

**REGION OF QUEENS MUNICIPALITY  
PUBLIC HEARING  
PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT WITH  
THE DEVI INTERNATIONAL BOARDING SCHOOL SOCIETY  
TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2017  
8:55 A.M.**

**MEMBER OF COUNCIL:** Mayor David Dagley, Chair  
Deputy Mayor Susan MacLeod  
Councillor Kevin Muise  
Councillor Heather Kelly  
Councillor Brian Fralic  
Councillor Raymond Fiske  
Councillor Jack Fancy  
Councillor Gilbert Johnson

**MEMBERS OF STAFF:** Richard MacLellan, Chief Administrative Officer  
Jennifer Keating-Hubley, Director of Finance  
Christine Watson, Recording / Management Secretary  
Mike MacLeod, Planner

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Dagley called the Public Hearing to order at 8:55 a.m.

**REMARKS:**

Mayor Dagley reviewed that the purpose of this Public Hearing was to provide any interested person with an opportunity to present an oral or written presentation to the Council of the Region of Queens with regards to its intention to enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement with The Devi International Boarding School Society for the sale of Municipal lands identified as PID #70105879 and formerly known as the Mill Village School property, for a sale price of \$1.00.

Mayor Dagley reviewed the procedures for the Hearing which were provided on the agenda.

**REPORTS AND PRESENTATION BY STAFF:**

There were no reports or presentations submitted.

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**WRITTEN AND ORAL PRESENTATIONS:**

Albert Knock, Mill Village – Mr. Knock commented that he agreed with the purchase of the Mill Village school and offered his opinion that some of the history of Mill Village and heritage documents be on display at the school. Mayor Dagley advised the details on this be worked out with the Devi Society.

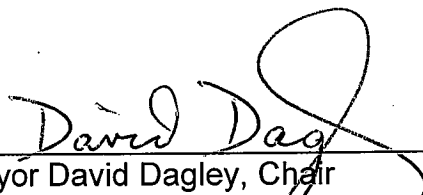
Mary Kuhn, Church Street, Liverpool – Mrs. Kuhn, along with her husband Marcel, members of the Board of the Devi International Boarding School Society, stated that she agreed with Mr. Knock and thanked the residents to allow them this opportunity.

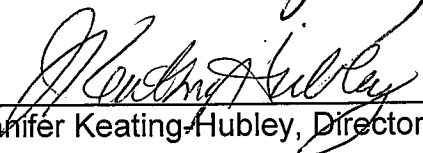
Jessica Van Dyne-Evans, Mill Village – Written submission (attached).

Mayor Dagley asked three times if there were any members of the public who wished to speak on this matter; hearing no further requests, declared the meeting adjourned.

**CLOSING OF PUBLIC MEETING:**

Mayor Dagley declared the Public Hearing closed at 9:02 a.m.

  
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Mayor David Dagley, Chair

  
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Jennifer Keating-Hubley, Director of Finance

  
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Christine Watson, Recording / Management Secretary

Date approved: April 11, 2017

I'm writing regarding the Mill Village School and the proposed meditation school going in there. I am unable to make the public meeting, but wanted to ask some questions.

(Full disclosure - I was part of the group that fought to keep the school open a few years back.)

Would an international group still be required by bylaw or law to have the building be up to the same standards that were determined by the South Shore Regional School Board? Because that includes things like installing an elevator to bring the building to being handicap accessible, asbestos removal, sewage system upgrade, and refitting the school building for wiring that can support technology. While I understand amounts and costs can vary, the school boards amount for bringing the mill village school building up to code in 2012 - five years ago! - was 255,000 dollars for accessibility, and longer term requirements (explained as being necessary in the next five years) was determined to cost \$757,000 dollars. Either of these amounts is greater than the amount published in the newspaper that the Devi Group plans to spend renovating the building.

(Figures from Appendix G, Impact Assessment Report of Mill Village Consolidated, Deloitte, September, 2012. Available on SSRSB website.)

I'm not sure this group understands how much money needs to be spent on making the school be up to code.

How on earth can forty proposed students be housed \*and\* taught in an 11,000 square foot building?

If the building was razed and a new one built, costs would soar. The entire school property is solid rock covered thinly with grass - a few years before the school closed, we put in a peace pole in the front of the building - and it took two strong men with pick axes most of the afternoon to dig a post hole.

The sewer empties out onto the side of the building, making extending the building a dubious proposition. Once the sewage field is replaced (again, harking back to the Deloitte report, it may be possible, but it would be an expensive, while necessary, upgrade.)

If an international group is NOT required to bring the building up to code before housing students, how can the government let the Nova Scotia school curriculum be taught? It would be an egregious thing if the school was closed and then reopened by another group who did not have to follow the same standards. This seems wrong.

A few installed showers will not bring the building up to code.

These points, coupled with the announcement that "if you want to teach in the new Devi Group School, you don't have to have a teaching degree" sounds like this is someone's not-well-thought-out dream. I would hate to see the Village School building abandoned again.

Thank you for reading my concerns. I hope you will take them to heart before approving the new school.

Thank you,  
Jessica Van Dyne-Evans