



Village of New Minas
Commission Meeting
November 13, 2023 @ 7:00 PM
Commission Room, LMCC
New Minas, Nova Scotia
APPROVED MINUTES

Commissioners Present:

- Dave Chaulk, Chair
- James Redmond, Vice Chair
- Mary Munroe
- Quentin Hill
- Debra Windle-Smith

Commissioners Absent:

- None

Staff Present:

- Tim Bouter, Clerk Treasurer/CAO
- Gerard Hamilton, Manager of Municipal Operations
- John Ansara, Director of Recreation & Community Development

Others Present:

- Donna Randell (via Zoom)
- Maynard Stevens
- Emily Guphill
- Quincy Millett

1. Call to Order:

Dave Chaulk called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, welcoming those in attendance.

2. Approval of the Agenda:

Motion:

THAT the Agenda for the November 13, 2023 Commission Meeting be approved as circulated.

M/Quentin Hill

S/James Redmond

Motion Carried

3. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest:

No conflicts of interest were declared.

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4. Approval of Minutes:

- a. October 10, 2023 Village Commission Meeting

Motion:

THAT the Minutes for the October 10, 2023 Village Commission Meeting be approved as circulated.

**M/James Redmond
S/Quentin Hill
Motion Carried**

5. Business Arising from Minutes:

- a. October 10, 2023 Village Commission Meeting

There was no business arising from the October 10, 2023 minutes.

6. Comments from the Chair:

There were no comments from the Chair.

7. Public Input Specific to Agenda Topics:

There was no public input.

8. Apple Blossom Gift

Emily Guptill served as the Village’s Leadership Representative in 2020, along with Quincy Millett as her Child Attendant. Unfortunately, Emily and Quincy were unable finish their term properly, as it was interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Because of this, Emily and Quincy never received their parting gift from the Village Commission. John Ansara presented both with a gift as a token of appreciation for their volunteer effort in representing the Village so well.

9. Committee Reports:

- b. Finance & Audit Committee

Dave Chaulk provided a verbal summary of the draft minutes included in the November 13, 2023 Commission agenda package.

Motion:

THAT the draft minutes for the Finance & Audit Committee be received as included in the November 13, 2023 Commission agenda package and as verbally summarized by Dave Chalk.

**M/Quentin Hill
S/James Redmond**

Motion Carried

- c. Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee

Quentin Hill provided a verbal summary of the draft minutes included in the November 13, 2023 Commission agenda package.

Motion:

THAT the draft minutes for the Joint Accessibility Committee be received as included in the November 13, 2023 Commission agenda package and as verbally summarized by Quentin Hill.

M/Quentin Hill

S/James Redmond

Motion Carried

- d. New Minas Water Commission

James Redmond provided a verbal summary of the draft minutes included in the November 13, 2023 Commission agenda package.

Motion:

THAT the draft minutes for the New Minas Water Commission be received as included in the November 13, 2023 Commission agenda package and as verbally summarized by James Redmond.

M/James Redmond

S/Quentin Hill

Motion Carried

- e. Regional Sewer Committee

James Redmond provided a verbal summary of the draft minutes included in the November 13, 2023 Commission agenda package.

Motion:

THAT the draft minutes for the Regional Sewer Committee be received as included in the November 13, 2023 Commission agenda package and as verbally summarized by James Redmond.

M/James Redmond

S/Quentin Hill

Motion Carried

10. Staff Reports:

The Clerk Treasurer/CAO provided a verbal summary of the following written reports included in the November 13, 2023 Commission agenda package:

- a. Clerk Treasurer/CAO — Report included in package
- b. Manager of Municipal Operations — Report included in package
- c. Manager of Finance — Report included in package
- d. Director of Recreation & Community Development — Report included in package
- e. Active Living Coordinator — Report included in package

Motion:

THAT the Staff Reports be received as included in the November 13, 2023 Commission agenda package and as verbally summarized by the Clerk Treasurer/CAO.

