



Village of New Minas
Minutes of Commission Meeting
Friday December 10, 2021 @ 9:00 AM
Commission Room, LMCC
New Minas, Nova Scotia

Commissioners Present:

- Dave Chaulk, Chair
- James Redmond, Vice Chair
- Cheryl Manzer, Commissioner
- Mary Munroe, Commissioner

Commissioners Present:

- Quentin Hill, Commissioner (with regrets)

Staff Present:

- Ian Morrison, Clerk Treasurer/CAO
- Shelly Palmer, Finance Manager

Others Present:

- John Owen
- Jason Haughn, Department of Municipal Affairs
- Ross MacDonald, Department of Municipal Affairs

Call to Order:

Chair Dave Chaulk called the meeting to order at 9:10 am, welcoming those in attendance.

Approval of the Agenda:

THAT the Agenda for the December 3, 2021 Commission meeting be approved, as presented.

M/James Redmond

S/Cheryl Manzer

Motion Carried

Approval of the Minutes from Prior Meeting:

THAT the Minutes for the November 8, 2021 regular Commission meeting be approved, as presented.

M/Cheryl Manzer

S/Mary Munroe

Motion Carried

Business Arising from Minutes:

None

Presentations:

None

Committee Reports:

None

New Business:

Strategic Planning Process

Representatives of the Department of Municipal Affairs facilitated a discussion on the formulation of a strategic plan for the Village of New Minas. The representatives present for the discussions were Jason Haughn and Ross MacDonald.

Mr. Haughn provided an overview of the Strategic Plan Training Session held on December 3. For the purposes of review, the information presented was a review of the concepts covered, information collected, and usage of the tools explored during the training workshop. The work conducted was a training workshop and no decisions were made. The strategic planning toolkit is useful for organizations, especially when group decision-making bodies can integrate the techniques and framework presented into their regular business meetings and debates.

By using interactive exercises, participants were able to go beyond a presentation of the concepts around strategic thinking and experience hands-on ways to develop and organize their ideas in a group setting. The four-hour session concluded the training available for the Village as facilitated by Governance and Advisory Services sector of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing. For the Village Commission to execute the concepts, frameworks, and techniques which were at the heart of this training, they need to do so in full view of their public.

At the conclusion of these modules, the participants took ownership of the strategic planning toolkit they learned in the workshops and exercises. It is expected that the strategic debate, discussions, and decisions will take place during public meetings of the Commission. This may happen in regular or special sessions of the Commission or at the level of a Committee.

Mr. MacDonald then provided a focus on monitoring and reporting aspects of a strategic plan, including facilitation of a discussion around four prospective goals, as prepared by the Department of Recreation & Community Development:

- Active living strategy
- Community engagement
- Events & Activities
- Park improvement plan

For the purposes of illustration, Messrs. Haughn and MacDonald facilitated a simulated discussion on community engagement, including a debate and discussion on various aspects of the goal.

The merits of including strategic plan discussions as part of regular meetings of Village Commissions were discussed, as well as the creation of a Committee to carryout these discussions and report back to the Commission.

At the conclusion of the discussions, the Chair thanked the Messrs. Haughn and MacDonald for their informative insight into the strategic plan process.

Correspondence:

None

Public Discussion Period:

None

Adjournment:

M/James Redmond

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 11:39 am.