



Village of New Minas
Commission Meeting
January 13, 2025 @ 7:00 PM
Commission Room, LMCC
New Minas, Nova Scotia
APPROVED MINUTES

Commissioners Present:

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

Commissioners Absent:

- Mary Munroe (with regrets)

Staff Present:

- Tim Bouter, Clerk Treasurer/CAO
- Cory Palmer, Director of Public Works
- John Ansara, Director of Recreation & Community Development

Others Present:

- Joel Hirtle, PC candidate for Kings-Hants
- Julie Vanexan, MLA for Kings-South
- Christina Sappington, District 8 Councillor
- Maynard Stevens

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 January 13, 2025 Commission Meeting be approved as circulated.

M/James Redmond

S/Quentin Hill

Motion Carried

3. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest:

No conflicts of interest were declared.

4. Approval of Minutes:

- a. December 9, 2024 Village Commission Meeting

Motion:

THAT the Minutes for the December 9, 2024 Village Commission Meeting be approved as circulated.

M/Quentin Hill

S/James Redmond

Motion Carried

5. Business Arising from Minutes:

- a. December 9, 2024 Village Commission Meeting

There was no business arising from the December 9, 2024 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. Committee Reports:

- c. Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee

Quentin Hill provided a verbal summary of the draft minutes included in the January 13, 2025 Commission agenda package.

Motion:

THAT the draft minutes for the Joint Accessibility Committee be received as included in the January 13, 2025 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 January 13, 2025 Commission agenda package.

Motion:

THAT the draft minutes for the New Minas Water Commission be received as included in the January 13, 2025 Commission agenda package and as verbally summarized by James Redmond.

M/James Redmond
S/Quentin Hill
Motion Carried

9. Staff Reports:

The Clerk Treasurer/CAO, Director of Public Works and Director of Recreation & Community Development provided a verbal summary of the following written reports included in the January 13, 2025 Commission agenda package:

- a. Clerk Treasurer/CAO — Report included in package
- b. Director of Public Works — Report included in package
- c. Manager of Finance — Report included in package
- d. Director of Recreation & Community Development — Report included in package

Motion #1:

THAT the Clerk Treasurer/CAO Report be received as included in the January 13, 2025 Commission agenda package and as verbally summarized by the Clerk Treasurer/CAO.

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

Motion #2:

THAT the Director of Public Works Report be received as included in the January 13, 2025 Commission agenda package and as verbally summarized by the Director of Public Works.

M/Quentin Hill
S/Debra Windle-Smith
Motion Carried

Motion #3:

THAT the Manager of Finance Report be received as included in the January 13, 2025 Commission agenda package.

M/Quentin Hill
S/Debra Windle-Smith
Motion Carried

Motion #4:

THAT the Director of Recreation & Community Development Report be received as included in the January 13, 2025 Commission agenda package and as verbally summarized by the Director of Recreation & Community Development.

M/James Redmond
S/Quentin Hill
Motion Carried

10. New Business:

a. JAAC Updates

The Clerk Treasurer/CAO presented the request for decision included in the January 13, 2025 Commission agenda package.

Motion #1:

That the Village Commission re-appoint Robert Sealby (Village of Greenwood) and appoint Doug MacLean (Village of Cornwallis Square) as Village Commissioner representatives on the Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee for terms ending May 31, 2027.

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

Motion #2:

That the Village Commission adopt the accessibility plan update entitled "Our Joint Accessibility Plan Update 2025-2028".

M/Quentin Hill
S/Debra Windle-Smith
Motion Carried

b. Strategic Planning Update

Debra Windle-Smith provided a verbal summary of the minutes included in the January 13, 2025 Commission agenda package. The Village has been seeing more applications on infill development. The Strategic Planning Working Group will be working with the Valley REN on opportunities for partnerships in the coming year. Other outreach initiatives for the upcoming year include meetings with the landowners south of the 101 and political representatives/stakeholders for this project.

11. Correspondence:

There was no correspondence.

12. Other Business:**a. Fitness Room Discussion**

Quentin Hill received two complaints over the holidays about the Fitness Room being closed. The Clerk Treasurer/CAO clarified that the closure was from December 24 to January 1 (9 total days including 3 statutory holidays). During trials in previous years, the fitness room was only used by a handful of people between Christmas and New Years. A decision was made at that time to keep it closed during the holidays. This also allows for cleaning and floor maintenance of the fitness room and other parts of the building by the custodial staff, which would not be possible with other people in the building.

Fitness room members are made aware of the closure in-between the holidays when they purchase their membership. Those with a monthly pass are given the extra days in January to make up for the closure. For comparison purposes, the cost for a yearly membership at Motiv Fitness is \$588 per year, while our memberships are \$250 per year.

Quentin requested for additional communication to be posted ahead of the holiday closure in the future. The Clerk Treasurer/CAO responded that this would be implemented this December.

b. Douglas Street Trail Update

John Ansara provided an update of the Douglas Street Trail. John recently met with recreation staff at the Municipality of Kings to discuss their requirements in more detail. The uncertainty around the Annapolis Vally Trails Coalition following Rick Jacques' retirement has delayed the project. There are also a few land ownership issues that need to be sorted out between the Village, the County and the developer. These discussions will continue through the winter. The construction of the trail will be included in the 2025/26 Capital Budget.

13. General Public Input:

Comments from the public were as follows:

Christina Sappington:

- Appointed to the New Minas Source Water Protection Committee, and as Chair of the Police Advisory Board and Diversity Kings
- Will be meeting with Julie Vanexan on January 22 to discuss homelessness, schools and growth.

Maynard Stevens:

- New Minas held a winter carnival (Take the Roof off Winter) in partnership with the Province in the past. Asked if this could be reinstated.

Julie Vanexan:

- New MLA for Kings-South. Meeting with community groups and organizations to build relationships and ask about needs.
- Would like to meet with the Strategic Working Group to discuss visioning and partnerships.
- Office will be in New Minas (next to Napa Auto).

Joel Hirtle:

- Looking forward to being the next representative for Kings-Hants.
- Putting in the work to meet with the community to learn about the needs, receive input and find solutions.

14. Adjournment:

There being no further business, Dave Chaulk called for a motion to adjourn at 7:54pm.

Motion:

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

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