

Police & License Committee Meeting

June 6, 2017

Town Council Chambers

Present

Councillor D. Roberts, Chair

Councillor M. Farrell

Sgt. W. McBeath

S/Cst. J. Pellerin

S/Cst. S. Smith

Mr. R. Proctor St. FX University Representative

Ms. J. De Leebeeck, St. FX Student Life Representative

St. FX Representative Zakariya Chatur

Also Present

Ms. D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk

Mr. S. Scannell, Special Projects Coordinator

CAO J. Lawrence

Councillor W. Cormier

Councillor J. MacPherson

Delegates

Mr. K. MacCormick et Al

Absent with Regret

Mayor L. Boucher

Call to Order

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

Approval of Agenda

"It was Moved and Seconded that the Agenda be approved as circulated." Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Minutes of February and noted of April 18, 2017." Motion carried.

Presentations

- Mr. K. MacCormick Re: Piper's Pub

The Committee was advised that Mr. MacCormick was representing residents in the area of St. Ninian Street, who had gathered together on May 27th to discuss the music that emits from Piper's Pub and other issues.

Mr. MacCormick commended the Pub for their community work through charitable events, but noted that over the past seven years the level and frequency of noise interfering with residential spaces has increased, and that a binge drinking culture is affecting the area. He stated he believes education and enforcement are needed, and further that some residents are seriously considering leaving the area.

The Committee was advised of numerous recent complaints that had been made, and calls to the RCMP. Mr. MacCormick expressed frustration with the lack of action by the RCMP and noted that if the RCMP are unable to take action that By-law enforcement staff should be working during the hours that the disturbances are occurring.

Various positive scenarios that might enlighten the situation were brought forth.

The Chair thanked the delegates for attending and noted that later in the meeting the Committee would be discussing a noise meter, and trying to figure out what to do. She advised that she would be back in touch with them.

At 12:21 PM Mr. MacCormick and the delegates left the meeting.

- Crosswalk Vincent's Way/Hawthorne Street

The Chair welcomed Councillor J. MacPherson and noted he wished to speak to the matter of a crosswalk from Vincent's Way to a convenience store on Hawthorne Street. Councillor J. MacPherson noted he had observed the area, and was told that as many as 90 children are in the area. He further noted that the matter was brought up while he was campaigning on Hawthorne Street, and is a concern as part of Highway #245 brings a lot of traffic into the area.

Councillor J. MacPherson suggested that a current x-walk near Thompson Street could be relocated to Vincent's Way and cross near the convenience store.

S/Cst. S. Smith noted a similar presentation was made in the past. He noted that vehicles pull straight in to the convenience store and back out, possibly putting children at risk. Discussion ensued. S/Cst. S. Smith, along with others agreed to visit the site.

- Deputy Mayor W. Cormier Re: Pub Activity

Deputy Mayor W. Cormier noted he had spoken with a resident of St. Ninian Street. He noted two issues of concern: on street activity and music emanating from the pub.

The Committee was advised that Deputy Mayor W. Cormier attended the pub to see if there was anything that could be done, and provided comments on a vestibule, the location of a door, and numerous windows that open on the bottom that may be used as part of a solution to keeping noise in check. He further suggested having a sound expert come in during big event to do a check and make suggestions.

Discussion then turned to the former Philatelic Centre and the possibility of partnering with the new tenants in an effort to help lessen on street activity that also affects the neighborhood.

The Chair noted the Deputy Mayor's comments would be taken into consideration.

Ongoing Business

- Funding for Crosswalk Program(s) \$2,500.00

The Chair noted funding for crosswalk program(s) has been requested, with CAO J. Lawrence noting that funding for the crosswalk program and meter repairs are contained in the first draft of the budget.

S/Cst. S. Smith noted there are six (6) flags still in place, at the pilot project site. He advised that the Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL) can do tubes but cannot do the remainder of the work required to provide the flagging system at other locations. S/Cst. S.

Smith noted that one business is willing to sponsor a crosswalk on James Street, and that \$300 has been received from the Heart & Stroke Association to be put toward the program.

S/Cst. S. Smith noted the original supplier can provide all the materials required and agreed to communicate with CACL.

The Chair noted further discussion would take place at the next meeting and requested Committee members submit any suggestions on crosswalk locations to the attention of the Chair or S/Cst.S. Smith.

The Chair suggested that at the next Council meeting she would speak to the program and note the Town is open to sponsors.

S/Cst. S. Smith noted he had received a suggestion of using the intersection at College/Pleasant Streets as a possible location.

- Exit Tim Horton's

S/Cst. S. Smith noted as part of the Development Agreement, the developer is responsible to install a right hand turn only sign where vehicles exit the business. He noted that he had sent emails to both Planning staff. CAO J. Lawrence advised he would speak to staff on the matter and report back to Committee.

- Taxi Fees

The Chair noted Ms. C. MacDougall had responded to a voice mail, is still working on the matter, and is seeking the next meeting date of this Committee.

New Business

- Left Turn on Sydney Street

S/Cst. S. Smith noted that Mayor L. Boucher had spoken with him and would like to request the RCMP enforce the area, with Sgt. W. McBeath noting the matter.

- Open Fires

The Chair questioned whether the Town should have an awareness program on the fact that open fires are not permitted. Discussion ensued, with S. Scannell and CAO J. Lawrence agreeing to discuss how to best to make people aware.

The Chair noted that a recent caller to the RCMP regarding an open fire, the person was directed to call the fire department. Discussion ensued, and it was noted that if a fire is out of control, 911 should be called, but open pit fires should be reported to By-law Enforcement staff. It was noted that fire pits with a wire mesh cover are permitted.

Street Fair Traffic Flow

The S/Cst. noted that meetings are ongoing regarding the Street Fair. He further noted that the Antigonish Downtown Business Association (ADBA) had commissioned Safety First for a traffic plan however the company has concerns that need to be addressed. Further meetings are scheduled for today and tomorrow.

S/Cst. S. Smith noted concern with large vehicles making turns in some areas, and that logically and financially the organization would be better off using the area behind Main Street, beginning at Chisholm Park.

Mobile Vending License By-law

S/Cst. S. Smith noted that the Mobile Vending By-law is in need of review, with CAO J. Lawrence noting a permit/license is required unless you are on private property, and further noted that the Town of Port Hawkesbury requires a permit regardless of location.

S/Cst. S. Smith noted his thought was that it might be best to combine the Trade and License By-law and Mobile Vending By-law into one, as they have many similarities.

Noise Meter

The Chair noted she spoken with the CAO regarding the Town's noise meter. Discussion ensued.

CAO J. Lawrence noted it is the Town's responsibility to have the meter, and intends to discuss the matter with staff. He further noted he is committed to getting access to a noise meter.

S/Cst. S. Smith agreed to look into noise meters. Sgt. W. McBeath stated he would check to see if one might be available to loan.

Crosswalk Signage

S/Cst. S. Smith distributed a picture of solar flashing light, noting the information came from the Town Engineer, and noted the prices.

Reports

- St. FX University Representatives

J. DeeLeBeek noted that an orientation committee has started, and that they will likely be requesting a noise exemption for an event(s) on campus.

R. Proctor – An updated report was distributed and reviewed item by item including Spring Convocation, Conference Services, High School Graduation, issues with weddings at Crystal Cliffs, Canada Day, Campus Construction, impact to community due to construction, and staff being directed not to park on campus. The Committee was advised that there is going to be a lot of workers on campus over next couple of years.

Parking – The Committee was advised on an ongoing issue with people trying to find parking, now to be compounded with construction. Details were provided on looking at permit based parking (free), for all employees and staff who want to bring a vehicle on a regular basis, also there will be guest parking. West Street apartments will be coming down, and changes around traffic flow. S/Cst. S. Smith suggesting experimenting once construction begins. Further information was provided.

R. Proctor suggested that some staff may be able to provide assistance in the area of St. Ninian Street to the pub.

- St. FX Student Union Representative

The Student Union (external), Z. Chatur, noted that they are working with student life on orientation week, working toward other events, and perhaps a smudging event. It was noted they are looking for transparency re university budget, and that they want to work with the Town to figure out what they can do.

It was noted student enrollment is expected to be approximately the same as last year.

- RCMP Report

Cst. W. McBeath circulated the RCMP April report, and provided comment on the university winding up, calls for services, and impaired driving.

The Committee was advised that Cst. Morgan is now in his 2nd full year as a Community Policing Officer and works with schools, seniors, etc., and spoke to some of the programs/initiatives undertaken. He further provided and update on staffing resources

Sgt. W. McBeath noted April 1st was the beginning of their fiscal year, and provided details on new goals and initiatives being put in place for the year.

The Committee was advised that, by quarter, modified vehicles, loud mufflers, tinted windows, stereos will be enforced and tracked, and provided comment on fishing wharfs as a seasonal issue. Sgt. W. McBeath requested that the Committee advise on anything else they would like addressed, with the Chair noting speeding on some town streets as an issue.

Councillor M. Farrell commented that while campaigning she received a number of comments on the negative impact Homecoming has, and that every year it appears to be getting worse.

In response, J. DeLeBeek spoke to student misconduct, and noted someone is being trained in restorative justice, which provides an opportunity to engage the community, and that it will be specifically for Homecoming.

R. Proctor noted there is still the issue of young people who need a place to go. He noted there is still no all wheels park, and that this appears to mostly affect those ages 8-16. He suggested we do some deep thinking on what can be done for them. R. Proctor noted that chasing away the kids doesn't do much, and spoke to the possibility of a youth initiative.

By-law Enforcement Report

S/Cst. S. Smith spoke to a recent drug store robbery in Town, noting the same people had carried out robberies in other areas of the province and have since been apprehended.

The By-Law Enforcement Monthly Report was distributed. It was noted that staff will put out proposals for towing services when required. Two recent accidents at corner College and Main Streets were referred to. S/Cst. S. Smith noted requests have gone to Public Works for new signage for some areas. He further noted he is working with the Antigonish Downtown Business Association on details for the Antigonish Street Fair. It was noted that S/Cst. J. Pellerin was involved with Police Week activities, and that S/Cst. S. Smith had attended the By-law Officers conference.

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting to be held on Tuesday July 11th.