor D. Roberts

Seconded by D. Miller

“That the Minutes of the meeting held on March 9, 2010, be approved as circulated.”  
Motion carried.

**Business from Minutes**

- Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) Grant  
CAO D. Kampen advised that she is in the process of arranging a meeting with A. Bouchie of the Antigonish Regional Development Authority to begin to review the application to the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency.  
A. Paon noted that she had met with A. Bouchie to review where the Town is with respect to the grant application and would also be available to meet with CAO D. Kampen and A. Bouchie once the meeting is scheduled.

CAO D. Kampen advised that no guidelines for applications have been put in place to date, although some funding has been cut from the Agency's budget. She further noted that the application would probably include phasing-in of some of the projects over a two-or three-year term.

O. Landry joined the meeting at 7:12 PM.

- Duties of Gardener

A. Arnold noted that it was obvious to see where C. Griffiths has been out carrying out improvements and that she would advise CAO D. Kampen of any suggestions for work to be done and encouraged other members of the Committee to do the same.

CAO D. Kampen addressed concerns raised by A. Arnold as to why some work had not yet been carried out with respect to the trellises and planters. A. Arnold advised that she has the colour for the stain that is to be used.

CAO D. Kampen advised that the Town received funding to hire two (2) students. These students will be under the direction of the Town Engineer and would be working on staining the planters, trellises, etc.

A. Arnold spoke on other work that should be carried out including painting of the bridge approaches on College Street and having a large tree branch removed from the Cairn Park. Brief discussion took place on a dead tree in the Cairn Park and it was generally agreed to leave it alone for now. A. Arnold noted that part of a previous grant included the creation of a concrete base for the 'lion and the lamb'; however, a corner of the concrete has been broken since the forms were removed from it. CAO D. Kampen advised that T. Cameron, Recreation Director, is in the process of obtaining quotes to have repairs made to the base.

D. Miller reported that he is still working on obtaining funding assistance from businesses for the 3-sloot recycling stations.

- Hanging Baskets

A. Arnold noted that she had visited Pleasant Valley Nurseries and that the baskets are coming along nicely. It is expected the baskets will be hung during the last week of June. Brief discussion took place on outstanding accounts by some businesses with CAO D. Kampen noting that recent letters sent out have resulted in some monies being paid but not all. A. Arnold questioned what would happen if some of the baskets ordered are not taken by some merchants, as Pleasant Valley Nurseries would expect to be paid for what had been ordered. Brief discussion took place on the Town's involvement with this type of program with A. Arnold noting that it has only been the past couple of years that lack of payment by some merchants has been an issue.

D. Miller suggested the Committee review the list of those in arrears and perhaps approach the businesses individually.

It was noted that one business had requested they not pay their arrears but rather 'trade' for providing water for the flower baskets. D. Miller agreed to address this matter.

A. Murray agreed to contact Mr. G. Mason at Down to Earth Framing to see if he would participate in the hanging basket program. Following brief discussion, it was agreed to send a positive letter to merchants requesting participation and pre-payment in the hanging basket program if possible.

Moved by M. Amit

Seconded by D. Miller

“That CAO D. Kampen write a positive letter to merchants requesting participation in the hanging basket program and requesting payment for orders no later than June 5, 2010.”  
Motion carried.

- Baskets for Bridges

It was noted by the Chair that the Town pays for the baskets that are hung on the bridges.

- Benches

CAO D. Kampen noted that cost-shared funds have been approved for the purchase of eight (8) benches but they have not yet been ordered. The Chair noted that some of the benches are to be placed in Chisholm Park and near the water-park at Columbus Field.

- Trees

CAO D. Kampen advised that the Town was not successful in its application to TD Trees Canada.

D. Miller noted that C. Griffiths was able to salvage and plant some of the trees that were left at Public Works last year.

D. Miller suggested perhaps the Committee could contact businesses who sell trees, such as SuperValue, to see if some trees could be purchased at a discount price near the end of the sale season of the trees. It was suggested that perhaps C. Griffiths, O. Landry, and B. Wainwright could look further into this.

- Tree at Federal Building

Councillor D. Roberts noted she continues to work to have the tree adjacent to the Federal Building lit, and that she is looking at having approximately 1500 lights placed on the tree along with a timer. She further noted that this is an important entrance to the Town that is dark and dull.

### **Other Business**

- Budget

The Chair noted that the Town's budget is expected to be approved this coming Monday evening (May 17, 2010).

- Graffiti Policy

CAO D. Kampen advised that she has not yet had the opportunity to work on this Policy.

- 3-Slot Recycling Stations

D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk, reported that four (4) 3-slot recycling stations have been ordered. In response to a question regarding maintenance of the sorting stations by D.

Miller, CAO D. Kampen advised that this will be looked at by the Waste Management Committee.

