

**PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 13, 2015 - 7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Susan MacLeod, Chair
Councillor Brian Fralic
Councillor Peter Waterman
Don Kimball
Heather Kelly
John Winters
Richard Smith
Robert Ross
Mike MacLeod, Planner

Regrets: Jessica Van Dyne Evans

1. CALL TO ORDER -

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA –

Additions:

6.1 Briefing on Urban Chicken Amendments

It was **MOVED** by **Brian Fralic** and **SECONDED** by **Robert Ross** that the Agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 8, 2015

It was **MOVED** by **John Winters** and **SECONDED** by **Peter Waterman** that the Minutes of April 8, 2015 be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. MUNICIPAL PLANNING REVIEW -

Mike MacLeod advised that he had endeavored to find some examples of terms of reference from other municipal units for the preparation of a municipal planning review. Mike noted that he included in the agenda package an RFP from the Town of Yarmouth, a plan review project charter from the Town of Wolfville and a plan review scoping study from the Municipality of East Hants.

Robert Ross requested an update on where Council was respecting an early review of the planning documents.

Peter Waterman advised that Council had discussed the issue during budget deliberations and that it was agreed to begin budgeting money to conduct a review. However, he did not feel that Council was in support of an early review.

Robert Ross noted that he was hesitant to delve too far into the preparation work for a plan review process if Council is not ready. Robert felt that Council has to identify its priorities as it moves into the future. He noted that the Town of Yarmouth and the Municipality of East Hants are good examples of municipalities which are being proactive in planning for the future.

Susan MacLeod noted that other areas would have their own individual drivers for change. Since the closure of Bowater Mersey, the focus of Council has been on economic development.

Brian Fralic advised that other areas have the desire to create change / vision. It is his feeling that the Region has to take that step, but also feels that this is not supported by the majority of Council.

Heather Kelly advised that perhaps a formal motion to Council to initiate a review would get the topic on the floor for discussion. No sense working on background information at this time if a project is not going to proceed early. Heather felt that the Municipality has been reactionary respecting development over the last couple of years.

Robert Ross felt that we have to define what we want new planning documents to accomplish; articulate priorities. Kings County is a great example.

John Winters suggested that a broad stroke proposal be prepared to go to Council for discussion.

Don Kimball acknowledged that if you are going to do anything, you have to know where you are going.

John Winters suggested that perhaps a small sub-committee of PAC could be formed to put together some rational or a framework which could be presented to Council for consideration of initiating a review.

Susan MacLeod noted that such a report could identify some of the current challenges we are facing.

John Winters suggested that the underlying question that needs to be asked is "do we want to get left behind". Other areas are changing, so why aren't we.

Brian Fralic felt that we are getting left behind. Brian noted that a good example of what is going on elsewhere in the Province to influence change is Engage Nova Scotia. Engage Nova Scotia is a network of people, communities, and organizations taking action to meet economic and social challenges in our communities.

Heather Kelly noted that the Region has already gone through an engagement process with the Economic Development Strategy and the three pillars.

Robert Ross advised that when developers come to our area, they want to know what the rules of the game are. Things have changed, and we need to define what our priority goals are for the future.

Committee discussed formation of a sub-committee to look at preparing a short report which outlines the prioritized needs of the community, as rational for initiating a planning review. The sub-committee will be made up of Councillor Susan MacLeod, Robert Ross and John Winters. A draft report will be brought back to PAC for review and discussion.

5. MEETING DATES –

The Committee discussed potential for changing the time of the month for PAC meetings. Over the past year or so, the first Wednesday of the month has been problematic for some members and it was suggested that perhaps another night would be better. It was decided that a Monday night would be better. Starting in July, it was decided to meet on the first Monday of each month.

6. OTHER -

6.1 BRIEFING ON URBAN CHICKEN AMENDMENTS

Mike MacLeod advised the Committee on a direction of Council to investigate the potential for amendments to the Region's Land Use Bylaw to allow residential property owners to keep a small number of chickens on their property. The direction of Council followed a request from a resident of Liverpool to keep several hens on his property for their eggs. Mike noted that under current regulations, this would be classified as a household livestock operation. This use is permitted in the General Residential (R2) Zone, Mixed Use Rural Residential (R5) Zone and the Mixed Use Coastal Residential (R6) Zone. The Bylaw sets out a minimum lot size of 1 acre for this use; however. The use is not permitted in the Restricted Residential (R1) Zone, Multiple Unit Residential (R3) Zone or the Land Leased Residential (R4) Zone. Mike advised that he is in the process of putting together some background information on the subject and a report will be presented at the June PAC meeting for discussion and direction.

7. NEXT MEETING -

The next meeting is scheduled for June 3, 2015.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Councillor Susan MacLeod, Chair

Date