

**Public Properties and Streets Committee Minutes
November 30, 2011
Council Chambers**

Present

Councillor S. Cameron, Chair
Deputy Mayor D. Roberts
Councillor J. MacPherson

K. Proctor, P.Eng., Town Engineer
Interim CAO T. Wadden, CA
Deputy Clerk D. Wilson

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:00 Noon.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor J. MacPherson
Seconded by Deputy Mayor D. Roberts
“That the Agenda be approved as distributed.” Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Deputy Mayor D. Roberts
Seconded by Councillor J. MacPherson
“That the Minutes of the Public Properties and Streets Committee held on October 26, 2011, be approved as circulated.” Motion carried.

Business from Minutes

- Snow Removal Policy (Action by K. Proctor)
The Chair noted that the Town currently has an Ice and Snow Removal By-law and a Snow Removal – Parking Meters Policy. He noted it is hoped the two (2) can be combined into one (1) as an Operational Policy. K. Proctor, P. Eng., spoke briefly on snow removal in general and noted that he has been in contact with other municipal units with regard to their policies and by-laws.

Discussion took place on efforts to have sidewalks in the areas of schools plowed prior to the start of the school day and associated costs with having this carried out. K. Proctor noted that in the event of a storm causing schools not to be opened, that manpower would then be focused on the commercial (downtown) area. K. Proctor agreed to look at snow routes and scheduling, but noted that if re-working schedules is not in the budget and not sustainable it would have to be looked at again. (Keep item on Agenda).

- Canal Bridge Deficiencies
K. Proctor, P.Eng., noted that he continues to request final costs from Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal for the Canal Bridge. He noted the project is 99.9% complete. (Keep item on Agenda).
- Bike Lanes (Share the Road)
K. Proctor, P.Eng., updated the Committee on where ‘Share the Road’ signs have been placed and noted some have been stolen.

- Recycling Stations

The Committee was advised that Recycling Sorting Stations are being installed at various sites.

- Whidden Street Stormwater Project

The Chair acknowledged receipt of correspondence from the local MLA regarding recent approval for cost-shared funding for the Whidden Street project. K. Proctor, P.Eng., noted that discussion is ongoing for an agreement in principle with the landowners and is hoping work can commence while the weather is still good.

In response to a query from Interim CAO T. Wadden, K. Proctor, P.Eng., confirmed that the Braemore Bridge would likely need to be replaced in three (3) to five (5) years and estimated it would cost \$3-400,000.00.

- Policy for Draining on Private Property

Discussion on a Policy for drainage on private property was postponed.

- Braemore Bridge; Sign re 18 Tonne Limit

K. Proctor, P.Eng., advised that the 18 tonnage limit sign at the Braemore Bridge is being subjected to theft. He noted he is looking at budgetary considerations for the eventual replacement of the bridge and may look at some pre-cast materials. K. Proctor, P.Eng. noted the efforts are being made to up-keep the bridge until time for replacement.

- Snow Removal at Handi-cap Parking Spaces

Discussion took place on the removal of snow from various handicap parking spaces. K. Proctor, P.Eng. provided comment on the danger of handi-cap parking spaces along Main Street, particularly near busy intersections and where wheelchairs are involved and questioned whether having such parking spaces on Main Street should be re-visited. Specific handi-cap spaces were identified and it was generally agreed that Public Works staff would attempt to give some attention to these areas for snow removal.

- Removal of Hanging Flower Baskets

K. Proctor, P.Eng., advised that all but two (2) hanging flower baskets have been removed.

New Business

- Dead Trees re Walking Trail near MacLellan Street

The Chair reported the need to have some dead trees/limbs removed from the walking trail in the area of Arbor Drive to the rear of MacLellan Street. K. Proctor, P.Eng., noted difficulty in carrying out this work as the walkways are typically more narrow than the equipment needed to carry out the work. He noted he would have to do a site visit to see how difficult it would be to have the debris removed.

- Paving Streets; Upcoming Budget

Discussion took place on paving considerations within the upcoming budget deliberations. The Chair noted that he had received a request from a resident for Fatima Street to be paved. It was further noted that the cul-de-sac at Whidden Street requires work. K. Proctor, P.Eng., advised that they are attempting to carry out paving in blocks rather than moving from area to area and noted that paving schedule is identified in the Capital Infrastructure Plan (CIP). Brief discussion took place on paving, sewer and curb and gutter for Haley Road, with K. Proctor, P.Eng., reminding the Committee of the magnitude and cost of such a project.

Old Business

- 13 Ross Street

The Committee was advised that the Town recently had the sewer line in the area of 13 Ross Street inspected by video camera. The owners of 13 Ross Street have applied for a Municipal Servicing Permit and have someone looking at grades. It appears the problems being experienced have been the result of an improper installation from the beginning.

- 83 Hawthorne Street

The homeowner of 83 Hawthorne Street still appears to be unhappy with the results of work carried out to improve his services. K. Proctor, P.Eng., advised that the Public Works Working Supervisor will attend the site and discuss the matter further with the homeowner.

- R.K. MacDonald Parking Lot

K. Proctor, P.Eng. noted that the Town has given the R.K. MacDonald Nursing Home permission to cross Town-owned land and that off-site drainage is proceeding.

- Monthly Report

The Chair acknowledge receipt of the Engineer's Monthly Report.

- James River Stewardship Board

K. Proctor, P.Eng., noted the need for the James River Stewardship Board – made up of stakeholders from various Departments to meet on a regular basis. He noted that some discussion had taken place with Nova Scotia Fisheries and Oceans regarding permits, and that monitoring is ongoing. He further noted that if there is nothing critical that would require the Board to be brought together that perhaps an email would suffice. K. Proctor, P.Eng., spoke briefly on how the group evolved, signage in the Stewardship area and ongoing management of the area. Brief discussion took place on gates that are locked in the vicinity of the James River Dam.

Adjournment

Moved by Deputy Mayor D. Roberts

Seconded by Councillor J. MacPherson

"That the meeting be adjourned." Motion carried.