

NORTH WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

DECEMBER 10, 1998

THOSE PRESENT: Councillor Kelly, Chair
 Councillor Harvey
 Councillor Barnet

ALSO PRESENT: Sandra Shute, Assistant Municipal Clerk

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with an Invocation at the Sackville Library, 636 Sackville Drive, Lower Sackville.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - NOVEMBER 26, 1998**

MOVED by Councillors Harvey and Barnet to approve the Minutes of Annual Meeting held on November 26, 1998 as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

Added Items: Councillor Barnet - Fenerty Monument
Crosswalk at Smokey Drive and Glendale

Presentation: First Lake Village Society

MOVED by Councillors Barnet and Harvey to approve the Order of Business as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES** - None

5. **MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION** - None

6. **MOTIONS OF RESCISSION** - None

7. **CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS** - None

8. **PUBLIC HEARINGS** - None

9. **CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

9.1 **Delegations**

9.1.1 **Policing Concerns - Sackville Area**

Councillor Barnet provided information on the survey he had circulated in his District and advised that part of the survey had to do with police services. He was pleased that approximately 98% were satisfied or very satisfied with police services. This was a testament to the hard work performed by the RCMP in the area.

Inspector Hugh Tarrant, Sackville Detachment RCMP provided information such as:

- C Staffing of the Detachment: Total 57 including Officers in Charge, Watch Supervisors, Crime Prevention/Victim Services, Information/Court Officers, Detachment Constables, GIS/Drug Constables, School Liaison Constables, Community Constables, Highway Patrol Constables, Public Servants. There were also volunteer Auxiliary Constables.
- C Some of the sections of the Detachment and programs are Crime Prevention/Victim Services, Community Policing, GIS Drug Section (includes break and enter, assaults, murders and drug trade), School Liaison, Highway Patrol and an anti-theft program for businesses. There was also a Citizens Patrol Group and Neighbourhood Watch.
- C Criminal Activity Year Ending September, 1998 - 9925 cases
Year Ending September, 1997 - 9875 cases
A breakdown of the cases was provided.
- C Calls for service have increased several hundred as of December 1, 1998.

Public Participation on Policing Concerns - Sackville Area

Mr. Lorne Piercey, 46 Riverside Drive raised traffic concerns on Riverside Drive as follows:

- C Traffic and speeding on Riverside Drive, the only direct connection between Glendale and Sackville Drive. The posted speed limit is 50 km/h and there appears to be an increasing amount of speeding particularly at the crest of the hill. Was there any way to address speeding on Riverside Drive since it was becoming uncontrollable. There were a lot of drivers from the High School using Riverside Drive during lunch hour.
- C Policing has been one of the suggestions made but it was recognized this could not be provided on a consistent basis. Other suggestions have been lights, stop signs, speed bumps but there have been reasons cited for not doing this, one being the hill. Snow removal has been used as a reason why something could not be done because of the grade of the hill and no one would be able to stop at the top or would get stuck. The hill might be slippery two or three days a year.

In response, Insp. Tarrant agreed to make an effort to increase the presence in the area. He would also pass it on to the Citizens on Patrol. Citizens on Patrol were extra eyes and ears to make the RCMP aware of situations that could arise.

Councillor Harvey advised that the Traffic Authority has assessed a number of areas, including Riverside Drive at the top of the hill. Traffic Authority was not able to recommend any devices at this time. They might be able to consider speed bumps or stop signs again.

Since there was a new Traffic Authority Engineer, Councillor Barnet suggested referring this matter to him in order to find out if there was anything he could recommend in terms of traffic devices to solve some of the problems.

