

**Beautification and Land Rehabilitation Committee Minutes  
Town Council Chambers  
October 13, 2009**

**Present**

Councillor L. Chisholm, Chair  
Mayor C. Chisholm  
Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis  
Councillor D. Roberts  
A. Amit  
A. Arnold  
J. Hamilton  
L. Jewkes  
A. Murray  
O. Landry  
B. Wainright

B. Ives, Antigonish Sustainable Development, Delegate  
R. Redshaw, St. F.X. University Student Learning, Delegate

**Absent**

M. Gabrieau  
D. Miller

**Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and gave special thanks to M. Amit for her hard work on the Communities in Bloom Criteria Award which garnered the Town the Scotts Community of Gardeners Award, and also to A. Murray for his recent mural on College Street. A. Murray offered his thanks to the Town's Electric Utility for allowing him to paint the electrical box adjacent to the mural.

**Approval of Agenda**

Moved by J. Hamilton

Seconded by B. Wainright

"That the Agenda be approved with additions." Motion carried.

**Presentations**

- Ms. R. Redshaw – St. F.X. Student Learning Student

The Committee welcomed Ms. R. Redshaw and M. Amit noted that Ms. R. Redshaw, along with another student from Student Learning have been given approval to work on templates for a walking trail brochure which could include information on heritage, culture, gardens, etc.

Ms. R. Redshaw presented information on her background, past experience, and noted her interest in heritage. She noted that she would be working with the other student throughout the year, coming back to the Committee to update them from time to time. Various Committee Members provided Ms. R. Redshaw with the names of people in the community who may be able to be of assistance or provide knowledge, and M. Amit agreed to provide Ms. R. Redshaw with contact information in this regard.

The Committee thanked Ms. R. Redshaw for her presentation and she left the meeting at 7:20 PM.

- **Mr. B. Ives – Antigonish Sustainable Development**

The Chair welcomed Mr. B. Ives to the meeting. Mr. B. Ives noted that his role is to assist groups and organizations, such as the Town, toward becoming stewards of the community as a transition toward sustainability. He noted his goal is to help people better understand the issues that surround us.

In speaking on the issue of pesticides he noted that people need to become engaged, and suggested starting with trying to get people to determine what the organic make-up of their lawns is before they consider pesticides. He suggested engaging the Weedman® as there are permitted substances that can be used. Mr. B. Ives advised that a pamphlet could be put together with information on Healthy Lawns Healthy Communities, and noted that Clean Nova Scotia has some very good information on their website. The use of the Talk of the Town was also suggested as a venue for getting information out to residents.

Mr. B. Ives noted that sustainability requires civic support, and noted that the Town provides in-kind office space along with limited use of copier, etc. He suggested large community groups such as university students should be included as part of engaging a community. He further suggested the Town and County both define how to approach sustainability, issue a press release (preferable before Christmas), and establish a Committee.

The Chair thanked Mr. B. Ives for his presentation and noted that the Town had approved a Pesticide Policy in 2008. Mr. B. Ives left the meeting at 7:40 PM.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Moved by Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis

Seconded by A. Murray

“That the Minutes of the meeting of September 8, 2009, be approved as circulated.” Motion carried.

### **Business from Minutes**

- **Committee Policy**

The Chair advised that the Land Beautification and Rehabilitation Policy has been approved by Council.

- **Hanging Baskets**

The Chair advised that the hanging baskets will be taken down as time permits. Staff from Celtic Community Homes will be removing the material from the baskets.

- **Communities in Bloom (Evaluation)**

The Chair noted that good, concrete suggestions were presented in the Communities in Bloom evaluation and A. Arnold suggested that a meeting be held to specifically review the evaluation to determine what suggestions could be acted upon.

### **New Business**

- **Benches**

The Chair advised that CAO D. Kampen will be ordering eight (8) benches through the Senior's Secretariat.

