

**Beautification and Land Rehabilitation Committee Minutes
October 18, 2010
Town Council Chambers**

Present

Deputy Mayor L. Chisholm, Chair
Councillor D. MacInnis
A. Arnold
B. Chisholm
L. Jewkes
O. Landry
A Murray
B. Wainwright

Mayor C. Chisholm
D. Kampen, MPA, Chief Administrative Officer
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk

Absent

Councillor D. Roberts
M. Amit
D. Miller
J. Hamilton

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:02 PM.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor D. MacInnis
Seconded by B. Chisholm
“That the Agenda be approved as circulated.” Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor D. MacInnis
Seconded by A. Murray
“That the Minutes of the September 14, 2010, meeting be approved as circulated.” Motion carried.

Business from Minutes

- Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) Grant
In response to a query from the Chair, CAO D. Kampen advised that there was nothing new to report on the grant application to the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency.
- Gardener
CAO D. Kampen advised that the Motion to hire the gardener, Mr. C. Griffiths, on a regular seasonal basis had been approved by Council. CAO D. Kampen is to write a Letter of Offer to him and, pending a favourable response, the matter is to go back to Council for consideration at the November Council meeting.

- Bike Racks – Update

CAO D. Kampen advised that no correspondence has been received regarding the application for bike racks.

- Hanging Baskets – Update

A. Arnold reported that, as of this morning all of the hanging baskets had been taken down; however, the flowers in the alley-way planters will remain until such time as they die off.

- Benches and 3-Slot Recycling Stations

CAO D. Kampen advised that concrete bases need to be made for placement beneath the benches and 3-slot recycling stations. Further, an assessment needs to be carried out as to what might replace what and where; therefore, it will be early Spring before the benches and 3-slot recycling stations are put in place.

- Lights at Chisholm Park (Councillor D. Roberts)

Councillor D. Roberts was not in attendance to report on the status of the lights at Chisholm Park; however, L. Jewkes did report that he has access to 4,000 +/- lights. A. Murray agreed to assist with the installation of the lights at Chisholm Park.

- Lighting Program on Main Street (Christmas)

Deputy Mayor L. Chisholm presented an e-mail she had received from Mayor C. Chisholm from the Plum Tree Gift Shop which outlined suggestions for the Christmas season.

CAO D. Kampen advised that she had been in contact with Custom Spring and Welding and was informed that they no longer make the snowflakes or any other kind of Christmas ornament. She reported that 'snowbursts' are available from Creative Displays at a cost of approximately \$175.00 each, and that she had ordered a catalogue from the Company. On the suggestion of CAO D. Kampen it was generally agreed to give more consideration to this matter in preparation for next year.

Brief discussion took place on the possibility of using wreaths/swags without lights this year, the display set up at the Town Hall last year by Ms. J. Nunn, and whether extension cords could be used to light some trees along Main Street. L. Jewkes indicated that an informal meeting of some downtown retailers this coming Wednesday to discuss Christmas, and he agreed to try to get a feeling from the merchants as to what they would like to see for the Holiday Season. He then suggested that if lights are to be part of a theme on a regular basis, then the purchase of lights should be included as part of the budget process.

The Chair noted that M. Amit had looked after obtaining the wreaths last year. In response to a query from CAO D. Kampen as to whether enough funds remain in the Beautification budget to purchase wreaths/swags for this season, Mayor. C. Chisholm provided comment on a recent budget discussion with T. Cameron which might impact the Beautification Committee's budget.

O. Landry and A. Arnold suggested looking toward year-round lighting and suggested approaching the merchants to provide electricity. O. Landry further suggested 'up-lighting' the trees with spotlights.

Following brief discussion, it was generally agreed to order eighteen (18) wreaths, to obtain swag prices from GEMMS from Forest and Farm (Ms. V. DeYoung of the Farmer's Market), to price banners for the lampposts but if they are too expensive to purchase enough wreaths for all

of the lampposts, and to wrap red and white ribbon around the lampposts. The Chair and A. Murray agreed to wrap the ribbons on the lampposts. It was generally agreed to seek assistance from Public Works for the lampposts. CAO agreed to speak with Mr. B. Peskes regarding the painting of the banners to feature light blue with snowflakes. L. Jewkes indicated he would donate enough lights to have a tree lit along Main Street.

- Main Street – Proposed Flower Boxes Between Church and College Streets (A. Murray)
A. Murray suggested that the thirty-six (36) flower boxes purchased be painted black and be placed along Main Street between Church and College Streets, and be planted with hostas which is a perennial. Brief discussion then took place on insulating the flower boxes. Mayor C. Chisholm noted that there are other nurseries in the area and that they should also be contacted for pricing.

- Town of Antigonish “Welcome” Signs (A. Murray)
A. Murray advised that the ‘Welcome’ sign on James Street is almost finished and that he will then re-paint the signs on Church and St. Andrews Streets.

- Original St. FX University “X” Sign (A. Murray)
A. Murray advised that he had been in touch with Mr. L. MacLellan, P.Eng., of St. FX University regarding the old “X” sign to determine if the Town might be able to utilize it, but was told that the sign had apparently been ‘melted down’ by mistake.

- Strategic Plan
The Chair advised that the Town is still working on their Strategic Plan.

- Garden - Corner of St. Ninian and Main Streets
A. Arnold noted that this garden has now been completed but expressed her disappointment that the larger area had not been planted. Discussion took place regarding a manhole at the edge of the curb that a truck is required to have access to from time-to-time which apparently impacted the size of the garden. CAO D. Kampen agreed to speak with the Public Works Supervisor further on this matter. Mayor C. Chisholm spoke on recent vandalism to the garden.

- Certificates of Recognition (date for presentation)
CAO D. Kampen suggested lunch time as an appropriate time for the Certificates of Recognition to be given out; however, a date is needs to be determined. This matter will be brought back to the November meeting to confirm a date.

- Communities in Bloom
The Chair advised that the Communities in Bloom Awards will be given out in Halifax at the end of October and that she would be attending. She then expressed her dismay with The Casket, as they did not print anything regarding Communities in Bloom. A. Arnold spoke on the expectations of Communities in Bloom for the Town to continually improve. Following brief discussion, no decision was made as to whether the Town would participate in Communities in Bloom next year.

At 1:20 PM, O. Landry left the meeting.

B. Wainwright noted that the Communities in Bloom judges had suggested the Town ‘mentor’ with another Town.

- Arts and Culture Policy

An Arts and Culture Policy is to be left on the Agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

- Planting at the Landing (B. Wainwright) – to be discussed in January 2011

Other Business

- Former Dancer in the Park Site Wall re Mr. J. Vermeer

This matter is to be left on the Agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

At 1:25 PM, Mayor C. Chisholm left the meeting.

- Planting Site Near Hospital

This matter is to be left on the Agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

At 1:30 PM, Mr. B. Chisholm left the meeting.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor D. MacInnis

Seconded by A. Murray

“That the meeting be adjourned.” Motion carried.