

TOWN OF CORNWALL
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, March 13th, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

~ A G E N D A ~

1. Call to Order
2. Land Acknowledgement
3. Approval of Agenda/Additions to Agenda
4. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest
5. Approval of Minutes – February 13th, 2023
6. Resident Engagement
 - Hyde Park and Trails Restoration Plan
 - Terry Fox Sprots Complex Trail
 - Water School Update
 - Fix a Leak Week (March 20-26)
 - Earth Hour (March 25)
 - Earth Day (April 22)
 - Green Lawn Rebate
 - Hyde Pond Restoration (CAWG)
7. In Camera
8. Correspondence
9. Adjournment

TOWN OF CORNWALL
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, February 13th, 2023, at 5:00 PM

Chair: Councillor Judy Herlihy
Present: Councillor Cory Stevenson
Mayor Minerva McCourt

Also: Councillor Corey Frizzell (Zoom)
Councillor Steven Campbell
Kevin Coady – Chief Administrative Officer
Billy Ramsay – Infrastructure Supervisor
Stephen O’Shea – Utility Operator

Three Community Members

Regrets: Deputy Mayor Jill MacIsaac

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Judy Herlihy called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair read the land acknowledgement; that the land we gather on is the ancestral land of the Mi’kmaq and we respect the Mi’kmaq as the Indigenous People of Prince Edward Island.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Herlihy motioned to combine the Hyde Park and Trails Restoration Plan and the Post Fiona Tree Restoration as they cover the same topic.

It was moved by Mayor McCourt and seconded by Councillor Stevenson that the agenda be approved as circulated with the additions of discussion of the following agenda items: Appointment of Deputy Chair; and Memos and Requests for Decision for Council.

Motion Carried

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Nil.

BUSINESS ARISING

Nil

SWITCH PROGRAM PRESENTATION

Jean-Pierre Ouellette from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) gave a presentation to council members regarding the Switch program via Zoom. The main concerns for the Town are workload on the administration staff and risk to the Town.

Jean-Pierre talked about FCM's Community Efficiency Financing initiative, which provides a financial and services offering to help homeowners upgrade the energy performance of their homes. This adds value to the houses that apply, provides work to businesses around the community, and helps reduce GHG emissions. Jean-Pierre mentioned the option of using the PACE Atlantic program which has won an award for administering the Switch program for funding, or using a Third Party to run the program.

One of the first steps is to pass a resolution from Council that we want to work towards climate change adaptation and are interested in the program. The Town would then complete the initial application form to determine eligibility. If eligible, a full application would be required which would take up to 4-6 months for approval. Once approved, the Town would conduct a feasibility study. This is to determine if Town residents are interested, and whom this program targets. FCM covers 80% of the cost, up to \$175k. Staff time can be the other 20%.

Once the feasibility study is complete, the Town undertakes a Program Design Study to determine the needs of the community (e.g. number of households) and what the Town would like to have included as options. This is more in depth than the feasibility study. Staff thoughts are heat pumps, better insulation, solar for roof tops, and solar for hot water. This would take 3-4 months to proceed with the program. Similar funding model as the feasibility program, of 80% / 20%.

The final step would be the Capital Application for the funds. As well as the overall funding for the projects, under this program FCM provides an additional 50% of the capital amount for administration of the program. For example, if the Town received \$500,000, FCM would provide \$250,000 for staffing of the program over the four or more years until all bills are paid in full. Participants of the program can stack this with other grants funded either federally or provincially.

FMC would provide the Town 80% of the money, as a loan, to the Town for the retrofits and the Town would contribute the other 20%. This portion is paid back as loan payments are made (temporary outflow of cash). FCM also provides an extra 20% for any of the properties that may default as a risk mitigation tool. Jean-Pierre added that he has not seen many defaults during the program so far. On the PACE program the current rate of interest is 2%, while market-funding rates of other companies are closer to 8% and 9%.

Chair Herlihy asked if after the feasibility study if the Town wanted to walk away from the program, that the Town can. Jean-Pierre said that the Town could walk away at that point in time. Chair Herlihy also asked after the study, how long until the Town could start providing funds, and the time Jean-Pierre gave was roughly 2 years after the feasibility study. Jean-Pierre added at the end of the presentation that there is an option of combining with other communities around PEI to share the workload.

Councillor Frizzell and Councillor Campbell left after this presentation.

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIR

It was moved by Mayor McCourt and seconded by Chair Herlihy that Councillor Stevenson be appointed Deputy Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Committee.

Motion Carried

RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT

HYDE PARK AND TRAILS RESTORATION PLAN

The Town received a restoration plan from Gary Schneider of MacPhail Woods. The document describes all the trees that have fallen, and continue to fall, in and around the Towns' trail systems. The Committee combined this topic with the Post Fiona Restoration project as they are both covering the same areas and topic. The committee all agreed that the price on this project sent by MacPhail Woods was very steep (\$67,000 Plus HST) and would be looking into working with other organizations to reduce the cost. At this price, the Town would also have to put the work out to tender and get bids from other companies. Karalee MacAskill from CAWG was going to bring the idea of working with the Town to their Board and get back to the Town hopefully by the next meeting.

WATER SCHOOL UPDATE

Billy Ramsay, from the Town of Cornwall brought forward the opportunity for the Town of Cornwall to host a weeklong Water School in the Town for Grade 5 students from Elliot River. Mr. Ramsay is hoping to use the Terry Fox Complex locker rooms as the classrooms for Water School, so that the students would not have to bus around on the day they go to the Water School. If the Terry Fox Complex does not work, he would have to use the two rooms at the Town Hall, which would take up the council chambers and the meeting room for a week. The start date of water school would be April 17th until the 21st at the latest. The Committee will be working in contact with Elliot River School to see if Water School is possible for this year with the short notice.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE BY – LAW REVIEW

The Committee brought up the Property Maintenance By-Law to add the date of June 1st to November 1st for grass cutting so that the Town can allow NO MOW MAY to happen so that residents would not be breaking the By-Law the Town has in place already. This will be going on a Request for Decision (RFD) and sent to the next Committee of Council Meeting.

IN CAMERA

NIL

MEETING TIME

The next meeting time is Monday, March 13th, 2023, at 5:00p.m. at the Town Hall.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:40p.m.

JUDY HERLIHY
CHAIR

BILLY RAMSAY
INFRASTRUCTURE SUPERVISOR



APPLICATION FOR GREEN LAWN REBATE

NAME: _____
ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: _____
MAILING ADDRESS: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____
TELEPHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

ACTIVITY INFORMATION:

PRODUCT PURCHASED: _____
COST: _____

***The Green Lawn Rebate applies to the rental or purchase of equipment (not product) to facilitate natural lawn care maintenance such as an aerator or spreader for lime/fertilizer**

***If you hire a company to do services for you such as aerating/fertilizing**

***Valid for Cornwall property ONLY (may be owned or rented)**

***The rebate is up to \$50 – one application per Cornwall property per year**

***Receipt(s) must be attached**

***Rebate is only applicable for receipts dated May 1st to October 1st, 2022. Applications must be received on or before November 30, 2022**

Internal Use Only: Received By: _____
Date received: _____
Proof of receipt attached: _____

Decision: APPROVED

DECLINED

Staff Recommendation/Comments: _____

Approved by: _____ Date: _____