M/Debra Windle-Smith

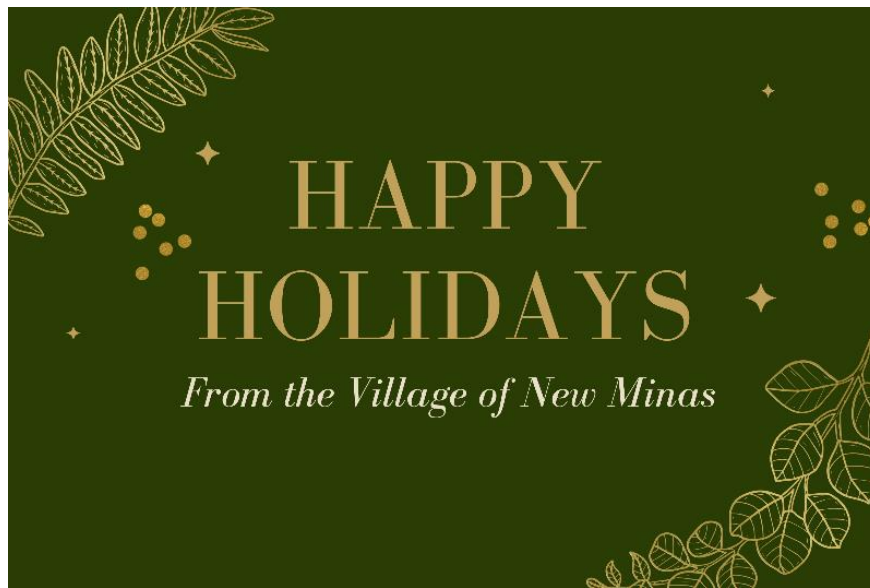
S/James Redmond

Motion Carried

11. New Business:

- a. Village Christmas Tree

The Manager of Municipal Operations summarized the history of the roundabout as it relates to Beautification Committee initiatives and the Christmas tree. The Crescent Park location was chosen as a safer alternative for the Christmas tree with similar visibility. It also offers interactive opportunities for the public. The Commission decided that the supplemental features from last year should not be included in Crescent Park, and for two of the following signs to be installed next to the tree instead (adding clarity that it is a Village initiative):



- b. Municipal Capital Growth Program

The Clerk Treasurer/CAO presented the request for decision included in the November 13, 2023 Commission agenda package.

Motion:

THAT the Regional Forcemain Replacement project be submitted for funding consideration under the Municipal Capital Growth Program, to be filed as a joint application through the Municipality of the County of Kings.

M/James Redmond
S/Debra Windle-Smith
Motion Carried

c. Strategic Plan

The Clerk Treasurer/CAO presented a second draft of the Strategic Plan (included in the November 13, 2023 Commission agenda package), incorporating changes discussed at the October meeting. The Commission was pleased with the changes, but decided to postpone adoption to the December meeting to allow for additional time for consideration.

12. Correspondence:

There was no correspondence.

13. Other Business:

Mary Munroe discussed concerns about the covered viewing deck planned for Founding Father's Park as it relates to public safety and homelessness. Mary suggested that it may be preferable to install an open viewing deck to minimize liability and safety issues. The Clerk-Treasurer/CAO mentioned that initial cost estimates for the covered viewing deck came back much higher than expected. The Commission asked the Clerk-Treasurer/CAO to bring a recommendation back to the December Commission meeting.

14. General Public Input:

Donna Randell:

- Reiterated questions from last month about the benches and flags. The Clerk-Treasurer/CAO to report back at the December Commission meeting.
- Mentioned the Remembrance Day signs and electronic sign display as a positive initiative.
- Provided additional context for the Christmas tree and suggested an idea for lighting it at the start of the parade.

Maynard Stevens:

- Mentioned that sidewalks on south side of Commercial Street need to be improved for accessibility. Maynard to provide a list of locations to the Manager of Municipal Operations.
- Thanks to the Recreation Department for bringing Santa Claus back to New Minas!
- Thanks to the Village Commission and staff for the personal card.

15. Adjournment:

There being no further business, Dave Chaulk called for a motion to adjourn at 7:53pm.

Motion:

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

M/James Redmond

S/Quentin Hill

Motion Carried