

Region of Queens Municipality Regular Council

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021

6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Mayor Darlene Norman, Chair
Deputy Mayor Kevin Muise
Councillor Ralph Gidney
Councillor Maddie Charlton
Councillor Vicki Amirault
Councillor Jack Fancy
Councillor David Brown
Councillor Carl Hawkes
Chris McNeill, CAO
Christine Watson, Admin. Assistant – Planning & Development

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Norman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2.0 CHANGES/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Councillor Brown and seconded by Councillor Amirault that the Agenda be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Queens County Museum – Peter Leslie and Linda Rafuse

Mayor Norman welcomed Peter Leslie, Chairman – Board of Trustees, and Linda Rafuse, Director – Queens County Museum to council (copy of presentation attached to original set of Minutes).

Some highlights included:

- Who we are – Queens County Historical Society, Queens County Museum Board of Trustees, Queens County Museum and Queens Museum of Justice
- Other entities – Perkins House, Milton Blacksmith Shop
- Queens County Historical Society – The Society was founded in 1929. Their object is to collect and preserve all documents, etc. for the history of the county.
- Board of Trustees – Members are appointed by the Historical Society and oversee the operation of the Museum.

- Queens County Museum – Is one of 63 museums across the province.
 - Promotes history and awareness. The museum catalogues and maintains a collection of historical artifacts, interprets the history, maintains genealogy archives and provide research support, and maintains archives of information of general interest.
 - Activities for the public – Easter celebration, Halloween, Christmas Festival of Trees and Dickensville.
 - Museum building – Built in 1980 by the Province and Queens Historical Society.
- Queens Museum of Justice – Operates under the auspices of the Museum, is leased from RQM and is funded by donations.
- Milton Blacksmith Shop – Began as an entity of the Milton Heritage Society in early 1980's to preserve the shop which was built in 1903. The building is owned and maintained by RQM.
- Perkins House – Originally purchased by Historical Society in 1934 and turned over to the Province in early 1940's. Opened as a museum in 1957 and is run by the Historical Society which is fully funded by the Province. Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal maintains the building.
- Queens County Museum – Annual expenses of \$110,000 (30% from Nova Scotia's Community Museum Assistance Program, 4% from RQM (\$5,000), 9% from gift shop, 4% donations, 45% from Perkins House, 5% other services).
- Covid Funding – Reduced or non-existent during Covid. Local museums could not qualify for federal funding and no provincial funding yet this year for local museums).
- Future Plans
 - Working on plans for an expansion of the museum site for new exhibit galleries and collection storage.
 - Focus on Mi'kmaq and Black communities and special focus on the Port of Privateers and Liverpool's privateering heritage.
 - Funded federally and provincially and through donations.

Mayor Norman thanked Peter and Linda for their presentation.

4.0 TABLING OF PETITIONS

There were no petitions to come before this meeting.

5.0 PUBLIC QUESTION/COMMENT SESSION

David Huskins, 160 Church Street, Liverpool – Mr. Huskins enquired who enforces parking in winter, i.e. having vehicles moved. Chris McNeill, CAO, stated this issue is the responsibility of the RCMP to enforce the MVA.

Leah Clattenburg, 10 Rose Lane, Hunts Point – Ms. Clattenburg stated she is a grade 7 student at the South Queens Middle School. She thanked RQM for writing to the Minister of Environment and asking for further water quality tests to be done on the Mersey River. She further stated that she understands that from the Minister's response that RQM would need to take the lead on testing to find the sources of bacteria in the Mersey River. A Zoom meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 1 with Bernadette Jordan and enquired if RQM can provide steps for further testing. She also enquired if RQM will attempt to seek the source of contamination. Mayor Norman noted the Minister's response stated Department of Environment may provide guidance upon request. Department of Environment provides guidance to local organizations such as Bluenose Coastal Action Centre.

Mayor Norman added that as a group, if you wish to push the project along, Department of Environment would assist you in where the water tests should be done, e.g. outfalls, etc. David Clarke's information was provided. The response does not say specifically that it is RQM's responsibility to test rivers or lakes for levels of bacteria. RQM looks after its own systems. The outfall at the end of Waterloo Street is our responsibility and we have re-applied for funding from the federal and provincial governments.

Also stated in the Minister's letter, is that it is very difficult for them to go on homeowners' property and the need for complaints before they can. It is the homeowners' responsibility to have working septic systems.

Jill Leuschner, 452 East Berlin Road, East Berlin – Ms. Leuschner enquired if RQM knew the cost for testing? Mayor Norman stated she did not. Ms. Leuschner further enquired if there are grants available for testing. Mayor Norman instructed her to contact Bluenose Coastal or speak to David Clarke.

