

**REGION OF QUEENS MUNICIPALITY
REGULAR COUNCIL
ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2020
9:00 a.m.**

PRESENT: Mayor David Dagley, Chair
Councillor Kevin Muise
Deputy Mayor Heather Kelly
Councillor Brian Fralic
Councillor Susan MacLeod
Councillor Jack Fancy
Councillor Raymond Fiske
Councillor Gilbert Johnson
Chris McNeill, CAO
Christine Watson, Administrative Assistant – Planning & Development

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Dagley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2.0 CHANGES / APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Councillor Fralic and seconded by Deputy Mayor Kelly that the Agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations to come before this meeting.

4.0 TABLING OF PETITIONS

There were no petitions to come before this meeting.

5.0 PUBLIC QUESTION / COMMENT SESSION

Leon Robertson – College Street, Liverpool – Mr. Robertson enquired if there would be fireworks this year. He further enquired about the drive-in theatre that's planned at the Mill Village Fire Department and at the Hank Snow Museum. Mayor Dagley advised that when RQM becomes aware of details, it will be provided on the RQM Facebook page. Mr. Robertson further enquired about funding provided to municipalities from the federal and provincial governments.

Blair Shand, 122 Riverhead Road, Port Mouton – Mr. Shand stated he had spoken to several people and is hearing mixed messages as to why the ice at Queens Place Emera Centre is closed until September. He stated that he's had many residents call him enquiring as well. He indicated that Public Health said that it is now safe. If the ice is installed he guaranteed 25 – 30 hours would be booked each week. He feels there is nothing for kids to do and they need something. He offered his opinion on the statement that major users were reached out to and said it was not accurate and that no one had contacted anyone from the Bantam Hockey group or the figure skating group.

Jeremy Kini, Manager Bantam Lumberjacks, Bridgewater – Mr. Kini offered information that the Centennial Arena in HRM is open. The skaters come dressed, use skate guards and walk straight onto the ice and when finished, leave through the opposite side of the building. The players do not touch anything and the only thing that would need to be cleaned is where their water bottles were sitting. There are no others in the building other than the user group. There is a huge demand for ice in the area and their program is scheduled to begin in early August.

Larry Cochrane, 17 Enos Collins Drive, Liverpool – Mr. Cochrane stated he hates to hear that cost is a factor for why the ice is not available. He enquired why health protocols weren't already in place to be able to open as soon as possible.

Mayor Dagley stated staff are working on protocols and will consider discussions held this morning.

6.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6.1 Council Minutes – June 9, 2020

It was moved by Councillor MacLeod and seconded by Deputy Mayor Kelly:

THAT the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held June 9, 2020 be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

7.0 DANGEROUS OR UNSIGHTLY PREMISES

There were no items to come before this meeting.

8.0 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

8.1 Privateer Farmers' Market Request for Waiver of Policy 58 – Consumption of Alcohol on Municipal Property

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Kelly and seconded by Councillor Fralic:

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality agree to waive Policy 58 – Consumption of Alcohol on Municipally Owned Properties at the request of Privateer Farmers' Market at Centennial Park, Liverpool and any approved location and date at Main Street, Liverpool on Saturdays from June 27, 2020 to October 3, 2020.

AND THAT the applicant be required to submit proof of insurance in no less than \$2,000,000 per occurrence with the Region of Queens Municipality as additional insured, and copy of the in effect liquor license from the Province of Nova Scotia to the Region, and that all municipal, provincial, and federal laws be strictly adhered to.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

9.0 CORPORATE SERVICES

There were no items to come before this meeting.

10.0 ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS

10.1 Call Centre – Councillor MacLeod

Councillor MacLeod stated that members of the public have enquired what is happening with the call centre building. She noted that there are no rental signs. The large parking area which could be used for outdoor activities for the youth and enquired if it would be possible for people to use for things such as ball hockey, etc.

Chris McNeill, CAO, stated that RQM is always looking for uses for the building, but nothing of any significance has come forward at this time. RQM is always open to options and proposals can be brought forward from residents for Council's consideration at any time.

Councillor MacLeod further stated that rather than residents approaching RQM it might be an opportunity for RQM to go to the public and give them ideas on how the space may be utilized.

11.0 FINANCE

There were no items to come before this meeting.

