



**Draft Minutes
Town of Westville
Committee of The Whole
Council Chambers
October 17, 2022 – 6:00 pm**

1. Call To Order

Mayor White called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Territory Acknowledgement

Mayor White read the Territory acknowledgement and the flying of the Mi'kmaq flag. He also acknowledged the history of African Nova Scotians.

3. Roll Call

Mayor Lennie White, Deputy Mayor Clarrie MacKinnon, Councillor Mitchell MacGregor, Councillor Meghan Bragg, Councillor Bernie Murphy, Recording Secretary Kristen Reed, Kara Allen and Kaelyn from DEANS.

Regrets

Chief Administrative Officer Scot Weeres

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

5. Presentations

Kara Allan and Kaelyn, Coordinators- Destination Eastern and Northumberland Shores. Kara and Kaelyn presented the annual report. DEANS have 12 units in 420 communities. They celebrated their 10th anniversary in December 2021 and continued their strong momentum. The four main pillars are Destination Marketing, Partnerships, Visitor Services and events. More information is on the website www.coastalnovascotia.ca.

Marketing includes visitor guides, Pictou county map, Northumberland shore map, and giveaways. Membership is free and members are listed on the website. They had shop local campaigns during COVID and giftcard contests for small business week.

Visitor Services include in person centers, itinerary planning and promotions. Westville was really busy this year with many international guests. There is also an e-newsletter that goes out each Thursday. They have some volunteers that are 55+ that help them to keep the visitor centers open longer.

The Shine On annual gala handed out the Buoys awards.

Pictou County will be hosting the 55+ Games in September 2023. It will be a significant event. And there will be some rebranding with the new Pictou County sign. Music on Main

St offers funding for restaurants and cafes to host live music, which benefits artists and hopes to draw in people. Ceilidh in the Country is a similar program for community centers and municipal parks.

Councillor Bragg shared that when she became the Council representative she was told that there was not much going on, but there is so much going on. Things can be shared across the region. It's been great and they are doing great work.

Deputy Mayor MacKinnon asked if DEANS is involved in the restoration of the Hector. Cindy is on a lot of different committees and they will be promoting the anniversary of the Hector a lot.

Mayor White asked about the tourists in the area. It was explained that most were from Ontario and Quebec followed by many Europeans and from Israel. There were also a number from Alberta and BC. Some are new residents that are looking for information about what there is to do.

6. New Business

a. Ambassador Award

Mayor White explained his idea for the Ambassador Award. He had mentioned the idea to the CAO sometime ago and sent an email to Council today about it. He's open to criticism and suggestions about it. The idea is that there are many residents that have gained recognition, especially those that have moved away. An example is Lisa Haley, who is a tremendous Ambassador and mentions Westville every time she is interviewed. There are many others as well. This would be as well as the volunteer of the year. It would be a nomination process and could be for individuals or groups. It would both recognize them and promote Westville.

All of the councillors agreed it was a good idea. They like that it is more broad. It would be possible to have multiple recipients some years and none other years. It is just a broad idea at the moment but Council will start to look into it and work out the details.

b. Unsightly Yard Bylaw Discussion

The Town have received several complaints about grass. The dangerous and Unsightly criteria do not cover length of grass unless there is some other item that fits the criteria such as dangerous materials hidden by the grass there is nothing the Town can do. Mayor White did a quick google search and some of the other communities that have a yard bylaw limit the grass to 6-8 inches and have penalties from \$100 to \$1,000. Councillor Bragg has had conversations with people on the other side that are creating natural lawns which are more drought resistant and better pollination. If the criteria is long grass than what are the parameters for people making an effort to go natural? You don't want people growing beautiful wildflowers and end up getting penalized. Deputy Mayor MacKinnon agreed with Councillor Bragg. He attended a fall rally of Garden clubs and one of the presentations was leave nature alone more. It was excellent and there were handouts for everyone and showed how interdependent everything is. There should not be a grass measurer in Westville but be more strict with the houses that are Dangerous and Unsightly. The other Councillors agreed that more can be done with what is currently in place and education and

assistance. It was reminded that this only came about because of a number of complaints but the consensus is the current best action is no action.

c. Upcoming Meeting schedule

With the next Council meeting being November 7th and December having the Christmas holidays the upcoming meeting schedule needs to be confirmed.

The October meeting moved to November 7th. The Police Meetings will remain the third Tuesday of the months, and the PAC meetings will be the third Wednesday. The Committee of the Whole meeting will be Monday December 5th at 6pm and the Council meeting will be Monday December 19th at 6pm.

7. Next Meetings

a. Board of Police Commissioners Meeting

Westville Council Chambers
October 18, 2022 – 6 pm

b. Planning Advisory Committee

Westville Council Chambers
October 19, 2022 – 6pm

c. Council Meeting

Westville Council Chambers
November 7, 2022 – 6pm

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.

Mayor: _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Date Approved: _____