Mr. Don Robar, 9 Spruce Avenue raised a number of concerns as follows:

- C He agreed with the concerns expressed by Mr. Piercey re Riverside Drive.
- C He referred to a letter in his possession from Mr. and Mrs. Wile, who live on the corner of Balsam and Riverside but could not attend tonight. They were concerned about traffic on Riverside Drive as well.
- C Having asked if tickets were being issued for speeding on Riverside Drive and the variance before a ticket is issued, Insp. Tarrant advised that tickets were being issued but the variance was left up to the individual officer.
- C There appeared to be an increasing number of cars with only one headlight in Sackville.
- C He asked how many officers patrolled in Sackville at any one particular time. In reply, Insp. Tarrant advised there were seven normally dedicated to the Sackville area during the day.
- C It seemed you never saw the RCMP in Sackville except when they were going from point A to point B. There were not enough officers, in his opinion, to have a greater presence.
- C He submitted three letters from (1) John White, 140 Balsam Circle, (2) Audrey MacLeod, Briarwood Court (3) Hal and Debbie White, 42 Riverside Drive re concerns with speeding on Riverside Drive. Insp. Tarrant agreed to receive them and take them under consideration.
- C He expressed concern with tailgating in Sackville.
- C Having referred to three and four-way stops in Millwood and if they were helping with speeding, Insp. Tarrant advised no one has come forward from Millwood to complain about speeding.
- C Someone was going to get killed on Riverside Drive.

In response to the question re the ratio of officers to residents, Insp. Tarrant advised it was 1:1118 (approximately). (In Bedford/Clayton Park/Spryfield area, Councillor Kelly provided the figure of 1:1142).

Mr. Walter Regan, 43 Candlewood Lane raised a number of concerns as follows:

- C Having asked what was the ideal ratio Insp. Tarrant would like to see for Sackville, Insp. Tarrant said he would like to see it around 1:500 but, given the state of the economy and budget cuts, he did not expect it.
- C Referring to the ratio, he asked if all the new subdivisions were taken into account. In response, Insp. Tarrant advised the RCMP covered Hammonds Plains to the

- trailer park, Fall River, Beaver Bank, Upper Sackville but he did not think new housing was included in the figure he quoted.
- C He knew of three people recently who had their vehicles stolen and outlined what had transpired with regard to these thefts and asked for information on same. In response, Insp. Tarrant advised it was difficult to say if there were specific people doing this.
- C Having expressed support for the Bike Patrol, he asked if it would be reinstated in the spring. In response, Insp. Tarrant advised there had been a person power problem last year but hopefully this year when the two School Liaison officers are finished with schools, they could be put on bicycles.
- C There was a small trail built from the Lions Club to Glendale and teenagers were back partying in that area. He asked for surveillance.

Councillor Harvey referred to ratios and stated that there was also the ratio of officers to case load which would have to be considered when determining acceptable numbers.

Ms. Lisa Rand, 38 Windwood Drive raised a number of concerns as follows:

- C She expressed concern with speeding and heavy vehicles along Sackville Drive in the vicinity of Sackville Heights Elementary because children had to walk along Sackville Drive to get to school. There should be zero tolerance when children are present.
- C There was a high volume of traffic on Sackville Drive now and, with the proposed closure of Old Sackville Road, the traffic would increase yet again.

Insp. Tarrant advised that the RCMP would try to keep a presence in that area and he would advise the Watch Supervisor of same.

Councillor Harvey referred to traffic calming initiatives for Old Sackville Road. A member of the public, Karen Stadnyk, is taking names for a traffic education group to work across Sackville to try to bring neighbourhood issues out in an attempt to reduce complaints such as heard tonight. He encouraged those who were in attendance to contact Ms. Stadnyk in this regard. He supported Ms. Stadnyk's initiative.

Mr. Gordon Morgan, Sackville Community Development Association acknowledged there were traffic problems in Sackville that required enforcement but pointed out that a few years ago the RCMP presence had been solidly supported as opposed to a regional police force. The RCMP has done a very good job and was a positive support organization in the community. He cited an example of support by way of participation in Patriot Days.

Cpl. Frank Skidmore provided further information with regard to programs, traffic problems and education of the public, which was very important.

Councillor Barnet pointed out that there now might be more problems on Riverside Drive due to the fact that it was just recently paved which might contribute to some additional speeding as there were natural speed bumps built into the road previously. The approach of stepping up patrols and seeing if there were devices that could be put in place was the right approach.

The Chair thanked the RCMP representatives for attending. It was then subsequently agreed that the matters mentioned during this section of the meeting would be sent to Traffic Authority collectively for comment and that the RCMP would consider all concerns.