Ms. Leuschner stated as per the Minister's letter, only a NSE Inspector can test for malfunctioning sewer systems, but first must be provided with grounds in order to investigate, and asked with the results from their water testing, why would that not be enough reasonable grounds for further testing. How would you know if the system was malfunctioning? Mayor Norman advised her to direct her questions to the Minister of Environment, whereas this was his response, or direct them to David Clarke as it is not RQM's jurisdiction to investigate malfunctioning sewer systems.

Ms. Leuchner further stated she felt RQM should be more involved and will be getting in touch with Bluenose Coastal Action for costs for testing and if the testing is something that they can do on their own.

Chief Moyal Conrad, Greenfield Fire Department, 4960 Medway River Road – Chief Conrad stated he and his fellow Chiefs were present as the EMO MOU for Comfort Centre was going to be untabled. This has been worked on for the last year or two. They attended a meeting of Emergency Services and agreed to the contract.

He further stated he wanted everyone to know that there has been heartache for all and will back the outcome of tonight's decision the best they can. The departments will always be available to the residents.

6.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6.1 Regular Council – February 9, 2021

It was moved by Councillor Hawkes and seconded by Councillor Gidney:

THAT the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held February 9, 2021 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

There were no items to come before this meeting.

9.0 CORPORATE SERVICES

9.1 EMO Memorandum of Understanding for Comfort Centre

It was moved by Councillor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Hawkes:

THAT the motion made at the January 12, 2021 meeting that reads as follows be untabled:

THAT Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MPU) Respecting the Use of Community Facilities as a Municipal Comfort Centre or Municipal Emergency Shelter during an Emergency;

AND FURTHER THAT Council authorize the Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer to enter into any agreements related to this MOU with appropriate local community organizations that are interested.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Mayor Norman stated at the recent emergency services meeting, the Fire Chiefs requested that two changes be made to the MOU.

1. This agreement be reviewed on an annual basis by Council.
2. In cases where the reasonable costs of providing this service exceeds the daily rate, a facility owner may submit a receipt for consideration of reimbursement by the Municipality.

Consensus was given by Council to add these two items to the MOU.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

9.2 Bylaw No. 7 – A Bylaw Prohibiting Certain Noises

Councillor Brown stated he has received a number of calls from residents that have asked that this policy be changed. This policy is 24 years old. We have quiet hours now from 12 Midnight to 6 a.m. It only covers noises created by stereos, music instruments, etc. but doesn't cover any other noise. It doesn't talk about the quality of life around someone making a noise and is out of line with other areas around the province. Many have 8-hours quiet time, which is what is recommended by the Department of Health.

The majority of districts in Halifax, Kings, Shelburne, Digby, Lunenburg, Yarmouth all have limits on decibels that reach adjoining properties.

When residents call with a complaint about noise, they're told the Bylaw is unenforceable as we don't have a Bylaw that has any quantitative levels in it or any other noises besides stereos or loud speakers. Councillor Brown would like to see staff research and bring back a recommendation to update the Bylaw.

Councillor Charlton agreed with Councillor Brown as many of the Councillors have been receiving noise complaints and agreed that the Bylaw is outdated.

Mayor Norman, in consultation with Mr. McNeill, stated there have been very few complaints about noise since the beginning of RQM, which has been 24 years.

She further stated do we fix one property which is disturbing the peace by changing a Bylaw? We can give direction to staff if we wish them to examine other municipal Bylaws, enquire if they work, if they're enforceable, prior to changing the Bylaw. Amending bylaws requires legal advice as well as approval from the Province. Should staff work with RCMP to determine if the issues are disturbances of the peace, which matters often are?

Councillor Gidney stated in reviewing other municipal bylaws, the time changes from week to weekends. If we are experiencing this in one area, then we need to fix it.

Councillor Hawkes concurred with Councillor Gidney, and suggested having a decibel level after 10 p.m.

Mr. McNeill advised Councillors to use caution when reviewing other municipal bylaws. He reached out to some municipalities to see if any had issued tickets under a noise bylaw, and even with them in place, they are not enforcing them. With respect to decibels, a commercial grade meter would be required, and if in court, they need to meet standards, be serviced and maintained and the readings need to be verified that they are correct and accurate. There would be a need to provide one for each of the RCMP vehicle as well as our Bylaw Enforcement Officer. The decibel levels are also problematic.

He suggested that the RCMP be contacted for issues of disturbing the peace. In discussions with them, it's not a problem with the Bylaw, they simply do not want to prosecute someone and give them a criminal record for disturbing the peace for playing loud music. They would prefer we enforce a rule under our Bylaw which doesn't give a criminal record.

Direction was given to staff to rewrite the Bylaw and include the suggested time of 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. for quiet time, include decibel readers and bring back to Council for review.

