

**Community Enhancement Committee Minutes  
Town Council Chambers  
July 5, 2023**

**Present:**

Councillor A. Murray  
Mayor L. Boucher  
Councillor M. Farrell  
Oona Landry  
Anuj Jain

**Absent with Regret:**

Adam Baden-Clay

**Also Present:**

Dianne Wilson, Deputy Clerk  
K. MacInnis, Director of Community Development

Corey Julian, Chief, Paq'tnkek First Nation  
Darryl McDonald, Director of Operations, Paq'tnkek First Nation  
Rose Paul, Director of Economic Development, Paq'tnkek First Nation

**Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 5:10 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda**

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the agenda as presented." Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes**

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Minutes of the May 3, 2023, as presented." Motion carried.

**Welcome**

Chair, Councillor Andrew Murray welcomed Chief Corey Julian, Darryl McDonald and Rose Paul of Paq'tnkek First Nation and roundtable introductions took place.

**Summary of Tri-Council Meeting**

Councillor A. Murray provided the committee with an overview of the recent tri-council meeting of the Town, County and Paq'tnkek First Nation, noting it is hoped that the tri-council meetings would continue.

Mayor L. Boucher spoke on acknowledgement of Mi'kmaq territory within the Town, with Rose Paul noting that Mi'kmaq were the earliest residents of the area and stated that the idea of recognition of the Mi'kmaq presence would speak volumes.

Councillor A. Murray noted that Phase I of updating the street signs acknowledged the Gaels of the area and that he assumed that the next phase would include the Mi'kmaq territory.

Chief Julian suggested acknowledging the land as 'skin dresser' territory. Discussion took place on the meaning of Antigonish and how it relates to the Mi'kmaq.

The Committee was advised on the 'districts' of the Mi'kmaq in the province and specifically the Antigonish area.

Discussion took place on items that are sacred to the Mi'kmaq people, such as the red-tailed hawk and other animals. It was noted that the bear is of great significance to the Mi'kmaq people.

It was suggested that the importance of the bear be acknowledged on the Town's mural.

Mayor L. Boucher spoke on The Landing area and how acknowledgements could be installed in that area.

Brief discussion took place on the Antigonish Heritage Museum, and it was noted there is a very small, but permanent display at the museum.

It was suggested that a sub-committee be formed to work on ideas moving forward.

Discussion took place on means of acknowledgement and how it could be achieved.

Councillor A. Murray suggested the following be worked on as a start:

- Welcome signs.
- Bear mural
- The Landing (animals, etc.)
- Antigonish Heritage Museum

The idea of teaching workshops was discussed (i.e basket making).

Discussion also took place on how sacred teachings are passed down from elders and not written.

The Committee was advised on efforts being made with various local communities moving forward and actions and ways being taken in other areas.

It was generally agreed that K. MacInnis would work with representatives of Paq'tnkek to form a sub-committee to come up with ideas to move forward - Kerry Prosper was identified as a key person to contact.

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:18 PM.