9.1.2 Proposal for Arcade Entertainment Centre, Sackville

Mr. Gerry Ackroyd advised he was proposing to set up an arcade entertainment centre at 8 Walker Avenue in Lower Sackville, the former Adesa building, which would be suitable for the centre in terms of space, location, facilities.

He outlined his reasons for wanting to set up the centre - which included helping young people and getting them off the street - and pointed out there was no place in Sackville for young people to go - except for the Sackville Sports Stadium - and the amenities that could be provided. As far as financing was concerned, he was in the process of attempting to obtain government funding and private funding. He was asking for support from the community at this time and had received support from Rosemary Godin, MLA.

Councillor Kelly asked what Mr. Ackroyd was looking for from Community Council. In response, Mr. Ackroyd advised he wanted to let the public know he had a proposal and if the public foresaw any problems, they could call him at 864-4968.

Public Participation on Arcade Entertainment Centre Proposal

Mr. Wayne MacPhee raised the following points:

- C He asked for hours of operation. Mr. Ackroyd advised 11:00 a.m. to midnight.
- C He asked for information re security. In response, Mr. Ackroyd advised who he intended to hire with security experience.
- C He asked if there were any schools near the proposed site. In response, Mr. Ackroyd advised the closest was Sackville Heights Elementary.
- C He asked if Mr. Ackroyd had a Degree in Psychology since Mr. Ackroyd had stressed his desire to help young people with their problems. Mr. Ackroyd responded no.
- C He did not support the proposal.

Mr. Walter Regan raised the following points:

- C He asked if this was a for-profit proposal. In response, Mr. Ackroyd advised it would not be at first.
- C He asked if Mr. Ackroyd was associated with any other groups or organizations. Mr. Ackroyd responded no, but he had talked to the Big Brothers organization. He understood, however, there were groups interested in setting up this type of centre.
- C He asked if any market studies had been carried out. Mr. Ackroyd advised there were enough children in the community as of now and the community would continue to grow.
- C He asked about smoking and alcohol. Mr. Ackroyd explained the smoking regulations proposed and that there was no provision for alcohol.

The Chair thanked Mr. Ackroyd for his presentation.

9.1.3 First Lake Retirement Village Society

Ms. Eleanor Reeder, former Chair, advised that the group had become a Society because it was serving a much larger area than Sackville. She provided a review of the efforts made by the Society during 1998 concerning the First Lake Village Retirement facility, including what had transpired at a number of meetings throughout the year with different levels and departments of provincial government and letters written. She read a letter dated October 13, 1998 from the Cobequid Community Health Board advising that the Health Board requested the allocation of 55 long term care beds for all levels of long term care to the Cobequid community. The Health Board agreed that this is in keeping with the Cobequid Community Health Plan and that the beds are justified for the community. Subsequently, she requested that North West Community Council send a strong letter of support for 55 Level Two long term care beds for First Lake Retirement Village within Cobequid Health Region to Hon. Jim Smith, Minister of Health. She also requested that copies of the letter be sent to a number of recipients.

Councillor Harvey asked for clarification that the request was to support a call for 55 beds for the Cobequid Region. In response, Ms. Reeder agreed that was the request.

MOVED by Councillors Harvey and Barnet to renew support - which has been there for five years or more - by sending a letter to the Minister of Health in support of the allocation of 55 beds to the Cobequid Region and advise that Community Council's feelings are consistent with those of the Cobequid Community Health Board which have already been expressed by letter.

Councillor Barnet asked if the area MLAs have sent letters of support as well. In reply, Ms. Reeder advised that John Holm and Rosemary Godin have sent letters of support but Francene Cosman has not.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10. REPORTS**10.1 Adoption of Meeting Schedule**

MOVED by Councillors Harvey and Barnet to change the proposed date for the February meeting from February 25, 1999 to February 18, 1999 and to approve the meeting schedule as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11. MOTIONS - None**12. ADDED ITEMS****12.1 Crosswalk at Smokey Drive and Glendale Drive**

MOVED by Councillors Barnet and Harvey to request staff to review the intersection of Glendale and Smokey Drive to determine if any traffic aids are warranted for safe passage of pedestrians across this intersection. There is a seniors housing complex at this location. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2 Fenerty Monument

Councillor Barnet advised that the Fenerty Monument has finally been moved from Windsor to Upper Sackville but circumstances did not permit placement of same right on the site where it was supposed to go.