12.0 RECREATION AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

12.1 Recreation & Healthy Communities Update – Meaghan Roberts

Meaghan Roberts, Director, Recreation & Healthy Communities, provided an update on the Recreation Department and Queens Place Emera Centre. Some highlights included:

Recreation

- While everything moved on line, which was an asset, it also highlighted that many residents are without reliable internet, which is a problem across the province, and highlighted the need to reach those that aren't on line.
- Most scheduled activities such as March Break activities, Food Handlers Course, Spring Community Registration Night, Red Cross Babysitting Course and the Tattoo Bus Trip were cancelled due to the pandemic. Training courses will be rescheduled when safe and permitted to hold, some of which are held several times throughout the year.
- The Seniors Home Exercise Program and Sure You Can Program have been postponed and will be revisited when permitted and safe to do.

Some initiatives that were worked on during pandemic:

- 4M (Movement, Music, Mindfulness and Medication) from Home, which was to encourage people to do something at home. Some activities included Devi School Guided Meditation, Music with Autumn Carver, Gentle Yoga with Elise Johnston-Agar, Trivia with Al Steele, Mindfulness with Shannon Hartlen, and Guided Art Classes with Deb Taylor which was so popular that 6 classes were held.
- National Health & Fitness Day – Great Canadian at Home Challenge which encouraged people to do things at home and within their communities.
- Information conduit for online wellness and movement programs, information was shared.
- Developed Home Activity Kits to encourage kids to play outside, partnered with schools to help identify students that would benefit and 24 kits are to be delivered. Also investigating to do this for seniors.
- Developing a Summer Discovery Brochure – to encourage people to explore/visit province and communities.
- Putting together stories to promote physical activities and to share them within the community.

- Bike exchange program will continue safely; partnering with Liverpool Adventure Outfitters, who repair the bikes.
- Discussions evolving with primary health providers, to form a working relationship in order to be a resource for them and in turn with patients to encourage physical activity.
- Pine Grove Signage – working on signs for the various trails within the park which will include maps, distances, number of steps and description as part of the walking route strategy as part of the Physical Activity Strategy. Pine Grove is the initial site and will expand to other places.
- All design work, posters and signage are being done in house.
- Community Investment Fund – The 2019 final reports have all been submitted and are working with applicants for the 2020.

Queens Place Emera Centre

- Completed arena maintenance work which was originally scheduled for June – July with a 3-week duration, which turned into over 3 months. 1050 seats and tiles were scrubbed, the arena was painted, and the fitness centre was totally cleaned.
- The fitness centre offered 9 weekly free online classes via Zoom over an eight-week period, 709 participants took part and was well received.
- Working with potential future renters and developing contracts, which remain tentative for the near future until such time as we know where the public health directives are going.
- For the reopening plan, attended many meetings and read plans from across the country and learned how to make the plan work for our community. All safety protocols are in place and will most likely be a slow return. The doors opened on June 22 and users were all willing to follow protocols in place. Investigating how to move to the next phase and what needs to be done to safely move forward.
- The Public Health protocols and rules are reviewed on a daily basis in order to stay informed.
- Board of Directors continued to meet in May and June.
- Need to focus on future and working together to figure out how to move forward.

Councillor Johnson stated the facility enhances recreation in the area and enquired what would need to be done to have the ice installed as quickly and safely as possible. Ms. Roberts stated the Operations Manager looks after that function and stated they are waiting for the delivery of a motor for installation in one of the compressors, which is anticipated to be delivered next week.

In response to Councillor Fralic's request for Mr. McNeill to provide a financial update, Mr. McNeill stated the financial implications are not solely based on hockey players. There are many challenges. RQM is required to follow safety protocols as set out by the province. Following the maintenance work at the facility, QPEC is expecting a year-end deficit of approximately \$900,000 from current projections. There are presently no other municipally operated facilities which have ice opened in Nova Scotia.

Councillor Fralic asked Mr. McNeill to look at options and provide a follow-up to concerns raised by facility users. Mr. McNeill stated RQM is awaiting a response from Mr. Kini to provide a breakdown of days and times that they require and despite comments to the contrary, there have been discussions with others users.

Councillor Muise left the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

12.2 Events, Promotions & Sponsorship Update – Steve Burns

Steve Burns, Manager - Events, Promotions & Sponsorship, provided an update. Some highlights included:

Activity cancelled & postponed up to 2021 included:

