

**Community Enhancement Committee Minutes
Town Council Chambers
May 3, 2023**

Present:

Councillor A. Murray
Adam Baden-Clay
Oona Landry
Anuj Jain

Absent with Regret:

Mayor L. Boucher
Councillor M. Farrell

Also Present:

K. MacInnis, Director of Community Development

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:03 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Letter from Peter Gosbee was added to the agenda.
It was Moved and Seconded to approve the agenda as amended. presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Deferred until the next meeting

New Business - Letter

Chair A. Murray read the letter from P. Gosbee asking if the committee can consider featuring the works of Russell Welsh into upcoming public art. The committee agreed to look into ways to have a mural themed around Russell's poetry. Staff will follow up on this plan.

Summary of Mandate & Discussion

Chair A. Murray leads a discussion around the mandate of the committee. The mandates were derived from the merging of the Beautification and Recreation Committee.

The mandates read:

1. To advise and make recommendations to Council regarding plans, projects, activities, or services that add value to public facilities and public spaces following the principles of placemaking and community planning.
2. To advise and make recommendations to Council regarding plans, projects, activities, or services, that enhance the social and cultural vitality of the Town of Antigonish.
3. To engage and collaborate with citizens and community groups on the design, development and implementation of plans, projects, and activities or services that enhance community vitality of the Town of Antigonish.
4. To gather and assess information and best practices pertaining to placemaking and community planning.

The committee agreed to explore opportunities that contribute to placemaking through the lens of equity, diversity, and inclusion, sustainability, and beautification.

Upcoming projects for discussion include Tourism Strategy, Recreation Policy, Arbor Drive Playground Design, and ongoing Beautification efforts.

Language Signage Discussion

It was discussed that there were opportunities the Committee should explore to be more language inclusive with its signage. Chair A. Murray shared details on the second and third phase of the street sign plan and opportunity to include Mi'kmaq and French language. A. Baden-Clay suggested learning more about the pre-colonial history of Antigonish to get a better perspective of our Mi'kmaq heritage and significance. It was suggested to invite representatives from Paqtnkek to the next meet to learn more about the history and where we could have more recognition of their history within Town.

Beautification Updates

Hanging Baskets

Chair A. Murray shared update on the hanging basket program. Identifying that the Town would not be placing flower baskets in front of businesses this year due to annual water conservation measures. Flower baskets will be placed on the bridges as in previous years. The goal is to get self watering baskets for the bridges in future years.

Pride Guard Rail & Chisholm Park

Chair. A Murray and K. MacInnis shared details on maintenance to the Pride Guard Rail as well as a proposed idea for Chisholm Park, pending budget approval. In addition, African Marigolds will be added to the garden under the welcome sign in Chisholm Park. A. Baden-Clay suggested investigating the potential for a policy for the Town regarding the planting of Nova Scotia/Antigonish native plants. Further investigation will have to be done on plants native to our area.

Adjournment

6:10