

**Beautification and Land Rehabilitation Committee Minutes
January 12, 2010
Council Chambers**

Present

Deputy Mayor L. Chisholm, Chair
Mayor C. Chisholm
Councillor D. MacInnis
M. Amit
A. Arnold
J. Hamilton
L. Jewkes
O. Landry
D. Miller
B. Wainright
D. Kampen, MPA, Chief Administrative Officer
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM, and noted Councillor D. Roberts had sent Regrets that she was unavailable to attend the meeting.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor D. MacInnis
Seconded by Mayor C. Chisholm
"That the Agenda be approved as circulated." Motion carried.

The Chair advised the Committee that the two motions from the last meeting had been brought to Council. She further noted that CAO, D. Kampen is working on Certificates of Appreciation for those whose names were put forth from this Committee.

D. Miller commented on murals in the downtown and suggested pictures of the murals and background information be put in the Talk of the Town. Brief discussion ensued on other venues for promotion and Mayor C. Chisholm touched on a conversation with a local media.

J. Hamilton joined the meeting at 6:12 PM.

In response to M. Amit's suggestion of pre-written articles/pictures being placed in the newspaper as a 'filler', CAO D. Kampen noted that the New Glasgow newspaper features a column similar to this from time-to-time. J. Hamilton further suggested that other historical information could also be done. He suggested that from an article, the information could be transferred to an MP3 and used as a basis for a walking guide, and also uploaded/linked to the Town's website.

CAO D. Kampen agreed to check with The Casket to determine if a monthly article and/or pictures could be featured and if a photographer could be made available for pictures. It would be up to The Casket to dictate space, length, etc.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by A. Arnold

Seconded by O. Landry

“That the Minutes of the meeting held on November 10, 2009, be approved as circulated.”

Motion carried.

Business from Minutes

- Evaluation – Communities in Bloom (see below).

- Strategic Plan

The Chair advised that the Town is still working on its own Strategic Plan and once complete, the Beautification and Land Rehabilitation Strategic Plan will be aligned with it.

- Town Trees – Walkabout with H. Steeghs

O. Landry and B. Wainright provided comments on their initial walkabout with H. Steeghs. They reported that in addition to trees, they also viewed green areas that could be developed, and used the area surrounding the sewage treatment facility as an example. D. Miller suggested an inventory of green spaces be documented and prioritized for development. CAO D. Kampen suggested that the Recreation Department may be carrying out an inventory of playgrounds and may be able to include this with it. She agreed to check on this at an upcoming Administration meeting. A. Arnold cautioned not to get involved in too many projects at once, as some, such as the Chisholm and Cairns parks are still not finished.

D. Miller noted that D. Archibald of Archibald & Jones has indicated plans for the new Library will include a green park-like setting along the edge of the riverbank.

- Student Service Learning, St. FX University re Trails and Historic Building Pamphlets
M. Amit circulated the Historical Walking Tour pamphlet created by the Student Service Learning student. She noted originally two students were assigned to this task; however, one had dropped out. She noted the tour is primarily from St. Ninian Street to Main, down to the Museum. The student also gathered information for use in a couple of other pamphlets which she is expecting to receive electronically. She expects the same template (map) would be used for other pamphlets such as heritage, trees/gardens, etc. It was suggested that the provincial Heritage Department be contacted to determine if funds might be available for printing, etc. M. Amit agreed to look into making some improvements to the pamphlet and the cost of printing. It was generally agreed to try to do two (2) different pamphlets as a start. Councillor D. MacInnis suggested the Antigonish Regional Development Authority might be able to assist with printing.

D. Miller suggested that the pamphlet could be distributed to various Tourist Bureaus in the province.

- Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) Grant

CAO, D. Kampen advised that she will be gathering information in February/March in preparation for an April submission. The Chair noted that the projects would need to be prioritized as to what is feasible but the thrust of the project would be geared toward completion of the Chisholm and Cairns parks. It was noted that this would be Phase II of the project and would have to go Council. CAO D. Kampen noted she would pull some information together for

the Committee to review at its February meeting. She further noted that she would need letters of support from the community to accompany the application.

- Watering Cart

The Chair advised that the watering cart has been placed in the Recreation shed for the Winter.

- Wreaths/Lights

The Chair noted that K. Proctor, Town Engineer, had advised her that due to a water break, Public Works staff have been delayed in removing the wreaths and lights. She noted that they will take the materials down, remove the bows, lights, and rings, box them up and store them for next year. She gratefully acknowledged the assistance of the Engineering and Public Works Departments.

A. Arnold noted that each wreath cost approximately \$40.00 to complete, not including the work of Public Works staff to put them up. The Committee was advised that J. Hamilton/M. Amit spent approximately \$800.00 and D. Miller/A. Arnold approximately \$700.00 of their own monies on Christmas décor for the Town.

M. Amit advised that the LED lights don't show up with the lamp-post light shining down on them. She suggested the Committee look toward some type of tidying during the Holiday season as the garbage does not appear to be kept up. Brief discussion took place on co-ordination for Christmas décor (lights in trees), and the need for a calendar to keep track of time-lines was identified.

The Committee briefly discussed who is responsible for what in the way of garbage collection, litter pick-up, etc., with Mayor C. Chisholm suggesting perhaps it is time to revisit the notion of having a merchant association (including the downtown, James and St. Andrews Streets).

- Evaluation - Communities in Bloom

The Chair advised that a letter had been received with respect to an application for next years' Communities in Bloom Competition. She noted the deadline of January 15, 2010, to apply and questioned whether the Committee wished to continue. The Committee discussed the merits of both participating in or taking a break from the event. M. Amit noted that Halifax would be hosting Communities in Bloom this year.

Moved by J. Hamilton

Seconded by M. Amit

"To recommend to Council that the Town of Antigonish participate in the 2010 Communities in Bloom Circle of Excellence." Motion carried with A. Arnold voting against.

M. Amit suggested that the Committee work toward having additional help in readying for the event.

The Chair noted that one of the recommendations from a previous evaluation was to put together information for the judges in a booklet type format. The round-table discussion following the judging seemed to be appreciated and it was suggested this format be used again in the future (with time-lines). D. Miller suggested that perhaps a student could be recruited to put together the information for the judges.

Brief discussion took place on the need for waste resource recycling stations on the street. The Chair noted it may be necessary to purchase one recycling station per year, as the funding for

this type of program is being reviewed and may change. D. Miller suggested perhaps the sale of advertising could be used to pay for the recycling stations.

Adjournment

Moved by D. Miller

Seconded by Mayor C. Chisholm

"That the meeting be adjourned." Motion carried.