

**REGION OF QUEENS MUNICIPALITY
REGULAR COUNCIL
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2016
9:00 a.m.**

PRESENT: Mayor David Dagley, Chair
Councillor Kevin Muise
Councillor Heather Kelly
Councillor Brian Fralic
Councillor Susan MacLeod
Councillor Jack Fancy
Councillor Raymond Fiske
Councillor Gilbert Johnson
Richard MacLellan, Chief Administrative Officer
Jennifer Keating-Hubley, Director of Finance
Christine Watson, Recording / Management Secretary

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 Councillor Muise that the Agenda be approved with the following changes:

**Add: 16.2 Medway & Area Communities Association Request
17.5 In-Camera, Contract Negotiations MGA 22(2)e**

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

3.0 PRESENTATION(S):

3.1 Youth, South Queens Middle School

As part of Municipal Awareness Week, Mayor Dagley welcomed Vice-Principal Stacy Thorburn and students, Liam Strum, Emma Whynot, Raya Stewart and Dominic Losier, from South Queens Middle School to provide council with ideas that they would like considered for installation at the Queens Place Emera Centre.

Some ideas brought forward were:

- New sports i.e. ball hockey
- Provide supplies for sports i.e. bike rentals for new biking trail
- Video gaming area, with the potential for conventions
- More use of community room
- After school exercise programs for youth.

3.2 Carter's Beach

Mayor Dagley welcomed Robert Ross, who lives on Carter's Beach Road and who is representing other residents and volunteer organizations in the Port Mouton community, to present to council issues and concerns of Carter's Beach (copy of presentation attached to original set of Minutes).

Mr. Ross provided information and advice from Dr. Bob Taylor, Coastal Geomorphologist and expert on beach dynamics in Atlantic Canada. Dr. Taylor recommended that the level of human activity on the beach should be limited and more effectively managed. A copy of Dr. Taylor's recommendations was circulated to Councillors (copy attached to original set of Minutes).

Mayor Dagley thanked Mr. Ross for his presentation and stated that the Region will be in contact.

4.0 TABLING OF PETITIONS:

There were no petitions to come before this meeting.

5.0 PUBLIC QUESTION / COMMENT SESSION:

Leon Robertson, 45 College Street, Liverpool – Mr. Robertson enquired, under the Bylaw Enforcement Officer's Report, as to the employment duration of the recently hired Bylaw Enforcement employee. Richard MacLellan, CAO, stated that monies had been budgeted to allow for a part time employee for a period of four months.

Mr. Robertson further commented on the good presentation from Robert Ross and offered his suggestion of having another entrance across from Cranberry Hall, to help alleviate traffic on the Carter's Beach Road. Mayor Dagley stated that Department of Environment has been requested to have a meeting with the Region to look at a resolution.

6.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

6.1 Council Minutes – November 8, 2016

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

THAT the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held November 8, 2016 be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously. Councillor Fiske was absent during vote.

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:

There were no items to come before this meeting.

10.0 ENGINEERING AND WORKS:

There were no items to come before this meeting.

11.0 FINANCE

11.1 Municipal Well Drilling Financing Program

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

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality request a staff report with respect to the feasibility of creating a municipal well drilling / water storage financing program for the community, as recently permitted by Bill No. 62, Municipal Government Act Amendments.

Mr. MacLellan stated that during the summer, southwest Nova Scotia communities experienced draught which resulted in many homes not having potable water. Bottled water is still being distributed through Ground Search and Rescue, as in other municipalities.

Some communities have approached government to help provide potential solutions to residents to mitigate the problem. One solution may be through the Property Assessed Clean Energy Program, which enables financing to drill a well, repayment spread over 10 – 20 years, as a supplement to their tax bill. The motion has gone through the province and legislature in the past month. Other municipalities have been discussing this program and Region of Queens will be investigating the feasibility of such a program.

It was further asked whether septic could also be considered and Mr. MacLellan stated that it is not specifically under the legislation of this program.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

12.0 RECREATION AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES:

12.1 Request from North Queens Board of Trade

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

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approves the funding of \$250.00 requested by the North Queens Board of Trade in support of Children's Christmas Activities in Caledonia from the Community Recreation Assistance Program administered by the Recreation Department.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

13.0 PLANNING:

There were no items to come before this meeting.

14.0 QUEENS PLACE EMERA CENTRE:

14.1 Draft Minutes – Advisory Committee

Mr. MacLellan stated that as a result of public sessions held early in the year, a new Queens Place Advisory Committee was formed and held their first meeting on November 8, 2016.

