

APPROVED MINUTES
Regular Meeting Water and Environment Committee
1:00pm Wednesday, April 7, 2021
North Shore Community Centre

PRESENT:

Committee Chair Councillor Wanson Hemphill, Committee Members John MacDougall, Justin Walsh and Connie Egan, Mayor Gerard Watts and CAO Stephanie Moase

Regrets: Robbie Moore
 4 members of the Public

1. CALL TO ORDER: 1:05 pm by Committee Chair Councillor Wanson Hemphill.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

It was duly moved and seconded that the agenda be approved with the addition of 4.2 Japanese Knotweed and 4.3 Smoke Free Places Act

Moved by Justin Walsh and seconded by John MacDougall

All in Favor

MOTION CARRIED

2.1. Disclosure of Pecuniary or Other Conflicts of Interest:

There were none.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

It was duly moved and seconded that the minutes of the Feb 24, 2021 meeting be approved

Moved by Justin Walsh and seconded by Connie Egan

All in Favor

MOTION CARRIED

3.1. Business Arising from the Minutes

Chair Wanson Hemphill said he is awaiting updated water test data from George Somers, but seems to be no serious changes in trends from previous years. Most issues have been resolved from shocking. Need to take into consideration that testing numbers were probably down as many cottagers did not come last summer due to COVID

3.2. Blue Community & Blue Dot Community Recommendation Update

Connie Egan has been researching information regarding the Blue Dot & Blue Communities. Charlottetown has been recognized as a Blue Dot since 2015 but is not a Blue Community. They have been using their Sustainability Plan and focusing on that.

To be successful, the Municipality needs to decide what their intent is, and needs to ensure that we have a suitable budget as the means to follow through. Connie reviewed the Official Plan draft policies and thinks that the Municipality would be better with the Blue Dot instead of the Blue Community. Connie will review Charlottetown's Sustainability Plan and see what parts could work for RMNS

3.3. Water Conservation and Septic Maintenance Promotion

It was suggested to have a Public Education Meeting with a presentation from Septic people to offer information about Septic Maintenance, perhaps later in the summer
Create a draft of a "Water Tips" handout to pass out for information, on coloured paper and information about Septic and Well Maintenance could also be added

Discussion regarding hiring a Post Secondary Student to go door to door with the handouts and do septic survey, could possibly use the Skills PEI Mentorship Program

3.4. Discussion of Input from Septic Installers/Pumpers

Some Committee members have held information gathering sessions with Septic installers and pumpers. They feel that the overall conditions on the peninsula are improving with many septic systems being upgraded and more people pumping regularly. It is important to ensure that people are putting in the proper septic.

Committee still wants to continue talks of a Septic Bylaw

Need to do what we can to confirm that the data given is accurate; could start the process by going door to door for site visits. Getting the right data is key

In the proposed Official Plan, Council is tasked with updating the water study for a full buildout scenario of the Peninsula.

There was discussion regarding the proposed LandUse Bylaw about who should be doing the design and certifying of the septic systems on an undersized lot; should it be the licensed contractor or an engineer as the current Bylaw does require an engineer.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1. PEI Wetland Conservation Policy

There was a consensus for the Committee to recommend to Council that this issue be transferred to the Covehead and Tracadie Bays Enhancement Committee.

4.2. Japanese Knotweed

It is an invasive species that spreads very quickly and has been found in many places around the Municipality. Almost impossible to kill without chemicals. It was noted that in the spot that was mentioned on Bayshore Rd it came in on the granite from Nova Scotia. To completely eradicate it you would need to move granite.

4.3. Smoke Free Places Act

Frank Morrison made a Presentation of Smoke Free Act/Policy. Engagement is very important - need to get many people involved.

Would like current policy to include all public places, not just public Municipality-owned public places

Requesting the Committee's feedback and support on this issue

5. **NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, May 19, 2021@ 1:00 pm

6. **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:58pm

SIGNED: Wanson Hemphill, Chair

DATE:

SIGNED: Stephanie Moase, CAO

DATE: