

MEMORANDUM

TO: Warden and Council
FROM: Nelson Bezanson, Municipal Planner
DATE: February 28, 2018
RE: **New Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw**

Background: Nearly two years ago the municipality undertook the process of revising, updating and consolidating the six current Municipal Planning Strategies (MPS) and Land Use Bylaws (LUB) /secondary plans and bylaws into a single cohesive, forward looking plan.

Key objectives of this review were: to review and update the goals and objectives of the Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS); address gaps and problem areas; integrate innovative new policy directions; create opportunities to resolve points of conflict; reduce bureaucratic obstacles; promote development opportunities; and to ensure that approval processes are clear and easy to understand.

Work on this MPS and LUB incorporated previous planning related studies (Stantec) along with newly commissioned studies on river floodplains (Tim Webster) and Coastal Risk Assessment (CBCL). The project also produced a *Planning Analysis Report* which helped inform the discussion and identify key issues and challenges that need to be addressed by planning policy, as well as providing mapping to guide where zones are placed through the MPS and LUB. This is an excellent resource document and worth taking the time to read. Like other materials it's available on the plancumberland.ca website.

A comprehensive public engagement strategy was developed with Upland. Three extensive rounds of public consultation occurred over more than a year. This engagement first informed the public about the project, then focused input on key topics addressed in the planning analysis and then presented the first draft to the public for input. A second draft was then shared widely with the public, stakeholders and neighbouring Towns. More focused meetings were conducted with The Nature Conservancy of Canada, Parrsboro Creative, the Federation of Agriculture, Pugwash Chamber of Commerce, the Cumberland Business Connector, key developers and numerous other individuals and groups who all had an impact on the final documents. The public engagement strategy reached over 400 people at approximately three dozen public meetings and many smaller group meetings. Many more people were reached online through the PlanCumberland Facebook page and website.

Recommendation: **Give first reading to adopt the new Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw and repeal all current ones.**

Process: If first reading is approved, a public hearing can be scheduled for April 4 prior to Council voting on second reading and possible approval. If passed, the MPS/LUB is forwarded to the Provincial Director of Planning for approval. The amendment is then advertised and comes into effect.