Michael Anthony accepted the position of Chair and Stew Horton as Vice Chair.

A review of potential goals and strategies was undertaken as well as a review of the committee's Terms of Reference and Municipal Code of Conduct for members of council and public committees.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2016.

15.0 REPORTS

Items 15.1, 15.2, and 15.3 were included in the agenda package as information:

- 15.1 Bylaw Enforcement Officer's Monthly Report – October 2016
- 15.2 Building Inspector's Monthly Report – October 2016
- 15.3 Town Hall Arts & Cultural Centre Monthly Report – October 2016

16.0 OTHER:

16.1 Motorized Access, Pine Grove Park

Mr. MacLellan stated that during the summer staff while following policy, declined requests to bring motorized vehicles into Pine Grove Park; where motorized traffic was prohibited because of environmental sensitivities in the area.

Presently, the Region lacks the appropriate infrastructure, i.e. roads, signage, etc. to sustain motorized use, and this explains the current policy supporting the position that it is a non-motorized park, with the exception of park crews that conduct park maintenance.

It is staffs advice that if the Region is going to enable motorized vehicles, the Region would need to create a budget to properly sign, etc. Consequently, staff recommends that the park remain non motorized. The Region will work with groups such as AFN requests to enable activities to happen.

At issue to several Councillors was the actual wording of the policy affecting Pine Grove Park, specifically use of the word "refuse" when considering park usage requests. Mr. MacLellan stated that staff will be reviewing the wording of the policy so that applicants are aware of an appeal process to Council.

16.2 Request from Medway & Area Communities Association

It was moved by Councillor Fiske and seconded by Councillor Muise:

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality gives permission for the location and overall concept design of the "Lost at Sea" Fishermen's Memorial submitted by the Medway & Area Communities Association for Port Medway Lighthouse Park, at no cost to the Region of Queens.

AND further will provide a Letter of Support to accompany the Association's funding applications relating to this project.

Jill Cruikshank, Director of Economic Development, stated an application has been received from the Medway & Area Communities Association (MACA) for permission and design of the "Lost at Sea" Fishermen's Memorial for the Port Medway Lighthouse Park. MACA is planning events to increase the usage of the Lighthouse Park and The Warehouse. One such event is "The Blessing of the Fleet" which is to take place in the Park in September 2017. As part of the event, and to celebrate Canada's 150th Anniversary, the group would like to install a memorial to fishermen from Port Medway, East Port Medway, East Berlin, Charleston and Mill Village who have been lost at sea.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

17.0 IN-CAMERA ITEMS

It was moved by Councillor Fancy and seconded by Councillor Kelly that the proceedings go "In-Camera" at 10:43 a.m. to discuss the following:

- 17.1 Contract Negotiations, MGA 22(2)e**
- 17.2 Personnel Matter, MGA 22(2)c**
- 17.3 Contract Negotiations, MGA 22(2)e**
- 17.4 Sale of Municipal Property, MGA 22(2)a**
- 17.5 Contract Negotiations, MGA 22(2)e**

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

COUNCIL RECESSED FOR 30 MINUTES.

It was moved by Councillor Fiske and seconded by Councillor Fancy that the proceedings come out of "In-Camera" at 2:30p.m.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

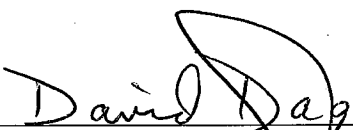
16.3 It was moved by Councillor MacLeod and seconded by Councillor Fralic:

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve the payment of a maximum of \$50,000 to Nova Scotia Lands toward funding the required expanded underground services infrastructure at Port Mersey Commercial Park.

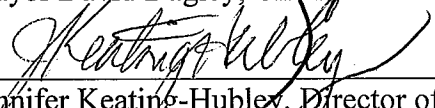
MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

18.0 ADJOURNMENT

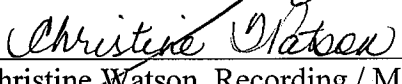
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.



