

**Beautification and Land Rehabilitation Committee Meeting
August 9, 2011
Council Chambers**

Present

Councillor L. Chisholm, Chair
Councillor S. Cameron
Councillor D. MacInnis
M. Amit
A. Arnold
O. Landry
D. Miller
A. Murray

Mayor C. Chisholm
T. Wadden, Interim Chief Administrative Officer
M. Fougere, Executive Assistant

Absent

J. Hamilton
B. Wainwright
L. Jewkes

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor S. Cameron
Second by A. Murray
"That the Agenda be approved with additions." Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor D. MacInnis
Second by Mayor C. Chisholm
"That the Minutes from the meeting held on June 14, 2011, be approved as circulated."
Motion carried.

At 5:11 PM, M. Amit joined the meeting.

Business from Minutes

- Wall at Cairns Park

The Chair advised that the installation of the wall at the Cairns Park would have to wait until the weather improves. The Chair noted that in June, B. Wainwright reported the area was too wet to get access to, to carry out the work.

Brief discussion took place on improvements to the Cairn Park that need to be done in the future including white stone and a pathway to each Cairn.

- Summer Work

The Chair thanked the students for the great job they have done this summer in placing flowers on the bridges and hanging baskets. M. Amit suggested for 2012 that an inventory of work be created to eliminate confusion. Interim, CAO T. Wadden replied that given plenty of notice ahead of time, this will solve confusion in the future.

A. Arnold commended the work done by the students, Public Work Department and K. Proctor, Town Engineer, and provided comment on stain that should be applied to a few benches around the Town, and in Chisholm Park.

Brief discussion took place on declaring the Downtown smoke free. The Chair stated this would have to become a policy for Downtown to be a smoke free zone. A. Arnold questioned the Committee whether the Town could handle enforcement. Interim, CAO T. Wadden indicated that when the Town's New Constable is hired this should create more foot patrol in the downtown area.

Moved by M. Amit

Second by D. Miller

"To recommend that Council investigate the potential for declaring the Centre-block of Main Street smoke-free, with support and enforcement." Motion Carried.

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New Business

- Communities in Bloom re 2011 Outstanding Achievement and Special Awards package/registration

The Chair distributed an Awards package to the Committee members for review, noting she had received the information from Communities in Bloom Coordinator Cathy Thibault. She noted she received a call from Cathy Thibault who was disappointed that the Town of Antigonish was not competing in 2011.

The Chair suggested the Town could apply for a Community Involvement- Special Award. M. Amit suggested the committee re-submit this application.

The Committee was in agreement with the Chair suggestion of entering in the Scotts – 2011 Community Garden contest.

M. Amit will get in touch with the Casket to put an ad in the paper to reach out to the community. A. Arnold suggested going on air with our local radio station CJFX (98.9XFM), that a committee member sit down for a brief interview that will be recorded and aired.

Mayor C. Chisholm questioned the Committee's motion that was carried last year (2010) re: Hiatus to stop for 1 year from submitting the Town into the Contest. The Chair stated the Town will not be competing this year in the judging for the Circle of Excellence, but will be in Circle of Excellence non competitive and non-judgmental category.

- Gardner

M. Amit suggested that two (2) or three (3) Committee members to work with the Gardener. Brief discussion took place in regards to the Gardeners experience with flowers in general. A. Arnold stated that the Gardner should be able to choose & shop for plants instead of paying Pleasant Valley Nurseries employee to show the Gardner how to pick & plant the flowers after the first year.

A. Arnold stated that the gardener should be dividing time between trees and the Flowers.
O. Landry suggested the committee bring the Gardner to Tender for 2012.

M. Amit asked the committee if both she and Ms. A. Arnold could arrange a time once a month to sit with D. Wilson and the gardener to discuss the duties for the month with the Gardner. Interim, CAO T. Wadden commented that he and D. Wilson will communicate with the Gardner and meet with him the first of next week.

- Encourage Commercial and Residential to Plant Lilies as the Town's Flowers
The Chair reported that she had a conversation with Sharon Bryson re the distinction of Antigonish as the "Town of Day Lillies". Ms Bryson indicated that she would be interested in helping out next spring in accessing lilies for the Town. The committee expressed their gratitude to Ms. Bryson for her interest in this initiative.

- Surveillance Cameras

A. Murray provided details on two (2) hostas boxes which had recently been tipped over and assistance provided by a local taxi driver in this regard. Following brief discussion T. Wadden advised the committee that P. Carey from ST. F.X. University is working on a 24/7 surveillance system at the University and has offered to look into the potential of the University to cover parts of Main Street.

Updates

- Hanging Baskets

A. Arnold informed the committee that 220 Main Reality had ordered six (6) baskets and as of July, 2011 none were in place. The Engineering students removed four (4) baskets from the Bridge to place at Main Reality and that two (2) are still missing. M. Fougere noted that on their order form six (6) baskets had been ordered for Downtown but with no specification as to where they should be placed. In the future, the invoices for each basket should note where they are to be placed. A. Amit suggested the baskets should be reviewed for the size, shape and cost, and look into some upgrades on the baskets.

A. Arnold advised that 'million bells' have a variety of colors and with the amount of rain this summer they have not been damaged. A. Arnold suggested next year the baskets on the Sunnyside should contain 'million bells'.

At 7:15 PM, Mayor C. Chisholm left the meeting.

A. Arnold commended the help from the Engineering students regarding the bridge baskets She also congratulated A. Murray on the addition of the black planters and hosta's along Main St., and further congratulated the RK MacDonald Guest Home on their beautiful new garden, as well as the new garden at the new People's Place Library.

At 7:20 PM, O. Landry left the meeting

Other Business

- Next Meeting – September 13, 2011

Adjournment at 7:35 PM
Moved by D. Miller