- Hosting of Team Hungary – Camp & Games here in Liverpool: World Women’s Hockey Championship, just announced yesterday a planned April 2021 return to NS.
- International Theatre Festival October 2020 cancelled, moved to 2021.
- Run Nova Scotia races - Run Our Shore Marathon and Privateer 5 Miler both postponed till 2021.
- Trade Show South Shore Expo cancelled.
- 30th Hank Snow Tribute cancelled.
- Traditional school graduations drastically altered.
- Wide range of Arts & Culture venues closed and events cancelled; Astor Theatre closed.
- Summer Concert Series across outdoor venues in Queens from July 9 – September 3 featuring local and Nova Scotia music talent has been set aside.
- Privateer Days is cancelled.
- Augusts’ Memorial Auto Show has recently been cancelled, as well the Greenfield Dragway is unable to host any events yet this season.
- Canada Day 2020, across the country is being supported and encouraged as a virtual celebration through Heritage Canada via social media. The links are up on Events Liverpool Facebook, with various toolkits such as cooking and recipes, children and adult activity, as well as an amazing online music lineup.
- Also cancelled are the many activities and celebratory gatherings in the food, beverage and accommodation business.
- Over the past 3 months, participated in webinars dealing with the effects of Covid 19 on major events and sponsorship, legal issues, etc. Some of these were hosted by the major players in the Canadian and American event world (Derby and Rogers Cup).

Questions to consider before decisions to host are made:

- When will events/festivals of any size begin to return? People may say yes to an event/activity; however, when it comes down to the crunch will they actually attend? A variety of reasons may affect their final decision such as health, price point, rules or simply a change of mind.
- Provincial and National Sport organizations - how will their ‘plan’ fit within facility and venue plans, guided by local requirements, at both inside and outside locations?
- Will the traditional volunteer core return in former numbers?
- Will the sponsorship dollars remain consistent, how has business weathered the pandemic? Are we at a disadvantage or will support continue?
- Will events that require paid attendance/gate as a primary revenue stream be supported as they have in the past under new capacity restrictions – admission prices will be affected and again public safety top of mind.
- Will event insurance and general liability become an even more challenging barrier.
- Who locally will take on all associated risks in hosting going forward, leading an effort to recapture momentum. Will the support be there?

In summary:

- Up-to-date studies indicate as this situation evolves, age will play a large role in decisions people make going forward in attending, participating, volunteering for ‘events and large scale activity’ and that public safety will be the priority. Demographics will be key.
- A vaccine will be paramount to create a level of ‘fair comfort’ for the public.
- New normal will guide us all for the foreseeable future.

- Gathering limits set become easily compromised once we interject 'emotion' into the mix. As an example during a music concert once the music begins, as part of human nature, people tend to huddle and the risk increases exponentially.

Over the first quarter of this fiscal year, work has continued on many fronts regarding events, advertising and sponsorship.

- Opportunities to gather knowledge as the result of regular Webinars from Sport Tourism Canada, International Festival & Events and Tourism NS.
- Continuing to work with the team at Events NS (CCH) as we prepare to launch a new Events NS website and festival and event organizers toolkits.
- Worked with Queens Place Emera Centre, networking with facilities, assisting where and when required.
- Contacting Queens Place Advertisers and have had positive responses with only two removals, one due to a merger. There will be two new advertisers.
- In-ice logo advertisers have been notified that billings will go out in August prior to any installation. Many positive comments were received with a number wanting to up their level of exposure.
- Promising feedback received from local and provincial sponsors in regards to a number of events such as World Women's Hockey, which will potentially be returning here in the spring 2021.
- Ongoing work includes finding a new Sponsor for the Queens Place scoreboard. The present agreement with Exit Realty will expire the end of October. We are seeking a new 3-5-year agreement at \$5,000 annually. Thank you to Kris Snarby for his ongoing support and Exit Realty for their support over these past 3 years.
- Seeking a Zamboni sponsor for a 3-5-year term.
- Working on acquiring donations for the Recreation For All program and have had reasonable success to date.
- Just prior to Mid – March, two proposals were issued regarding Queens Place Emera Centre; Arena and Lobby Naming Rights. Additional suitors are being sought and new proposals are underway and we expect to hear from those original proposals soon. The terms range between 10-15 years.

Continue to work on:

- Continuance of execution of Events Liverpool social media platforms and assist with Queens Place Emera Centre platforms & website.
- Draft work to be completed for Events Liverpool web presence.
- Events Liverpool toolkits for organizers and a simplified event impact measurement tool will be sought.
- If required, assisting Queens County Fair Association by creating a sales document for the exhibition grounds.
- Networking with entertainment companies and representatives. We have fielded requests for Queens Place for major music events in 2021 and into 2022.
- Continue to seek facility and general program revenues, advertising and sponsorship.

13.0 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

There were no items to come before this meeting.

14.0 REPORTS

14.1 Solid Waste-Litter Strategy – Councillor Gil Johnson

It was moved by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor MacLeod:

THAT a strategy document be drafted that focuses on a proactive/sustainable approach to maximize the amount of solid waste that eventually ends up in proper landfill site(s) and less along public roadways, private property and public facilities. This document is to be completed and presented to council on September 22, 2020 or sooner.

