

**Beautification and Land Rehabilitation Committee Minutes
November 10, 2009
Town Council Chambers**

Present

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

Absent

Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis
M. Gabrieau
B. Wainright

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor D. Roberts
Seconded by M. Amit
“That the Agenda be approved as circulated.” Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by M. Amit
Seconded by A. Murray
“That the Minutes of October 13, 2009, be approved with one correction.” Motion carried.

M. Amit noted that discussion under Cultural Capital of Canada should have noted a possible Cultural Roundtable including the Town and partners for one season.

Business from Minutes

• Christmas Season and Budget

The Chair advised that she had met with T. Wadden, Comptroller, and at this time it appears the Committee is approximately \$6,000.00 over-budget. However, some monies are still expected from summer floral and outstanding accounts from last year – approximately \$4-4,500.00.

A. Arnold noted that labour costs associated with A. Petit of Pleasant Valley Nurseries does not appear to be included in the General Ledger as of yet. Brief discussion took place with costs associated with the gardener’s wages. The Chair advised that there would be no monies to spend on Christmas décor this year, and the Committee discussed various options. Brief discussion took place on the possibility of Public Works staff assisting if wreaths could be found. Councillor D. Roberts suggested perhaps something other than wreaths as the ‘kissing balls’ used last year, along with the wreaths cannot be seen at night. Councillor D. Roberts again brought up the fact that there is nothing seasonal at the grounds adjacent the Post Office, one of the main entrances to Town.

L. Jewkes generously offered the supply of \$500.00 for outdoor Christmas lights, and it was suggested that perhaps the Town be asked to match the offer of L. Jewkes. M. Amit agreed to check on the prices for mid-size wreaths with lights.

Discussion turned to costs including the gardener, Pleasant Valley Nurseries and Celtic Community Homes which have a huge impact on Beautification and Land Rehabilitation Committee budget.

Moved by Councillor D. Roberts

Seconded by D. Miller

“That Council consider removing costs associated with Pleasant Valley Nurseries, Celtic Community Homes, and employment costs for a gardener from the Beautification and Land Rehabilitation Committee’s budget into the Town’s general budget during the 2010-11 budget deliberations.” Motion carried.

- Evaluation – Communities in Bloom

The Chair distributed copies of the evaluation and suggested the Committee bring the evaluation with them to subsequent meetings with a view to reviewing the evaluation in sections. O. Landry suggested that perhaps it is time to re-focus – from Communities in Bloom to the Winter Lights Celebrations. In response to a query from M. Amit, the Chair advised she was not sure whether a prize would be received for the winning the Scott’s Community of Gardeners Award.

Correspondence

There was no Correspondence.

- A. Murray – Various Matters

A. Murray drew a sketch outlining recent and upcoming improvements to St. James United Church. He noted Chinese silver grass is to be planted between the windows along the Church Street side of the church, and that the bricks from the old chimney may be re-used. A campaign will be held to raise funds for planters. He was advised that St. FX recently took down a large number of bricks during a renovation and that they might be available for re-use. It was suggested he contact Mr. L. MacLellan at St.FX. He noted that the lighting had been changed at the front entrance, and that eventually he would like to see the spire illuminated. He further noted that the oak tree on the site is growing well, but would need to be pruned.

The Committee then discussed the efforts of other individuals/groups in making improvements to their holdings.

Moved by D. Miller

Seconded by Councillor D. Roberts

“To recommend to Council that CAO D. Kampen write letters of appreciation for improvements undertaken by the following: Antigonish Insurance (D. Bradshaw - exterior mural); Gabrieau’s Bistro (M. Gabrieau - wheelbarrow planter); MacLeod Group (B. MacLeod – exterior mural); and Antigonish Mall (P. MacLean – installation of planters during paving).” Motion carried.

A. Murray spoke on a conversation he recently had with S.Day, Planner, on the importance of heritage and its preservation. He noted he had intended to write to seek to be a member of the Library Board, but is now also considering the Heritage Committee which he understood had been disbanded and now falls under the Heritage Board.

Other Business

- Strategic Plan

This matter was previously discussed.

- Town Trees – Walk-about with H. Steeghs

Councillor L. Chisholm advised that H. Steeghs is willing to do a walk-about with B. Wainright or anyone else who might be interested. The purpose of the walk-about would be to provide suggestions for care, and extra care for some trees. O. Landry and A. Murray advised of their interest in the walk-about. L. Jewkes made reference to the existing tree inventory.

- Student Service Learning

M. Amit advised that the students have two items almost complete and the first draft of two trail pamphlets (trails and historic buildings) should be ready for the next meeting of this Committee.

- Talk of the Town

A. Arnold agreed to put together information from this Committee to be included in the upcoming Talk of the Town. M. Amit acknowledged the Town for including the Communities-in-Bloom logo on the last Talk of the Town.

At 8:35 PM, Councillor D. Roberts left the meeting.

- J. Nauss (Halifax Regional Municipality)

Councillor L. Chisholm reported that J. Nauss has a conflict with her Council meeting date being the same as this Committee. In order for her to attend a meeting here, either the regular meeting date would have to change, or a separate meeting held. M. Amit suggested that given the topic would centre on graffiti, other Committees might also be interested in attending as well as some of the local businesses.

- Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) Grant

In response to a query, the Chair advised that criteria is needed to move forward with the application. The Chair agreed to follow up with CAO D. Kampen on this matter. It was noted that the Town of Trenton recently received a large grant through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency.

- Watering Cart

L. Jewkes questioned if the watering cart had been drained and put away for the winter. The Chair advised she assumed T. Cameron had taken care of this but would check.

- Wreaths/Lights

The Chair confirmed for D. Miller that he was to look into obtaining lights, and M. Amit to look into wreaths.

- Next Meeting

Next meeting will be held on December 8, 2009.

- Destruction of Property

A. Arnold noted that after being away most of September, noticed that the 'curlers' were missing from St. Mary's Street. She was advised by the Chair that they had been vandalized. A. Murray further spoke on the incident. Brief discussion took place on the need for some kind of repercussions for destruction of property.

- Adjournment

Moved by M. Amit

Seconded by A. Murray

“That the meeting be adjourned.” Motion carried.