

COUNCIL

JANUARY 27, 2009

#09-01

The Parrsboro Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 27th, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Doug Robinson presiding.

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor David Harrison
Councillor David Howe
Councillor Dawn Reid
Councillor Lois Smith
A.D. Brown, C.A.O.
Dylan Heide, Municipal Intern
Kevin Yorke, Secretary

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Lois Smith, seconded by Councillor Dawn Reid that the Agenda be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

3. PRESENTATION - PAUL HILL RE: HEALTH COORDINATOR

Paul Hill, Chair of SPAR (Southampton, Parrsboro, Advocate and Region) Community Health Board presented an overview of the work carried out by Parrsboro and Area Wellness Coordinator, Linda McPhee, noting that in 2007 the need for this position was identified to promote healthy life styles in the community by building on programs currently available and bringing in new programs to the area. Mr. Hill advised that Linda would have been here this evening, however, was unable to attend due to another commitment.

SOAP Program - An interactive presentation with the pre-school, primary and grade one classes on hand washing. Both Parrsboro and Advocate schools participated in the program. Each year sponsors from the local area allow the health board to purchase posters and bars of soap which are handed out to students from P-6.

Gambling Sign Posters - A Yellow Flag Campaign to spread the message of responsible gambling. Sign holders were purchased and distributed throughout the communities of Parrsboro, Advocate, Southampton and Region.

Memory Walk, Alzheimer Society of Nova Scotia, Coordinator - This was the second annual Memory Walk to take place in Parrsboro. In previous years the Memory Walk was coordinated by Dawn Reid. This year she did not have the time to coordinate the event and approached me with the idea. Proceeds from the walk go towards research, education, programs and services for Nova Scotians affected by Alzheimer and other related dementia. There was an increase in participation from last year and the participants raised over \$550.

Walk Around the World, Coordinator - Walk around the World is an initiative of the Healthy Parrsboro and Area Committee and the SPAR Community Health Board. It is a new program to the area which will promote moderate exercise, health and well being for all age groups. The goal of the project is to increase individual physical activity levels by challenging participants to "walk around the world". Responsible for the coordination, promotion and organization of the program.

Youth Health and Wellness Survey - I created a survey oriented towards grade 7 - 12 students at the Parrsboro Regional High School. The survey covered topics such as drug and alcohol use, gambling, smoking, nutrition, bullying, stress, active lifestyles and self esteem. Through the survey I was able to gain insight into problematic issues for youth in this area. The survey was completed by over 189 students. I was able to learn about the youth in our area, their health concerns and explore possible areas of expansion.

Relay for Life, Canadian Cancer Society, Cancer Aware Chair - The Canadian Cancer Society held its first Relay for Life in the Parrsboro area on June 13, 2008. The twelve hour relay drew over 20 teams and raised over \$53,000. As Chair of Cancer Aware on the Relay Planning Committee, I was responsible for the promotion of the Canadian Cancer Society programs, services and cancer prevention. The Chair of Cancer Aware plans for fun, yet educational activities that focus on funding research, primary prevention, advocacy and support services.

CCTS - Cumberland County Transportation Services Society, Secretary - The mandate of CCTS is to provide a quality, inclusive transportation service to all residents facing barriers to transportation in Cumberland County. CCTS will ensure persons with disabilities, seniors, low income families and all transportation disadvantaged residents have access to transportation. As the secretary of the society it is my responsibility to create an agenda and record the minutes along with any other duties deemed necessary.

Skate Park Committee, Secretary - Recently there has been extensive damage done to the original park and its equipment. Most of the equipment was no longer safe for youth to use, therefore, it was removed. An attempt to design a new park was initiated by Recreation Director, Marc Chagnon and the Youth Town Council. The new committee will be responsible for the design, fundraising and maintenance of the new park. As the secretary of the committee is my responsibility to create the agenda and record the minutes along with any other duties deemed necessary.

Heart and Stroke Walkabout, Heart and Stroke Foundation of Nova Scotia - A province wide initiative to create a new culture of walking.