Councillor Johnson stated his position has not changed since last Council. Council reviewed the document issued March 29, 2019 which has a host of great resources and ideas as to how to effectively manage a landfill. One section of the document has recommendations that could fit within this recommendation. Councillor Fralic supplied information from Region 6 and their plans going forward would fit into the strategy. Councillor Johnson enquired why the document didn't get further than March 2019.

Scott LeBlanc, Solid Waste Clerk/Safety Officer, commented that this document was not brought back to Council but work has continued on it. He provided an update on issues covered in the report, some of which included:

- Some items mentioned are done on an annual basis. The biggest change is the outreach to businesses and issues such as illegal dumping, which was the formation of our Litter Abatement Committee, which has been very successful with traffic stops. People are given information they need on sorting and provides advertising around illegal dumping, which we have a zero tolerance for; fines have been issued.
- Our landfill facility accepts four free loads per month and we don't experience the illegal dumping as in other municipalities.
- We have increased the capacity in areas of garbage boxes at some of the private road sites. We've added boxes to 3 – 4 sites.
- We have increased signage on illegal dumping and have signs stating that we do have a landfill facility and where it is located.
- We have pole mount waste containers are on order, which will be here within 8 weeks.
- Three stream containers are located throughout town; the VIC has one, QPEC has two, there is one located at the Skateboard Park. We have three collections now rather than 2 at some locations and this has shown some improvement.
- The EPR program requires clarity and is evolving.
- The Community Litter Pickup Fund for non-profit groups which receive \$100/km is well received. To date we've had four completed and there is six more available.
- A sign has been erected at the landfill on tarping.
- We have a derelict vehicle program which gets used every year, with an allowance of \$2000 each year.

Councillor Fralic stated that he doesn't know if there is a solution, and if one can be met with the time stated in the recommendation. He enquired to Councillor Johnson if the document was combined with the motion to ensure that all the needs are addressed in the strategy, if this would be something acceptable. Councillor Johnson agreed, and stated RQM needs to do more and hoped this would take the document to the next level.

Councillor Fralic asked Mr. McNeill if it possible to combine the document and recommendation and be brought forward as a strategic plan and have as an active document.

Mr. McNeill stated the document is a draft and not a public document, and until it becomes adopted by Council, it's not a public document. The recommendations were based on discussions with Council members and staff in response to public complaints received and was seen as a reasonable first step to move forward in a cost effective way and try to move the scale towards more effective solid waste in Queens County. Staff would need clarification on what problem we're trying to solve and what the expected end goal is before a document can be brought back to council. If the issue is at a household level or commercial level, then there are things we can bring forward as recommendations, but if at a disposal level, as far as location and sites, times and staffing, that would be a different set of recommendations. He provided a follow-up to Mr. LeBlanc's discussion on what RQM is currently doing with the recommendations listed in the document.

He further stated if the recommendation was deferred for a month's time to give an opportunity for members of staff and Council to discuss route causes, and come up with ideas to what RQM can do, a revised set of outcomes could be brought forward to Council at that time.

Councillor Fiske and Councillor Johnson lost power at 12:00 Noon.

It was moved by Councillor Fralic and seconded by Deputy Mayor Kelly:

THAT the recommendation be deferred one month, while meetings are being held, in order to bring forward a revised resolution.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

15.0 IN-CAMERA ITEMS

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Kelly and seconded by Councillor Fralic that the proceedings go In-Camera at 12:07 p.m. to discuss the following:

15.1 Potential Litigation

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Mayor Dagley announced the In-Camera session would begin at 12:30 p.m. via Teleconference.

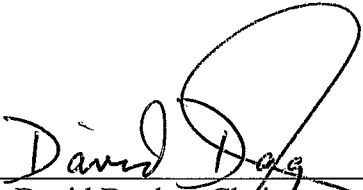
It was moved by Deputy Mayor Kelly and seconded by Councillor Fiske that the proceedings exit In-Camera at 12:50 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

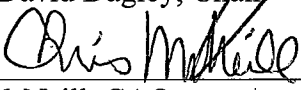
16.0 ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councillor Fralic and seconded by Deputy Mayor Kelly that the meeting be adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

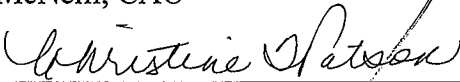
MOTION CARRIED unanimously.



Mayor David Dagley, Chair



Chris McNeill, CAO



Christine Watson, Administrative Assistant – Planning & Development

Date Approved: July 14, 2020