Mayor David Dagley, Chair

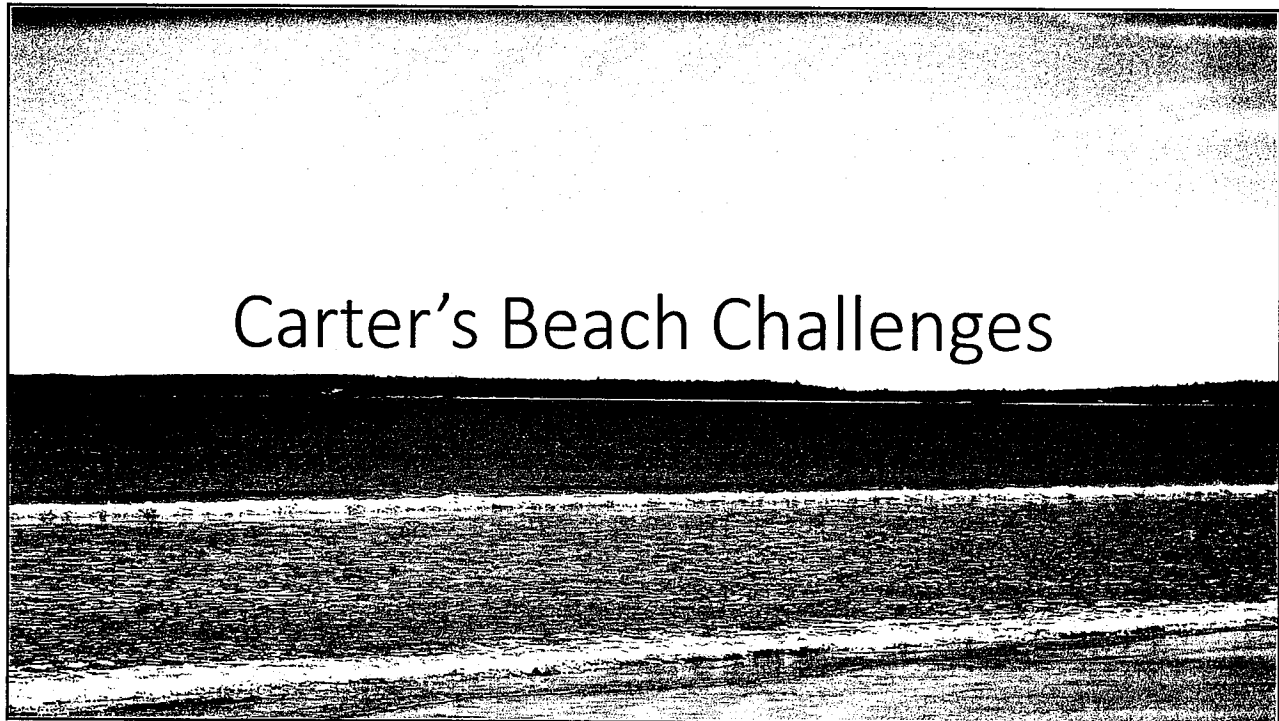


Jennifer Keating-Hubley, Director of Finance



Christine Watson, Recording / Management Secretary

Date Approved: DECEMBER 13, 2016



Carter's Beach Challenges

Introduction

- Region of Queens Natural Assets
- Asset Protection and Preservation
- Port Mouton Active and Engaged
- External Influences Impacts



