

**Community Enhancement Committee**  
**June 8, 2021 – 5:00 PM**  
**Via Zoom**

**Present**

Councillor A. Murray, Chair  
Mayor L. Boucher  
Councillor M. Farrell  
Adam Baden-Clay  
Anuj Jain  
O. Landry

**Also Present**

S. Scannell, Director of Community Development  
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk

**Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:08 PM and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Approval of Agenda**

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Agenda as amended.” Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes**

“It was Moved and Seconded that the Minutes of the April 13, 2021, Community Enhancement Committee meeting be approved as presented.” Motion carried.

**Presentation**

A. McGrath Re: Butterfly Pollination Project – Columbus Field

The Chair welcomed A. McGrath to the meeting community support worker for service learning at St. FX University. She expanded on her role within the community.

The Committee was provided with details on the DSF (David Suzuki Foundation) Butterflyway Project and the decline of both butterflies and bees.

The Committee was advised on pollinator ‘patches’ and their benefits, partnerships she has made locally, and planned activities. She noted her hope is to have a butterfly garden installed at Columbus Field and expanded on the role the Town could play.

A McGrath spoke to how the public can help and become involved. She stated she was seeking input from the Committee, in particular to a butterfly garden at Columbus Field.

O. Landry provided positive comment regarding having something at a Town-owned portion of property located at the Landing. Brief discussion took place.

A McGrath provided comment noting that a student(s) may be able to assist in getting a garden going. Mayor L Boucher suggested that the program be pitched at a joint Town/County Council meeting.

S. Scannell provided comment noting an area of Columbus Field was identified as it is a underutilized area and high visibility. He spoke further to also including The Landing and flushing out the details moving forward.

Discussion took place on moving forward with the installation of a butterfly garden at Columbus Field. A McGrath agreed to provide a layout for the garden, noting the project can be scaled.

The Committee was in general agreement to pursue the butterfly garden program.

At 5:42 PM A. McGrath left the meeting.

### **Business from Minutes**

- Mural Program Update (S. Scannell)

K. Gorman provided comment noting the artist has been contacted (along with the others) and that the lockdown had prevented a planned meeting. She noted the owner of the Posh Peppermint building is no longer interested having a mural displayed on the building, however the owner of the Happenstance Building may be interested.

The Committee was advised that J. Smeaton will be taking a photo to get the best sizing for the mural. K. Gorman indicated she would like the Chair to meet with the artist to coordinate details.

In response to a query from the Chair, K. Gorman noted banners should be going up along Main Street sometime next week.

- James Street Beautification Update (S. Scannell)

K. Gorman stated the Town will be applying for a grant for the James Street program, with a plan already in place. Staff are awaiting a formal quote on the installation of the garden. If successful, the project could be more than initially planned, with a possibility of 50-cent dollars up to \$50,000. As funding was received last year, it is unclear if funding would be made available again this year.

The Chair spoke on the location for the program.

### **New Business**

- Antigonish Landing Signage (Previously Tabled)

K. Gorman shared plans for enhancing the Antigonish Landing and presented an outline of the area from the Adam Street entrance. She noted the goal would be a gazebo with space for interpretive signage on the green space along the turn into the landing (area would have to be cleared somewhat).

The Committee was advised that this would enhance the space, make the area more welcoming and educational. The garden space would speak to garden space such as the butterfly way. K. Gorman noted this aligns with the Town's Municipal Planning Strategy.

K. Gorman noted that in discussion with O. Landry she would like to begin moving forward with partners (Eastern District Planning Commission (EDPC), province), and investigate funding.

Mayor L. Boucher provided positive comment on proceeding with the project.

- Get the Town Growing – Use of Planter Boxes

S. Scannell noted that a few years ago 'Get The Town Growing' had planted various edible plants in the Town planters. They are now seeking endorsement to use the planters close to the Library. The Chair expanded on the details, noting the group would look after the planter boxes themselves and would not require them to be watered.

The Committee was in general support of the Get the Town Growing program.

- Downtown Core Enhancements

S. Scannell noted there has been \$78,000 earmarked for general downtown enhancements which would include sprucing up of benches, replacing some garbage bins with recycling bins, more efficient planters, and carrying out some painting, etc,

The Committee was advised that the Chair identified items that could be carried out. He noted the list would be shared with the Committee and invited them to provide their input.

The Chair provided comment on Christmas décor previously purchased and noted that nine (9) additional lights have been ordered which will see lights adorned on every second light standard along Main Street.

It was noted that twelve (12) smaller fixtures for the canal bridge and four for the Whidden Bridge may be considered next.

A.Jain questioned when follow up could/would take place on discussion from the last meeting, with the Chair offering to meet with A. Jain to further discuss the matter.

The Chair suggested that each member put together their thoughts on what Community Enhancement could/should be focusing on.

The Chair suggested discussion on the matter take place during the Fall.

- No Mow May

The Chair spoke to an incident regarding a neighborhood friend involved with the No Mow May project and provided details. He further noted his hope that the Town would move to No Mow May to help butterflies and bees. Discussion took place.

S. Scannell spoke briefly to enforcement of grass related matters noting the issues primarily arise in the month of June. He spoke briefly to a Community Standards Bylaw, and noted the committee's comments could help form part of the policy. Discussion took place.

It was generally agreed to revisit this matter in the new year.

O. Landry brought forth the Farmers' Market building and a large pile of topsoil located there and provided comment on possible use for the soil.

Councillor M. Farrell noted that the soil is earmarked to be put inside the arena for the fall fair and would not likely be suitable for planting.

A.Jain provided comment that the Farmers' Market not being used to its full potential and questioned whether there are further plans. The Chair noted plans are in place to have paving done in the area. He noted the area does appear rather bleak.

Mayor L. Boucher noted the building is not currently being used to its potential (due to covid) but ideas are in the plans to use the building for weddings, dances, etc. and further noted the Town does not have a say in its use. Discussion took place.

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.