- Walk-about re Stone Brickwork

She noted that in a recent 'falls' walk-about, the deterioration of the sidewalk brickwork was identified as a significant concern, especially in the area of Columbus Field. Brief discussion took place on the quality of the material and workmanship, and it was generally agreed that a plan needs to be put in place for repair/replacement of the paving stones. It was further noted that plowing of the streets does not help the situation.

At 7:45 PM, J. Hamilton left the meeting.

- Lack of Newspaper Publicity re Communities in Bloom

Mayor C. Chisholm advised that he and County Warden H. Delorey, are scheduled to meet with The Casket to discuss, among other things, the lack of publicity of the Town's recent National Communities in Bloom Award. Reference was made to the publicity garnered by the community of St. Andrew's by the newspaper respecting their recent Provincial awards. It was generally agreed that the lack of publicity was also the loss of opportunity to continue to develop civic pride and the achievement of the Town. Chair, Councillor L. Chisholm noted that the Communities in Bloom logo will be included in the upcoming Talk of the Town.

- Cultural Capital of Canada

The Chair advised that she had recently been approached for the Town to make application as the 'Cultural Capital of Canada', which would also include some funding. She noted that E. Thomason of Festival Antigonish may also be looking to apply.

- Christmas 2009

Mr. A. Murray noted that only three (3) buildings along Main Street now have Christmas lights, and it was suggested that perhaps it is time for the lights to come down. Ms. A. Arnold agreed to request those with lights to take them down or turn them off. Brief discussion took place on using commercial LED lights this year, which Mr. L. Jewkes suggested would probably cost in approximately \$100.00 per tree to light. Mayor C. Chisholm spoke briefly on the LED pilot project that the Town is involved with.

With respect to the budget, the Chair advised that of the \$25,000.00 budget, \$19,500.00 has already been spent, and noted that costs associated with the gardener still needs to be accounted for, and that money is now being received from those who were arrears for flowers/baskets. The Chair noted she is hoping that a couple of thousand dollars may be available for this Christmas. It was suggested ten (10) trees be lit. Mayor C. Chisholm noted that the lights from last year are currently stored in the basement. The Chair, along with Mr. A. Murray, agreed to have a look at the lights.

Further to Councillor J. MacPherson's suggestion that ribbon be wrapped around the light standards to create a candy cane effect, it was suggested that the ribbons start at the top in an effort to avoid vandalism. A. Arnold noted that she has bows that could be used, but that they need to be 'fluffed'. Dr. M. Amit suggested that wreaths be placed on some of the lamp posts, perhaps intertwined with lights.

The Chair agreed to speak further with Comptroller, T. Wadden, on the status of the budget.

## **Other Business**

- **The People's Place Library**

The Chair advised that Ms. J. Nunn had been in contact with various people respecting the façade of the proposed Library and that of Main Street. Mayor C. Chisholm noted that as far as he was aware the existing windows and brickwork would remain intact. He further advised that many public consultations had been held at which time the site plan and elevations were presented; however, the exterior façade of the buildings was not brought up as a concern during the consultation process.

- **Conference Call and Boot Camp re Roger Brooks – the Silent Tourist**

Chair, Councillor L. Chisholm, updated the Committee on Mr. R. Brooks visit to the Town which lasted three (3) days. She expanded on his account of the lack of directional signage, inconsistent store hours, and lack of awareness of things of interests to many tourists, such as Festival Antigonish, The Coady, Community-in-Bloom involvement, etc. She further expanded on his 10/10/10 rule, which in many downtowns use as a guide in determining their success.

At 8:55 PM, A. Murray left the meeting.

M. Amit suggested the Town work with Antigonish Sustainable Development (ASD). The Chair requested that if anyone had time to do so, they were welcome to sit on the ASD Committee, and further noted that both she and Councillor J. MacPherson are members of the Committee.

## **Adjournment**

Moved by Mayor C. Chisholm

Seconded by Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis

"That the meeting be adjourned." Motion carried.