Town of Parrsboro, Summer Programs, Volunteer - Provided assistance to Recreation Director with summer program coordination. Assisted town employees with Kiddie Camp every Wednesday afternoon and occasionally attended sports with the Sports Instructor and teacher.

Youth Town Council, Volunteer - Encouraged local youth to actively participate in their town and to facilitate the acquisition of marketable job skills and academic skills. Volunteer through different events and activities.

Youth Action Team, Volunteer - The Youth Action Team is composed of two representatives from each grade in the Parrsboro High School who are responsible for promoting healthy lifestyles in both schools. Assisted this group with numerous events and activities.

- CAAWS Workshop (Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport and Physical Activity)

- AWARE, Race against Drugs Program, Grades 4-6

- Mentor Training for grade 5 and 6 students to provide leadership in the Elementary School

Healthy Parrsboro & Area Committee, Seniors, Dinner, Volunteer

On behalf of the Community Health Board, Mr. Hill expressed his gratitude for the work that Linda performed over the past year and thanked Council for the use of office space in the Town Hall building.

Mayor Robinson recognized the efforts of both Paul and Linda which he stated have had a positive impact on the health and wellness of the area. He also wished Linda the best in all future endeavours.

4. LAWRENCE NICOLL RE: EMO

Mayor Robinson noted that Council has been struggling with the EMO situation in Parrsboro for a number of years and that what they have been looking for is someone with the background in that field of endeavor to move that process along. He advised that it was very fortunate that an individual moved to the town and has volunteered to become the Town's EMO Coordinator. At this point he introduced Mr. Lawrence Nicoll.

Mr. Nicoll stated that the EMO position looks very interesting and that with his 22 years in fire service and Provincial EMO training he can appreciate how all services and even private citizens make a difference in any emergency. He noted that there is a lot of work to do and that he would be meeting with the Mayor shortly to decide on what direction to take. This would be followed by a meeting of all the organizations involved to introduce himself as the EMO Coordinator and ask if they might be interested in contributing to the process. Mr. Nicoll noted that while there are not a lot of hazards in Parrsboro, having an emergency response plan is a requirement of law.

Mayor Robinson noted that there has been a lot of paperwork building up over the years that had been started by then Fire Chief Jeremy Dunphy which was passed on to him and then on to Dylan Heide who managed to get it into some logical order and now that is being passed on to Mr. Nicoll. He thanked Mr. Nicoll for joining the EMO team and indicated he looked forward to the first meeting to plan what should be done. The Mayor also noted that it is incumbent upon Council to form a committee for EMO but stated his preference for doing that after the initial ground work is laid.

5. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Jim Atkinson presented the following report for the period October 8, 2008 to January 27, 2009.

Auto Accident	2
Auto Fire	1
Structure, Mutual Aid	1
Flu Fire	3
First Responder	
Medical and Lift Assist	1
False Alarm	2

Membership

We have 16 active members and 2 auxiliary members. One application is on file. We have gained 4 new members over the past year; Alex Matthews, David Young, Lloyd Smith and Andrew Carter. We had 1 member move away and 1 resign as he did not have enough time as he was working out of town.

Training

We have completed some training over the past few months and are going to have more training nights through the winter.

Highlights of the Year

During the past year we have built a storage shed, purchased a zodiac boat for water rescue. We are currently in the process of purchasing a generator large enough to run the Fire Hall in an emergency power outage or EMO disaster.

Equipment

We received our new truck from the Town in July of this year.

Following the report the Chief answered questions. He also thanked the Town Council for the new fire truck which he indicated was badly needed and a vehicle that would serve the department for many years. The Chief also acknowledged with gratitude the assistance of our MLA, Murray Scott, in procuring Provincial funding for the generator, zodiac boat and storage

shed.

6. **APPROVAL OF CHEQUE SHEET**

Moved by Councillor David Howe, seconded by Councillor Dawn Reid that the General Cheque Sheet in the amount of \$237,395.41 be approved as presented. **Motion carried.**

7. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Robinson asked if there were any errors or omissions noted in the Council minutes of November 25th, 2008 (#08-11). Hearing none the minutes were declared approved as circulated.

8. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(a) **Finance** - Report given by Deputy Mayor David Harrison:

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

DECEMBER 2008/JANUARY 2009

(a) **Salary Scales** - The C.A.O. reviewed a draft salary administration policy and salary scales for Town employees with the Committee.

After a discussion the Committee recommended the approval of the salary administration policy and salary scales as presented.

(b) **CANSA** - Correspondence received from the Canadian African Nova Scotian Association invited the Warden and Mayors of Cumberland County to a reception on February 2nd in recognition of African Heritage month. Each municipal unit was asked to make a donation to help defray the cost of light refreshments.

After a discussion the Committee agreed to a \$50.00 donation pending additional

information.

(c) Cumberland County Transportation Services - Correspondence from Barry Patriquin, Chair of Cumberland County Transportation Services Society, requested a meeting with Council to provide information on their service and advertising campaign.

After a discussion the Committee recommended inviting CCTS to the Committee-of-the-Whole meeting in February.

(d) Tax Exemption - The Clerk advised that it was the time of year to advertise the municipal tax exemption and that last year the exemption of \$100 was available to those with an income of \$14,500 or less from all sources. He noted that those wishing to apply are required to fill out an application form and affirm their income. The Clerk asked the Committee to consider whether or not an increase in the exemption and/or maximum income level would be warranted.

After a discussion the Committee agreed that the income level should be increased to \$15,500 and the exemption increased to \$150.00.

(e) Campaign to Turn on the Tap and Ditch the Bottle - A press release from Jocelyne Rankin of the Ecology Action Centre advised that a broad-based coalition of organizations in Nova Scotia has come together to convince municipalities and school boards that the sale and provision of bottled water in their facilities is a very “un-green and “un-economical” thing to be doing. To launch the “Campaign to Turn on the Tap and Ditch the Bottle”, the coalition is sending out a package of information to all municipalities in the province outlining the reasons for getting rid of bottled water. The group will be making presentations over the coming weeks and hopes to have some municipalities on board by World Water Day, which takes place on March 22, 2009.

After reviewing the package of information and a discussion the Committee supported the

initiative and recommended that Town Council pass a motion to establish a policy that the Town Hall will not distribute bottled water.

(f) ICSP - The Committee reviewed the Integrated Communities Sustainability Plan drafted by Municipal Intern, Dylan Heide, which has to be submitted to the Province for approval under the Federal/Provincial Gas Tax Program.

After reviewing the plan the Committee recommended that the plan be approved in principle and that the Clerk be given the authority to submit it in person to administrative officials in Halifax.

(g) Meeting Schedule - At the last Council meeting a motion was passed to change the schedule of Council and Committee-of-the-Whole meetings due to conflicts with other commitments that some Councillors have. After the new schedule was implemented it was found that there were still some conflicts and it was recommended to go back to the original schedule with the Committee-of-the-Whole on the third Tuesday and the Council meeting on the fourth Tuesday.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Harrison, seconded by Councillor Lois Smith that the Finance Committee report and recommendations contained therein be accepted.

Mayor Robinson updated item (b) advising that after having discussions with the other municipalities it was agreed to contribute \$25.00. Regarding item (e), the Mayor noted that he had emailed a sample resolution to all members that would provide a good basis on which to establish a policy at the next Committee-of-the-Whole meeting.

Being no further discussion the motion was voted on and carried.

(b) Public Works - Report given by Councillor Lois Smith:

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT**DECEMBER 2008/JANUARY 2009**

(a) Superintendent's Report - John Henwood reported the following activity:**December**

- a couple of snow storms kept the crew busy with plowing and snow removal
- water had to be pumped off the reservoir cover regularly due to rain and melting snow
- the gates at the Aboiteau were opened during heavy rains and high tides
- sections of sidewalk dug up for repair were filled in with gravel and cold mix as a temporary measure until they can be replaced with cement in the spring
- a water service on Eddy Street and another on Sargent Avenue were replaced from the shut off to the house and a water service was installed for a new mini home on Queen Street
- cold mix was used to fill pot holes on some streets and gravel roads were graded
- 4 loads of road salt were delivered
- a couple of reindeer/snowflake lights that had sustained some damage were taken down, repaired and reinstalled
- the 3/4 ton truck, salt truck and sidewalk plow received some maintenance
- more fuel wood for the works garage and Town Hall was delivered and will be cut and split
- the damaged skateboard park equipment was dismantled and removed

