



TOWN OF OXFORD

Committee of the Whole Meeting

Conducted through Zoom, streamed live to Facebook

Monday, 01 March 2021

6 pm

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of Agenda

3. Approval of Previous Minutes
 - 3.1 Committee of the Whole Minutes – 01 February 2021

4. Presentation – Ericka Caissie, In the Works ~ A Social Enterprise Network!

5. New Business
 - 5.1 Town Clerk system – information / discussion
 - 5.2 Cumberland Public Libraries Brief Report – information / discussion
 - 5.3 Budget Process Update – information / discussion
 - 5.4 Live Meetings – discussion
 - 5.5 Trails – information / discussion

6. Adjournment



Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting

Place: Conducted through Zoom, streamed live to FaceBook.
Date: Monday, February 1, 2021
Presiding Officer: Mayor Gregory Henley
Councilors Present: Deputy Mayor Wade Adshade, Carla Black, Brenton Colborne, and Paul Jones
Regrets: Nil

A quorum was present throughout the meeting.

Staff in attendance: Deputy Clerk - Linda Cloney (recording secretary)

1. Call to Order

Mayor Henley called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

It was moved and seconded that the agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting for February 1, 2021 be approved, as presented.

Motion Carried

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting for January 11, 2021 be approved.

Motion Carried

4. New Business

4.1 Election Results – for discussion

49.1% of the eligible voters had voted in this Special Election dated January 18 – 30, 2021.

The unofficial 2021 Special Election Results reported the successful candidates were Chrystal McNutt ELECTED and Arnold MacDonald ELECTED.

Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 10 am the official addition of the votes will be completed, and the Official 2021 Special Election Results will then be reported.

The Swear In Ceremony is scheduled for the next Town Council meeting being held on Tuesday February 16, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

4.2 lamResponding - RFD

It was moved and seconded that the Committee of the Whole recommends to Town Council to approve the Oxford Volunteer Fire Department's request to purchase the lamResponding.com as a tool for their communications. The Committee of the Whole also recommends to Town Council to enter a One-year subscription agreement of \$305.00 with lamResponding.com.

Motion Carried

4.3 Budget Preparations – for discussion

The Deputy Clerk presented to Council the status of the staff budget preparations. A copy of this report is filed.

4.4 Audit Committee Recommendations

It was moved and seconded that the Committee of the Whole recommends to Town Council to accept the Audit Committee's recommendation that each Council Member should be a chairperson for a department.

Motion Carried.

There was a general discussion regarding the second recommendation from the Audit Committee. Council directed staff to take this recommendation back to the Audit Committee for more clarity as to the changes that should be made to the Procurement Policy.

4.5 Police Advisory Board Recommendation

The recommendation from the Police Advisory Board to Council to approve the review of the intersection of Main, Lower Main and Water Streets by WSP Canada Inc. as indicated in their proposal will be brought forward during the budget deliberations.

4.6 Joint Council Meeting – Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Mayor Henley reminded Council that there is a Joint Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 2 from 6 – 8 pm on zoom.

5. Adjournment

Council expressed that they would like to meet in person, in a safe environment, and to be able to stream it live to facebook for the public.

At 6:28 pm, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned and note that the Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16 at 6 pm.

Motion Carried

Gregory Henley, Mayor

Linda Cloney, Recording Secretary

In The Works – A Social Enterprise Network!

This project was initiated in the summer of 2019 by concerned mothers who:

- in some cases, have personally experienced their own children's struggles) and who:
- have watched as many kids and young adults in this community (and their families) try to deal with addiction and mental illness and, more specifically, find their way back to productive life.

Our mission is to support local youth who are recovering from addictions and mental health issues to engage in a more healthy and satisfying life within the community. In November, we registered our organization with the Nova Scotia Registry of Joint Stocks.

We recognize the significant need for local resources and supports in the recovery process and want to talk to you about our efforts to create a community-based program and social enterprise that will:

- **Welcome and support youth and/ or young adults between the ages of 16 and 30** who are in recovery from addiction and/ or mental health issues
- **Work hand in hand with local organizations** to encourage and assist young adults to access existing services and engage with well-established programs to help them get engage in the community again
- **Operate a youth led business** that will provide transferrable work and life skills training for participants and ensure fiscal sustainability via a social enterprise
- **Provide support/ counselling to participants** during the program
- **Offer opportunities for volunteer and work experiences with local organizations and businesses** that allow them to become an active part of the community
- **Offer a multi-faceted and stigma free environment** where youth are welcome and valued and encouraged to explore music, fitness, recreational activities, arts, crafts and healthy interests, leading to a healthy lifestyle
- Host guest speakers, provide educational programs and workshops to participants and their families and host fundraising events

Our vision is that this program will provide an additional support system within our community and will be a "hub" for the participants, helping to bring together and coordinate various services from established support networks that currently exist in the area including career development and mental health services.

