

**Community Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2020 @ 6:30 PM**

In Attendance: Chair Councillor Jane Bustin
Councillor Rod Reeves
Councillor Mike Trinacty
Heather Morse
Carol Hiscock-White
CAO Mike Payne

Absent with regrets: Beth Wilson

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair Jane Bustin at 6:34 PM.
2. The minutes of the 2020Jun24 meeting were approved as circulated.
3. The Agenda was approved with amendments under 5. New Business that included:
 - d) Gala Days Joint Working Group Update
 - e) Chute Park signage
4. **Old Business:**
 - a. Support Berwick Business Program:
Good uptake by local business in displaying and distributing decals. There was limited public uptake in the draws and overall, unknown engagement by public in the shop local initiative. CAO Payne is liaising with local business community.
 - b. Rainforth Park retaining wall and pillars:
Completed. The bronze dedication plaque is being cleaned up by Public Works and will be reinstalled.
 - c. Community Garden Project:
10 of 20 available plots were accessed. Brittany Brydon will be preparing a concluding report.

d. Tennis/Pickle-ball courts:

Project completed and well received by the community. Schedules, access and lighting to be reviewed prior to reopening next spring. Pickle-ball users will be moving into the Town Hall gymnasium next week.

e. Fitness Centre:

Memberships are on a recent upward trend since the COVID-19 imposed closure and reopening. The pandemic had a significant impact on revenue generation coupled with commensurate membership extensions due to the closure. Significant financial challenges primarily related to payroll are being mitigated as much as possible through an amended staffing model and closing at 8:00 PM versus 9:00 PM.

f. Beautification Grant Update:

The Committee was pleased to learn that we had received the grant and are able to apply the funds to capital assets that we require for all of our parks. They made the following comments about the specific tables and benches proposed in the report:

- The proposed items are quite expensive. Could we consider other options that might balance quality, costs and allow us to buy more of these items?
- Metal, particularly black or dark colors can get unbearably hot in summer.
- Could some of the funding be dedicated to bicycle racks?

CAO Payne advised that he would brief staff and ask them to explore additional options.

5. New Business:

a. Community Consultation document prepared for facilitated community conversations around active transportation, parks and planning:

Very well received by the Committee who suggested that this document be added to the next Council meeting agenda for 2020Oct13. The next community consultation will be held virtually on Monday, September 28 from 10:00 to 11:00 AM.

CAO Payne confirmed that staff had distributed an invite to the upcoming Monday session to residents of Robinson Drive around the plans to build a trail from South Street to Spicer Park within the Town easement. Some conversation ensued about those plans. There was considerable support to build/expand trails from Cottage Street to/and within Spicer Park but there wasn't any support for the planned connection to South Street within the Town easement that is adjacent to the backyards on the east side of Robinson Drive.

Additional discussion ensued about downtown beautification efforts and the streetscape; it's good to see the recent work of a number of businesses on the west side of Commercial Street. The suggestion was made around potential new funding that perhaps the AVCC might be asked to help administer the program in the absence of a local business network.

b. Berwick Recreational Trails Strategy:

Well received and strongly supported. Bring forth under old business for the new Committee post municipal election.

c. Community Development Department Grants update

Very informative and lots of support as a standing item. Recommended that a column be added indicating what the Town has to spend to maximize the grant opportunity.

d. Gala Days Joint Working Group (WG) update

Gala Days is currently located in Centennial and Rainforth Parks with a number of satellite locations. The former Berwick Building Supplies property is used to facilitate the horse and ox pulls. The WG is exploring relocating the entire Gala Days event to the undeveloped site at the rear (north side) of the KMCC.

- Only 50% of that entire property is currently being used.
- The WG held a public meeting with residents in the area. Their concerns were mainly around buffer zones; they did not support trails or paths.
- The BDCA owns the property and is not interested in using it but if it gets developed would other groups want to use it? Would other events other than Gala Days be held there? The WG recommends extensive consultations around that issue.
- The relocation initiative is being driven by the Gala Days Committee

e. Chute Park signage.

Mrs. Chute has asked if the signage at the entrance to the park could be lowered and a small garden planted around the base of the sign.

6. Next Meeting:

Thursday October 22 @ 6:30 PM

7. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.