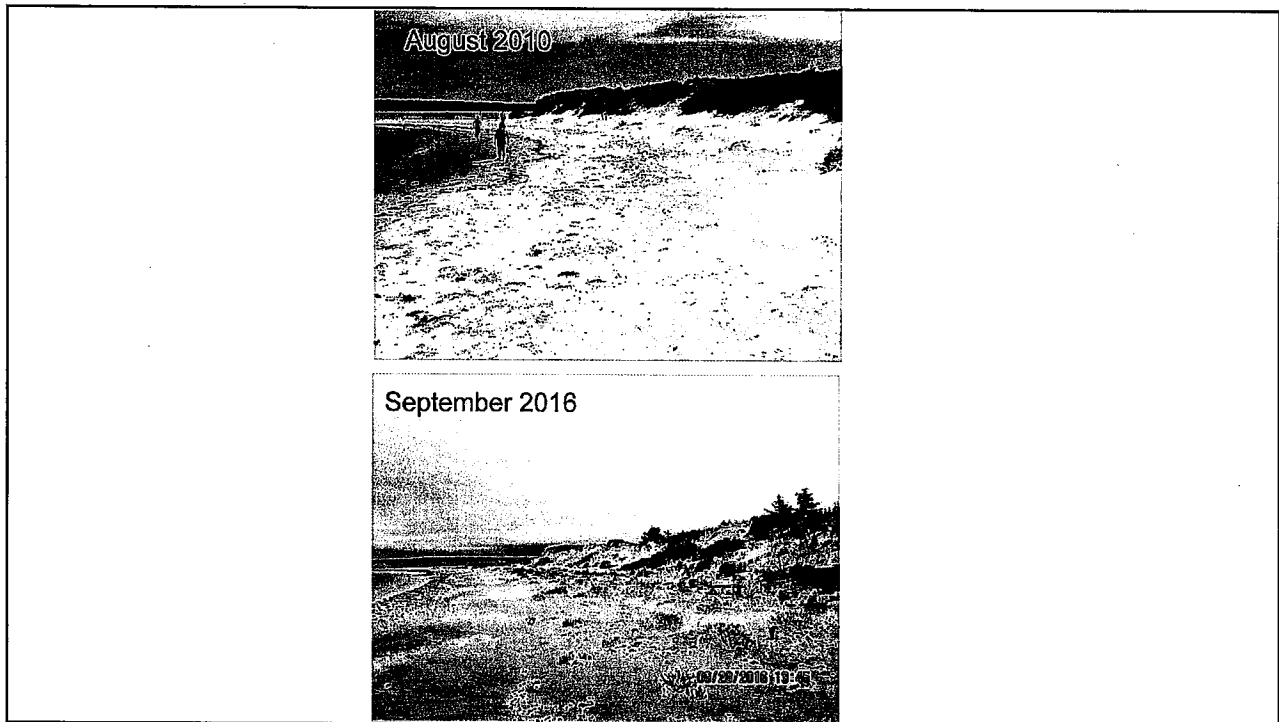
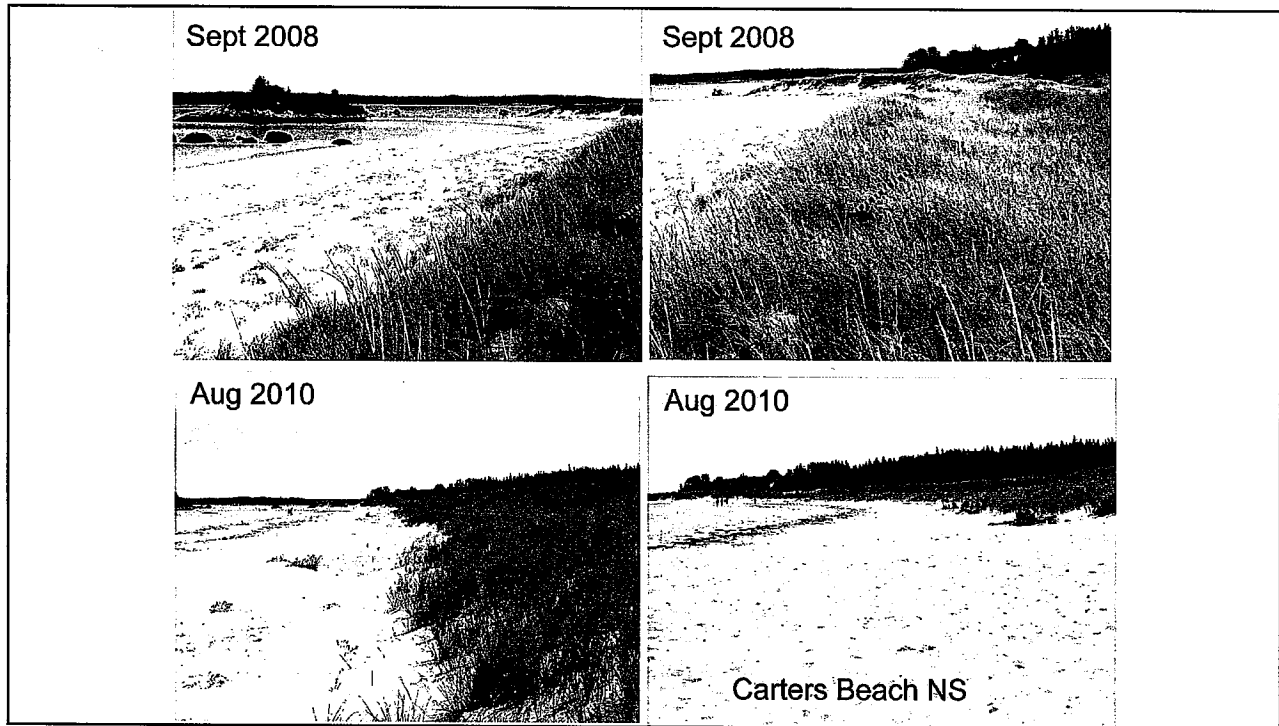
Current Circumstances

- Carter's Beach Neighbourhood Attachment
- Pending Nature Reserve Designation
- Recreational and Environmental Co-existence
- Summer 2016 - Out of Control Situation



Carter's Challenges

- Unsustainable Volume of Beach Visitors
- Lack of Infrastructure
- Environmental Degradation
- Loss of Neighbourhood Character