Those who have completed the program will be welcome to come back at any time, to visit, chat and access some supports, as required. We intend to build a place where participants can feel comfortable and supported as they make some important changes in their lives.

A program currently being delivered in Stratford, Prince Edward Island by the Reach Foundation (Recovery is Within Reach), which has seen tremendous success, is the model for our program.

We have seen the program in action and believe it holds the key to providing youth in our community with long-term support while they transition through recovery and back into the community, either by employment or continued education. "In the Works" will operate similarly to the program in PEI. Candidates will be selected and "hired" to work for the social enterprise.

In The Works – A Social Enterprise Network will be managed in a similar manner:

The program will last 16 weeks and consist of three focus areas:

Workplace and Essential Skills: a half day, semi structured program (“in class”/ on site), which will focus on literacy/ numeracy and life skills, while helping the participants build a “portfolio” to move forward with

Social Enterprise: participants will work for the social enterprise, develop positive habits and skills on site and, near the end of the program, through work placements at local businesses. These opportunities are expected to assist participants explore interest and employment or post-secondary options.

Health and Wellness: The program will emphasize the importance of a balanced lifestyle. In The Works will actively seek to work with programs in the Amherst area to offer these opportunities to participants.

We are partnering with the Community Credit Union of Cumberland to secure a location that will serve as “home base” for this enterprise and provide a safe place for youth to come together to take a step forward towards a new phase of their life.

Since 2019, we have engaged in discussions with various groups and government representatives, including Department of Labour and Advanced Education; Mental Health and Addictions Services; Cumberland Adult Network for Upgrading (CAN-U); Nova Scotia Works/ CANSA Careers Nova Scotia Centre; NSCC Cumberland Campus representatives; Amherst and Area Chamber of Commerce; and Cumberland Kids. As such, we are building our resource base and laying the foundation for the community support structure for our future clients.

As indicated, In the Works -A Social Enterprise Network will not recreate services that already exist in the community, but it will in fact bring them together in one location, for a selected group of participants.

We are working hard to form partnerships and develop concrete plans to provide services to participants, in addition to establishing support from local businesses to explore social enterprise avenues within the local community.

In mid-November 2020, we presented our project to the new Amherst Town Council and received strong support from them, with an invitation to present to them again as we continue to move forward.

We currently have support from the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Cumberland North, Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin and MP Lenore Zann and are working to secure financial support from both levels of government that will provide stability to the program. We have several meetings coming up in the weeks ahead.

We believe that “In The Works” will be an integral part of helping our at-risk youth in this area stay in recovery and develop a vision of their futures where they can be happy, healthy and successful, whatever that may mean to them. We would like to invite you to work with us to make that happen!

The “In the Works” team!

**Cumberland Public Libraries
Brief Report- Oxford
February 5, 2021**

Oxford Library

The Town of Oxford has signed a lease for the front half of the old Oxford Journal building on Rideau Street. A new front door and accessible bathroom have been installed. Ms. Corey has started a fundraising campaign on Canada Helps to help purchase furniture, shelving and books. Patrons can access Canada Helps through our homepage or can drop off a donation at the temporary location in the Oxford Medical Centre. Cumberland Public Libraries is continuing to offer a pickup/drop-off location for patrons at the Oxford Medical Centre.

Library Tour

Chief Librarian, Denise Corey would invites Councillors and staff to book a (socially distanced) tour of the new library space. Please contact her to book your time.

April Public Meeting

The Board will hold its annual Public Meeting on April 27, 2021 via Facebook live. Information on how to attend will be posted closer to the date.

Statistics

In the month of December, Cumberland Public Libraries signed out over 5,400 items. This includes books, movies, TV shows, magazines and more. The Oxford temporary location signed out 52 items.

Next Board meeting April 8, 2021.

From: [wadshade](#)

Date: March 1, 2021 1:19:09 PM

I have been contacted by Greg Nix of Oxford Trails and Cumberland trails. He is preparing to get a grant to fix up a trail that would take you from the black River Bridge to the subdivision. It will cross over a piece of land owned by the town that included the wellfield extension off of Sunset Ave.

He needs a letter from the town giving permission to use the existing trails on the property to be upgraded for hiking and cycling only. There trail would be for non motorized enjoyment.

If everyone wants we can add this to the agenda tonight and discuss it further. This project will be a great addition to our existing trail system being developed in the Oxford area