



Village of New Minas
Beautification Committee
July 17, 2024 @ 10:30 AM
Commission Room, LMCC
New Minas, Nova Scotia
APPROVED MINUTES

Members Present:

- Mary Munroe, Commission Member & Chair
- Debra Windle-Smith, Commission Member
- Donna Randell, Citizen Member
- Agnes Wojt, Citizen Member (via Zoom)
- John Ansara, Director of Recreation & Community Development

Members Absent:

- Public Works Director position is vacant

Staff Present:

- Tim Bouter, Clerk Treasurer/CAO

Others Present:

- Maynard Stevens
- Christina Sappington

1. Call to Order:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:31am, welcoming those in attendance.

2. Approval of the Agenda:

Motion:

THAT the Agenda for the July 17, 2024 Beautification Committee Meeting be approved as circulated.

M/ Debra Windle-Smith

S/ Donna Randell

Motion Carried

3. Approval of Minutes:

- a. May 15, 2024 Beautification Committee Meeting

Motion:

THAT the Minutes for the May 15, 2024 Beautification Committee Meeting be approved as circulated.

M/ John Ansara

S/ Debra Windle-Smith

Motion Carried

4. Business Arising from Minutes:

a. May 15, 2024 Beautification Committee Meeting

There was no business arising from the May 15, 2024 minutes.

5. Comments from the Chair:

The Chair commented on how good the pocket parks look, and that the Committee should be proud of the work.

6. Grant Update:

John Ansara updated the Committee on the Beautification and Streetscaping Program (BSP) grant. The application was submitted directly by the Village this year (in previous years the application was submitted through the Municipality). John has emailed the Province, asking for an update on the process.

7. Founding Fathers Park Historical Signage

Maynard Stevens gave a presentation related to the history of New Minas. He stated that he didn't want to diminish from the existing signage recognizing the founding fathers of New Minas in any way, as they are extremely important to the history of our community. However, three additional cultures that have played an integral role in the history of our community should also be recognized:

- Mi'kmaq
- Acadians
- New England Planters

Maynard proposed that interpretive signage be erected in Founding Fathers Park, recognising these founding cultures as part of our heritage.

The Clerk Treasurer/CAO mentioned that this could be added to the budget deliberations for 2025/26. In the meantime, the Beautification Committee would like to work with Maynard on the design of the sign.

8. Capital Projects

a. Founding Fathers Park

This project will likely be delayed due to staffing changes in the Public Works Department. An update will be brought to the Committee at the next meeting.

b. Banners

No update from last meeting. The budget for banners with no external funding is \$3,500 and with external funding is \$6,500. The Committee decided to wait on the funding approval before the next order is finalized.

c. Lights and Decorations

The Committee is still waiting on the funding approval before the order is finalized. In the meantime, John and Donna will begin planning work for the full scope, so that the purchases can be implemented on time.

d. Trees

The new cherry tree for Crescent Park West and spruce Christmas tree for the LMCC have been purchased and installed.

9. Fall Visioning Exercise

The Committee would like to review/update its mandate and long-term vision this fall, in the month of October. Through this exercise the Committee will review and celebrate its accomplishments to date, and establish its priorities for the future. Part of the exercise will include a review of previous brainstorming and prioritizing documents.

10. Other Business

Christina Sappington mentioned the following:

- Excited about the sleigh!
- Municipality passed a policy for asset renaming.
- CAO of Valley REN working on initiative for sustainable tourism. This could tie into the presentation that Maynard gave.
- Committee could do better to promote beautification initiatives.

11. Next Meeting Date:

a. September 18, 2024

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday September 18, 2024 @ 10:30am at the LMCC and via online video conference (Zoom).

12. Adjournment:

There being no further business, the Chair called for a motion to adjourn at 11:28am.

Motion:

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

M/ Donna Randell

S/ Debra Windle-Smith

Motion Carried