January

- snow plowing, salting and sanding of streets and sidewalks is ongoing as well as snow clearing and removal from Main Street, sidewalks and intersections
- there was some electrical damage at the well site resulting from high winds which has since

been repaired by Nova Scotia Power

- road salt was delivered to fill up the salt storage shed

- one gate at the Aboiteau has been kept open

- all but two of the well field signs have been installed

Moved by Councillor Lois Smith, seconded by Deputy Mayor David Harrison that the Public Works Committee report be accepted. Motion carried.

(c) Cumberland Joint Services Management Authority - Report given by Councillor Dawn

Reid:

CUMBERLAND JOINT SERVICES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY REPORT

DECEMBER 2008/JANUARY 2009

(a) Use of Clear Bags for Garbage - Councillor Howe advised that the Province of Nova Scotia has indicated that by the year 2015 it wants the average amount of garbage per individual per year reduced to 300 kg from the current 420 to 480 kg average. If the garbage deposited exceeds that amount the Little Forks landfill will be fined which would increase costs to the participating municipalities, however, if the amount of garbage deposited is less the landfill will be refunded money. The Committee agreed that it is important for Parrsboro to meet this new target being set by the Province and debated whether the use of clear bags for residual garbage would help to increase recycling and reduce the amount of garbage going into the landfill. After reviewing some information presented by Councillor Howe the Committee agreed that the use of clear bags for garbage would be worth implementing and it was recommended that the first step in the process be to consult Joint Services regarding recommended time frames and an education program.

Moved by Councillor Dawn Reid, seconded by Councillor Lois Smith that the Cumberland Joint Services Management Authority report and the recommendations contained therein be accepted.

Councillor David Howe advised that since the last Committee-of-the-Whole meeting he had spoken to a couple of people and been advised that the transformation to clear bags is not really all that difficult. There were a lot of municipalities that gave six months to make the change, however, most found that six months was not necessary. Councillor Howe advised that he would like to make another motion after the motion to approve the report.

As there was no further discussion the motion was voted on and carried.

Moved by Councillor David Howe, seconded by Councillor Lois Smith that the Town of Parrsboro mandate the use of clear bags for residual garbage on or after July 1st, 2009.

In the discussion that ensued questions were raised about the implementation process and education campaign. It was agreed that this was something that could be discussed in more detail at the next Committee-of-the-Whole meeting.

As there was no further discussion the motion was voted on and carried.

(d) Planning, Development and Housing - Report given by Councillor Lois Smith:

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT

DECEMBER 2008/JANUARY 2009

(a) Building Inspector's Report - Following is the activity in the Building Inspector's Office for the months of November and December 2008:

	<u>No. of Permits</u>	<u>Value</u>
New Construction, Alterations, Additions (Residential)	1	\$172,800
Garages/Accessory Buildings	2	\$ 3,000
Demolition	1	-
Total	4	\$175,800

Moved by Councillor Lois Smith, seconded by Deputy Mayor David Harrison that the Planning, Development and Housing Committee report be accepted. Motion carried.

(e) Recreation - Report given by Councillor Dawn Reid:

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT

DECEMBER 2008/JANUARY 2009

(a) Director's Report - Recreation Director Marc Chagnon gave the following report:

Dance Classes

A response was received from Truro Academy just before Christmas. They are planning to come to Parrsboro to hold an information session later in the month.

Senior Games

The Fundy Regional Recreation Directors will be making some changes to the Fundy Senior Games that will put more emphasis on the games at the local level rather than the regional level. Attempts will be made to attract more seniors in the 55 - 60 age bracket who may be more physically active.

Activity Strategy

Research questions are being prepared with Jim Campbell's assistance and are almost ready to go

out to the public. A decision has to be made on how the questionnaire will be distributed.

Ball Hockey League

Marc met with the High School Gym teachers to start organizing a Ball Hockey League for the area. Registration will be starting soon and games will begin the first week of April.