9.3 Council Chamber Audio and Video Upgrade Options

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Muise and seconded by Councillor Amirault:

THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality engage the services of Catalyst Consulting Engineers to design the proposed new council chamber audio video layout and request for proposal programs and oversee its implementation;

AND THAT authorization be given for staff to oversee this process at a cost of up to \$10,000 including expenses plus HST, to be funded as an unfunded liability from the 2020-2021 operating budget.

Councillor Gidney enquired if the cost of \$10,000 was inclusive for the project. Mr. McNeill stated they will determine the size of table needed, accessibility features, electrical, the number of speakers and where they need to be for the best acoustics. They'll prepare an RFP with all the specs, i.e. number of mics, TV screen, etc. and then it will go to tender. When received, they will sit with us for review and provide their opinion on who will provide us with the best setup. They will oversee the contractor to the end.

Councillor Gidney stated that he had contacted three companies from Halifax who will do a site visit and see what we need with no cost involved. They would come in and tell us what they have, what they're going to do, the price and then go from there.

Mr. McNeill further explained that we are paying someone to give us their independent opinion versus going out and giving a company an untendered contract. It has to go to public tender as it's the law. It would be difficult for us to choose as we do not have the expertise so we need someone with the experience and knowledge to analyze and assess what is best for us.

Mayor Norman stated this is the process that Council agreed to; to hire an independent consultant and what the price would be.

MOTION CARRIED with 7 in favour, 1 against.

10.0 ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS

There were no items to come before this meeting.

11.0 FINANCE

11.1 Administrative Policy 9 – Tax Exemptions

It was moved by Councillor Charlton and seconded by Deputy Mayor Muise:

THAT Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve Administrative Policy 9 respecting Tax Exemptions.

Mallory Plummer, Manager of Finance, stated instead of bringing this Policy to Council for approval every year and putting in an actual exemption amount, we are proposing to change the Policy so that every year we can use the March guaranteed income supplement, which is what we use. The Policy can be brought back to Council if the supplement is changed.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

12.0 RECREATION AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

There were no items to come before this meeting.

13.0 PLANNING

13.1 Quit Claim Deed, Land off Brooklyn Shore Road in Brooklyn

It was moved by Councillor Amirault and seconded by Deputy Mayor Muise:

THAT Region of Queens Municipality amend a previously approved motion of December 8, 2020 which states:

THAT the Region of Queens Municipality agrees to grant a Quit Claim Deed to Robert Dexter for any interest that the Municipality may have in property identified as PID #70243837;

AND THAT this transaction be subject to Robert Dexter becoming owner of adjacent parcel identified as PID #70088919, or a portion thereof;

AND THAT all costs incurred in this transaction be borne by Robert Dexter.

By replacing the name “Robert Dexter” with “Glen Dexter” and removing the second clause of the motion.

Mike MacLeod, Director of Planning & Development, stated Council approved a quit claim deed to Robert Dexter for the parcel of land that abutted his mother's property, Phyllis Dexter. Through a grant of probate, the parcel of land is in Glen Dexter's name. Both Robert and Glen have approached RQM that instead of Robert acquiring the land that it be conveyed to Glen. In order to do that we need to amend the motion. It is the same intent as what was approved.

MOTION CARRIED with 7 in favour, and 1 absent, and reads as follows:

THAT the Region of Queens Municipality agrees to grant a Quit Claim Deed to Glen Dexter for any interest that the Municipality may have in property identified as PID #70243837;

AND THAT all costs incurred in this transaction be borne by Glen Dexter.

14.0 REPORTS

- 14.1 Selection of Two Representative Volunteers for Provincial Volunteer Awards Ceremony

It was moved by Councillor Brown and seconded by Councillor Charlton:

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality select Kendra Shot and Ron Shupe as the Region of Queens Municipality's 2021 Volunteers of the Year.

Heather Cook, Communications & Engagement Coordinator, stated each year there is a provincial volunteer ceremony held in Halifax in April. This year it will be held virtually because of Covid. Each municipality picks volunteers of the year which is a once in a lifetime award. RQM gets to pick two because of the amalgamation. The volunteers are nominated through the Ripple Effect for recognition throughout the year.

The previous Council had concerns on how we pick the volunteers, so the names are draw so everyone is on the same playing level.

Mayor Norman drew the names.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

14.2 Council Implementation Report

There were no items from the Report to be discussed.

15.0 IN-CAMERA ITEMS

It was moved by Councillor Amirault and seconded by Councillor Hawkes that the proceedings go In-Camera at 7:25 p.m. to discuss the following:

- 15.1 Litigation
- 15.2 Security of Municipal Property
- 15.3 Contract Negotiations

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

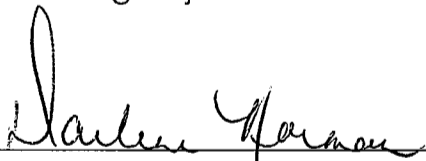
Mayor Norman announced a 5-minute recess at 7:25 p.m.

It was moved by Councillor Brown and seconded by Councillor Hawkes that the proceedings exit In-Camera at 7:55 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

16.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.



Mayor Darlene Norman, Chair



Chris McNeill, CAO



Christine Watson, Administrative Assistant – Planning & Development

Date Approved: March 9, 2021

The Queens County Museum

Who we are and what we do.

Linda Rafuse and Peter Leslie, February, 2021

Who we are

- Queen County Historical Society
- Queens County Museum Board of Trustees
- Queens County Museum
- Queens Museum of Justice

Other entities

- Perkins House
- Milton Blacksmith Shop

Queens County Historical Society

- founded in 1929
 - An Act to Incorporate the queens County Historical Society, S.N.S. 1934, c. 100
2. The objects of the Society shall be the collection and preservation of all documents, papers and other objects of interest which may serve to throw light upon and illustrate the history of the county of Queens; the reading at the meetings of the Society of papers on historical subjects; the publication as far as the funds of the Society will allow, of all such documents and papers, as it may be deemed advisable to publish; and the formation of a library of books, papers and manuscripts affording information and illustrating historical subjects.

Board of Trustees

- created as a body of the Historical Society by its by-laws to oversee the operations of the Queens County Museum
- members appointed by the Historical Society

Queens County Museum

- To promote an understanding of Queens County History and Awareness of future possibilities by:
 - developing, preserving and exhibiting a significant collection;
 - taking a significant role in leadership and scholarship;
 - engaging and providing access to audiences locally, nationally and internationally;
 - delivering innovative programming
 - our vision is to be a recognized world class museum exploring Queens County's past, to illustrate and interpret the present and envision the future
- part of the community museum assistance program, one of 63 museums across the province

Queens County Museum

- What does the museum do?
- Catalogue and maintain a collection of historical artifacts both acquired and donated that give a window on the past of Queens County
- Artifacts are professionally curated and catalogued, and where possible, preserved
- Interpret the history of Queens County
- Maintain a genealogy archive and provide research support
- Maintain an archive of information of general interest – everything from old school records to copies of the local newspapers to photographs and pictures

Queens County Museum

- Activities for the public
- Endeavour to make the museum a part of the social fabric of the community
 - Easter celebration, Christmas Festival of Trees and Dickensville
- Provide support to anyone interested in the background and history of our community including the maintenance of a relevant library

Queens County Museum - the QCM building

- built in 1980 by the Province and the Queens County Historical Society (cost shared), owned and maintained by the Province,
- QCM pays the operating expenses

Queens Museum of Justice

- operates under the auspices of the Queens County Museum
- the courthouse is leased from the region who maintains the building
- unfunded by municipality or Province, donations only

Milton Blacksmith Shop

- began as an entity of the Milton Heritage Society which formed in the early 1980's
- formed to preserve the Milton Blacksmith shop
- the community run blacksmith built in 1903
- building owned and maintained by the municipality (inherited from the Milton Village Commission - (memo of understanding)
- the QCM looks after the administrative needs
- one employee of the Milton Heritage Society who runs the museum, the QCM charges an administrative fee for annual admin

Perkins House

Background

- originally purchased by the Historical Society in 1934 from the Agnew family
- turned over to the Province in the early 1940s
- Province opened it as a museum in 1957, one of the NS Museum's 28 sites (locally managed)
- operated by the Queens County Historical Society for the NS Museum,
- the Province funds Perkins House 100%
- TIR maintains the building
- annual grant for Perkins House is for the annual operation (salaries, wages, utilities, advertising) - the QCM administers this grant

QCM

funding

- annual expenses running at approximately \$110,000
- 30% from CMAP, Nova Scotia's Community **Museum Assistance Program**
- 4% from region - \$5,000, unchanged for over 30 years
- 9% from gift shop
- 4% donations
- 45% from fees charged for Perkins House administration
- 5% other services (research, photocopy, photographs)
- CMAP and municipal funding is only for the QCM, not for the Justice Museum or the Blacksmith shop

COVID funding

- important because donations, gift shops and services are important revenue streams for museums
- all of these are reduced or non-existent during covid
- in 2020 the federal gov't gave funding that local museums could qualify for
- QCM was able to bridge the gap with federal funding
- in 2021 there is no mention of federal funding yet
- Province gave no COVID funding to local museums and no mention yet for this year

Future Plans

- The Board of Trustees is currently working on plans for an expansion of the museum site that will contain new exhibit galleries and additional space for collection storage
- Will allow for proper storage of the collection and increased display room
- Focus on Mi'maq and Black communities and special focus on the Port of the Privateers and Liverpool's privateering heritage
- plans require consultations with Nova Scotia Museums and TIR as they own the land and the building
- Funded by federal and provincial sources and donations