- Journal for Judges

Brief discussion took place on what should be included in the Journal for the Communities-in-Bloom Judges. CAO D. Kampen noted that S./Cst. S. Smith is taking pictures of various areas as things are blooming. She requested the Committee identify areas where pictures could/should be taken.

The CAO referred to information provided by the Town of New Glasgow to their Communities-in-Bloom Judges and noted Deputy Clerk, D. Wilson, is following up on this.

A. Arnold noted that she has a quantity of paper clippings that could be included in the Judges package.

- Date for Communities-in-Bloom Judges: July 12, 2010

The Chair advised that the Judges will arrive on July 11, 2010, with judging to take place on July 12, 2010, and that one (1) of the judges has been replaced.

M. Amit noted it would be nice if the judges were able to attend the Mass Pipe Bands at the end of the Highland Games.

- Funding Opportunity for Clean-up

The Chair advised that, at a recent Waste Management Committee meeting, it was noted that up to \$500.00 is available for a community clean-up through the Resource Recovery Fund Board.

Arnold noted that polite comments are usually received from the judges on some areas that need attention such as weeds along the edges of buildings.

The CAO reminded the Committee that part of the job of the students hired for the summer is to assist with the Beautification and Land Rehabilitation Committee's activities.

M. Amit, A. Arnold, and Councillor D. Roberts will get together to further discuss a clean-up.

D. Miller suggested perhaps businesses could ask staff to volunteer to assist with a clean-up. Brief discussion took place with D. Miller agreeing to put something together and distribute it to businesses. D. Roberts suggested an invitation letter for merchants to participate also be included with M. Amit suggesting the work be planned and carried out in stages.

In response to a query from A. Murray, A. Amit noted she had not yet had an opportunity to follow up on having a garden made near the entrance to the hospital.

Brief discussion took place on whether certificates of merit should be issued to S. Jewkes and M. Sears for work done on their buildings.

Moved by A. Murray

Seconded by Councillor D. Roberts

“To recommend to Council that during the first meeting in the Fall (September) of each year, the Beautification and Land Rehabilitation Committee identify businesses/property owners within the Town to be given recognition for their efforts in beautification and land rehabilitation.” Motion carried.”

CAO D. Kampen agreed to bring the matter of recognition up with the Chamber of Commerce when they meet with the Mayor/Warden this June.

- A. Murray re Various Matters

A. Murray noted that the signs at the entrances to Town are fading and suggested he hire himself to touch the signs up, noting that the bases of the signs had never been painted or stained.

A. Murray noted that his idea to paint shrubbery on the concrete near the Federal Building is no longer necessary as vines are growing up in this area.

A. Murray noted that three (3) benches at Chisholm Park still need to be moved. CAO D. Kampen suggested he speak with T. Cameron, Recreation Director.

In response to a query from A. Murray, CAO D. Kampen reported that the fountain at the new library site can be taken for re-use at Chisholm Park. A decision needs to be made as to where it can be safely stored in the meantime. A. Murray presented the idea of having a base built to hold the fountain and agreed to design something.

A. Murray offered to host the next meeting (June 8, 2010) at his place, and noted it is located at 28 Bay Street – to the rear and up the stairs.

A. Paon noted that this Committee needs to have a dialogue with the Town to see how it's Strategic Plan will fit with the Town's and ensure the priorities are realistic. She further provided comment on a prioritization matrix and measurable outcomes, and noted the Town's Strategic Plan is nearing completion.

CAO D. Kampen suggested perhaps Saturday or early in the morning rather than late in the day for Strategic Planning meetings.

- Newspaper Article re Licensing of Rental Units

The Chair noted that the Chair of the Planning Advisory Committee, Councillor W. Cormier had requested she ask this Committee if they had read the recent article in The Casket and whether they had any comments.

Councillor D. Roberts noted that she had heard that this would be a way to finally get after absentee landlords and other nuisances that happen throughout the year.

- Re-development of Main Street Building

A. Arnold noted that the building being re-developed by I. Kadray does not have brackets for flower baskets.

- Antigonish Regional Development Authority (ARDA) Representative  
A. Paon offered to have a representative of the Antigonish Regional Development Authority present at future meetings of the Beautification and Land Rehabilitation Committee to offer any assistance they could.
  
- Former Petro-Canada Site  
D. Miller noted that the former site of the Petro-Canada is still unsightly. He is to e-mail CAO D. Kampen further in this regard.
  
- Use of Local Media  
D. Miller advised that the manager of the local radio station has offered to promote ongoing activities in-kind.
  
- Thank you to M. Amit  
A. Arnold expressed thanks to M. Amit for paying for and planting bulbs at Chisholm Park. It was noted that Ms. M. Williams also assisted with this. It was further noted that two other areas near McDonald's Restaurant had also been planted and paid for.

**Adjournment**

Moved by Mayor C. Chisholm

Seconded by A. Murray

"That the meeting be adjourned." Motion carried.