Management Option Considerations

- Carrying Capacity of Beach
- Sand Dune Management
- Street Parking Enforcement
- Dept. of Env. Management Plan
- Carter's Committee Concept



Next Step Alternatives

- Do Nothing Not an Option
- Need for Local Community Meeting
- Engage RCMP, EMR, TIR – No Parking Enforcement
- Public Message of Carter's Changes
- Environmental Education Signage
- Social Media Campaign
- Work with NS Environment

Big Picture

- No Appetite for Repetition of 2016 Events
- Environmental/ Community Costs vs Perceived Tourism Benefits
- Preservation of Neighbourhood Sense of Place
- Port Mouton Community Requests Your Help

Advice from Dr. Bob Taylor, coastal geomorphologist and expert on beach dynamics in Atlantic Canada (emeritus, Geological Survey of Canada, Bedford Institute of Oceanography Dartmouth NS)

October 28, 2016.

Following a comparison of a series of ground photos taken at Carters Beach in 2008, 2010 and 2016 by a variety of people, a few preliminary comments can be made about coastal dune stability.

- 1) Sand supply to the beach and dunes appears fairly abundant and is assumed to be derived from the beach and nearshore environments. Sand transport is active across the beach and seaward primary dune. There is active growth of new grasses on embryo dunes along the upper beach and mounds of new sand just landward of the primary dune at several locations photographed in 2016. New windblown sand encourages vegetation growth.
- 2) In general the dunes appear healthy but the density and coverage of vegetation has deteriorated in a number of places by 2016 compared with 2008-2010. The largest loss of grass appears along parts of the seaward primary dune face, and where people have initiated paths over and across the dunes.
- 3) On the basis of 2016 photos and reported field observations, a succession of blowouts (craters created by wind scouring of sand) has occurred in the seaward face and in the slope behind the top of the dunes toward the south-east end of the second beach. There is also evidence of human activity in this area. There is the beginning of a dune blowout near the river due to a well travelled path inland. Any lack of dune deterioration is attributed to a rather quiet storm year thus far and the abundance of windblown sand across the beach and dune. Larger beach and dune changes in the vicinity of the river on first beach are natural and should be allowed to continue.
- 4) It has been observed at other sand barrier beaches in Nova Scotia, e.g. Martinique Beach that when the dunes are breached and broken through by waves to the backshore lagoon they are able to rebuild themselves across the resultant wash-over flats within a period of 10-12 years without human intervention. An impact of natural wash-over flat building is erosion of the seaward dunes as the cut expands alongshore. Sand derived from the adjoining dunes is used to supply the wash-over flat and embryo dunes within the cut. It should be noted that except near the river, Carters Beach does not have a lower backshore lagoon and pond observed at Martinique beach.
- 5) Dog traffic and their impacts to beach ecology were discussed briefly - in New Zealand dogs are not allowed on many beaches, period.

Recommendations

Dune vegetation is being degraded at least in part by increased human traffic. **Soft approaches to support natural processes are the preferred choice for remediation of dunes, if possible; for example, by directing human traffic and promoting sand deposition in select sites.** Snow fences can be used to trap sand and close off breaches but they often become damaged on low areas by waves in storms or by people and wind in higher areas leaving hazardous debris which needs to be cleaned up. If sand fences

are used, there needs to be a subsequent and timely re-vegetation program to stabilize the accumulated sand. Fences tend to capture sand faster than natural mechanisms, ie wave wash-over , and promote steep, narrow, unnatural shaped dunes that are less useful in the long term. **Repetitive photos and or observations on how the beach and dunes respond to storms and human traffic at select locations are recommended to assist in developing the best remediation practices for Carters Beach.**

Yellow flagging tape and signage are recommended to redirect human traffic away from deteriorated areas and from paths leading to these areas. Signage alone is not effective based on experience at other Nova Scotia beaches. It may be wise to allow human traffic along select well-travelled paths in order to prevent damage to other more sensitive areas or to minimize damage. Washroom facilities in appropriate locations prevent a lot of individual pathways extending across dunes into the interior.

Determine how many visitors Carters Beach can sustain without severe negative impacts. Managing visitor numbers is a difficult task. **This beach should be promoted as a Nature Reserve with limited parking available, no parking on roads leading to the beach and no facilities (e.g. picnic tables, change rooms, etc.).** A toilet facility at the parking lot does not serve visitors on the second and third beaches, particularly when they cannot cross the river from the farthest beaches when the tide is high. **This information may help to keep numbers of visitors to Carters Beach to a more manageable level.**