MOVED by Councillors Barnet and Harvey to direct staff of Parks and Grounds to clean up the debris at the site of the Fenerty Monument and have the new monument placed on the existing concrete base. Any cost for this work is budgeted in the District 19 funds under Community Landscaping. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION - None**14. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr. Eugene Roberts, 1265 Old Sackville Road referred to the Open House hosted by HRM staff on December 3, 1998 re traffic calming on a portion of Old Sackville Road between Lucasville Road and the Beaverbank Road and spoke against traffic calming in that area. He opposed moving towards closing the Old Sackville Road as outlined in HRM staff's proposed road changes for the Old Sackville Road and provided reasons for his opposition.

Councillor Harvey requested that Mr. Roberts' comments be sent on to Alan Taylor, the staff person who is assigned to the project. Further, he advised that if and when we reach the point of a vote - and there could be more than one - the people on the section of the road involved from Beaverbank Connector to Lucasville Road and 200' on either side would be the ones to vote. They would vote for a trial period and after the trial period they would vote to see if it was something they wanted to make permanent.

Councillor Barnet pointed out, however, that the results of the vote were not binding on Council. Before a final closing took place, there would be a Public Hearing and a vote by the full Regional Council.

Mr. Brian Russell, 94 Jamie Drive, Beaver Bank advised he was the Chief Director for the Halifax Regional Search and Rescue Team. He referred to a letter sent to the Mayor dated November 30, 1998 requesting that the old school bus depot off Cobequid Road be provided in order for the Search and Rescue Team to relocate. He understood now that Parks and Recreation might be relocating to this property but it might not be fully utilized still allowing consideration for use by the Team. This will be coming forward once again to Regional Council and he was asking for support from Community Council in the efforts to obtain a new location.

MOVED by Councillors Barnet and Harvey to request staff to provide a status report on the property and add urgency to the request. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Mr. Wayne MacPhee raised the following points:

- C He referred to the North West Recreation Advisory Committee and the fact that further information had been requested by Community Council as to its formation, particularly with regard to having Lake District Recreation Association assume the role. He endorsed Lake District Recreation Association as the group to deal with outdoor facilities exclusively. He explained his reasons for his endorsement.
- C Having raised the concern about Centennial and Needham pools previously, he was glad to see Regional Council moving on Centennial. He asked what was being done with Needham pool. In reply, Councillor Kelly said that when Council deals with Capital and Operating budgets, these will be brought back for further discussion. There was no conclusive approach yet.

Councillor Harvey, referring to Sackville Sports Stadium and its subsidy of 50 cents versus a subsidy of \$5.50 per person per visit for Centennial and \$10.50 per person per visit for Needham, stated that Lake District Recreation Association and the community deserved congratulations.

- C He said he understood that some computers were shifted from Millwood High School to Sackville High School and asked whether there was an area rate for

computers for Millwood High School. In response, Councillor Barnet advised of Millwood High School's presentation at the last meeting for an area rate for computers and added that Millwood had received a few computers from a CAP program. Further, Councillor Harvey advised that Sackville High School had received a few computers through another program.

Mr. Walter Regan, Sackville Rivers Association asked if there was any plan to have on and off ramps from the 101 at Lucasville. In reply, Councillor Barnet advised it had been considered but there was not enough physical space available. There were land issues involved.

Mr. Gordon Morgan, Sackville Community Development Association raised the following points:

- C He thanked Community Council for its support for the rosebush campaign for Sackville Heritage Park. He provided an update on same and advised that there was a lot of support from the community and enough money to complete the second phase which will begin early in the spring. Work on phase three was beginning.
- C As Co-Chair of the Sackville Millennium Committee, he provided information on the 1999 schedule.

15. **NEXT MEETING** - January 21, 1999 in Bedford.

16. **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion from Councillor Barnet, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Sandra M. Shute
Assistant Municipal Clerk