Skate Park

The Skateboard Park Committee has agreed on a design for the skate park and will meet on January 12th to discuss finances, location and job tender.

(b) Volunteer Awards - Provincial Volunteer Week is coming up on April 19th to 25th with the Volunteer Awards ceremony scheduled for April 14th in Halifax. Municipalities are being asked for nominations in five categories: Representative Volunteer of the Year; Volunteer Youth Award; Volunteer Family Award; Model Volunteer Community Award; and Corporate Volunteer Award. Nomination forms are available at the front desk of the Town Hall and the deadline to submit them to the Town is February 20th, 2009.

Moved by Councillor Dawn Reid, seconded by Deputy Mayor David Harrison that the Recreation Committee report be accepted. Motion carried.

(f) Sustainable Tourism - Report given by Councillor David Howe:

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM COMMITTEE REPORT

DECEMBER 2008/JANUARY 2009

(a) Glooscap Statue - Plans are being developed for a new sign to be located next to the Glooscap statue. Bernie Murphy of CREDA has indicated that there is funding for this project. A write up by Reverend Tuck who built Glooscap has been placed on the Town's web site, however, the Committee would like some revisions made before it is on the site permanently.

(b) **Classical Music Festival** - The Committee was advised that Councillor Howe is working on organizing a classical music festival for the fall of 2009. It was noted that there are other communities that do similar events and that some have become quite high profile and successful. While there would be no official role for the Town in this venture, there is the possibility that Council may be approached at some point for funding to help defray the cost of advertising which will be a key component to the festival's success.

In the discussion the Committee agreed in principle with the concept of a classical music festival for Parrsboro as they felt it could extend the tourist season and benefit the town economically. It was suggested that a budget for the festival be submitted to Council once one is drafted.

(c) **Signage** - Signage in the Town had been referred by Council to the Sustainable Tourism Committee. A subcommittee has been established to look at this and bring back a recommendation.

(d) **Bay of Fundy Tourism** - The Committee was advised that Bay of Fundy Tourism, a non-profit organization promoting the Bay of Fundy area that worked on having Fundy declared one of the new 7 wonders of nature, is looking for membership and that the Sustainable Tourism Committee would like the Town to become a "Friend of Fundy" at a cost of \$100/year the benefits of which would include a link from their web page titled "Friends of Fundy" to the Town of Parrsboro's web site.

After a discussion the Committee agreed with this recommendation.

Moved by Councillor David Howe, seconded by Councillor Lois Smith that the Sustainable Tourism Committee report and the recommendations contained therein be

accepted.

Councillor Howe updated item (b) advising that the dates for the festival are Friday, June 26th, Saturday, June 27th and Sunday, June 28th. There will be one event on Friday evening, one on Saturday afternoon and another in the evening and one on Sunday afternoon. Two of the four concerts will be held at the Anglican Church and two at the United Church. The accounts will go through the Band Association to take advantage of their charitable status; the performers have not yet been lined up. Provincial funding is being applied for and there will be a web site to which they would ask that the Town provide a link from its web site.

As there was no further discussion the motion was voted on and carried.

9. CNTA ANNUAL MEETING

Councillor Howe noted that the Central Nova Tourist Association is having their annual meeting on March 5th and 6th and as the Town's representative on CNTA he asked if the Council would be interested in sending him to this meeting which takes place in Truro. He advised that the cost is \$120.00 for the meeting and \$110.00 for accommodations plus travel.

Mayor Robinson advised that the Council has traditionally sent its representative to this meeting and that it has already been budgeted for. The C.A.O. advised Councillor Howe to contact Betty Anne to make the arrangements for his attendance.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Kidney Foundation - Correspondence from the Kidney Foundation advised that the organization holds a national fund raising campaign each year during the month of March and that the Amherst chapter will be taking part in this drive and would request permission to conduct a door-to-door campaign in Parrsboro during this period.

Moved by Councillor Lois Smith, seconded by Councillor Dawn Reid that the Amherst chapter of the Kidney Foundation be permitted to conduct a door-to-door fund raising campaign in Parrsboro during the month of March. Motion carried.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business the meeting adjourned.