

Beautification and Land Rehabilitation Committee
February 13, 2018
Council Chambers

Present

Chair, Councillor A. Murray
Deputy Mayor D. Roberts
Councillor M. Farrell
D. Geldart
L. Jewkes
D. Kyle
O. Landry
A. Arnold
S. Scannell, Special Projects Coordinator

Absent

Mayor L. Boucher
D. Miller

Call to order

Councillor A. Murray, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.

Approval of the Agenda

It was moved and seconded that the Agenda be approved with the addition of an item, "Wreath Removal Timeline".

Approval of the Minutes

"It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of January 9, 2018 be approved." Motion Carried

New Business

• **Report and Presentation (Tree Sub-Committee)**

D. Geldart presented the Tree Sub-Committee's review of the trees located on Town of Antigonish property. The report included a discussion on pruning, soils, the tree inventory, and the development of a tree plan.

The presentation included on-going input and discussion from the Committee. Some of the key discussions points addressed:

- The need for corrective pruning early in the season. The start date of the Town Gardener, it was noted, may be too late to allow for effective pruning and questioned whether his item can be extended to earlier in the season. A question was also raised as to whether the members of the tree subcommittee can prune trees if the Town Gardener is not available. The Special Projects Coordinator was to look into this matter further.
- Soils discussions noted that many trees were identified in a 2005 report as being nutrient deficient. A discussion ensued on the testing of soils for nutrient content and for compaction. It was noted that assistance may be provided by the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture on this matter.

- Tree inventory discussions centered on the benefits of creating a tree database. The presentation provided details on how that would be accomplished. Discussion ensued on investigating funding support for a summer student to assist in the completion of the inventory, as well as online training opportunities for staff and contracting for arborist services, if required. It was also noted that, following the retirement of staff, that the Town ought to consider adapting the job description of the Town Gardener to include background knowledge or expertise on trees.
- Tree planning discussions included a conversation around developing a list of tree species that are suitable for their location and the climate. This list would be used to inform the replacement process or new plantings. Some discussion also included the interest in identifying a signature tree for the Town.

Overall, the Tree subcommittee recommended: Initiating a pruning program, completing soil analysis samples, beginning data collection for a tree inventory, and developing a tree selection process for new plantings. It also included the creation of an educational outreach plan, and the development of an urban forest plan for the Town of Antigonish.

- **Budget Preparation 2018/19 Preparation**

s. Scannell shared a budget planning document to the Committee and asked that members rank their top four options for consideration in the budget. Upon reviewing the list the Committee removed two items from future consideration: the replacement of benches in Chisholm Park and constructing a stage in front of Town Hall as there will be future accessibility improvements made in this area.

- **Wreath Removal Timeline**

S. Scannell updated the Committee that the work request to MMI Roofing has been issued by the Recreation Department to remove the wreaths on the Town light standards and businesses. It was noted that the service was to be completed within the month, subject to where we fall in the order of the contractors work schedule.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM.