

**Beautification Committee Meeting
September 10, 2019
Town Council Chambers**

Present

Councillor A. Murray, Chair
Councillor M. Farrell
Councillor D. Roberts
A. Arnold
D. Geldart
L. Jewkes
D. Kyle
O. Landry

Also Present

D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.

Approval of Agenda

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Agenda with additions." Motion carried

Approval of Minutes

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Beautification Committee Minutes of July 9, 2019 as amended." Motion carried.

New Business

- C. Griffiths Recognition

The Chair circulated a card for C. Griffiths to be signed by the Committee which will be accompanied by a gift certificate to a local restaurant.

Councillor M. Farrell recognized all staff for their efforts prior to and after Hurricane Dorian.

O. Landry and the Chair also provided comments on efforts made following the Hurricane.

- Meet & Greet – Maintenance Supervisor, Blaire McKee

The Chair noted that B. McKee was not available.

- Tree Sub-Committee Report

D. Geldart spoke to the tree inventory and spoke to the various areas that have been inventoried, and remaining areas. He noted height, species and canopy are determined during the inventory. He further noted that it is useful to have H. Steeghs report to compare the state of the trees now. D. Geldart noted D. Kyle will be adding the information to "ITree" program and spoke to the information and benefits this program will add to the tree inventory.

D. Geldart spoke to the following: most trees doing quite well, seeing more pruning being done, still more to be done. Good to see the growth of trees, vacant areas for trees as opportunities arise.

Recommend more pruning to low hanging branches, some corrective pruning required. A. Williams who visited from Truro had some suggestions for the sub-committee, including soils piled too high, mulch should be no higher than 3", support posts should be farther from tree (less impact on roots), for new trees planted if less than 35mm week of rain, have them watered (plain water without fertilizer).

The Chair noted comments A. Williams made regarding a local magnolia tree and a very healthy elm tree.

D. Geldart noted there are elm trees that should be removed, including one near the R.K. (has been taken down) as well as some in the Sydney Street area. The Chair agreed to speak with Mr. Benoit who owns property that have diseased trees that should be removed.

D. Geldart expressed his appreciation and acknowledged the benefit of having A. Williams come to Antigonish.

It was reported that the sub-committee will be working on a map of the Town during the fall/winter able to note public versus private properties, recommending 10 trees be planted next year, further discussion at budget.

Mr. A. Williams mentioned a 50% rebate on trees program (with a budget in mind) and suggested perhaps the Town consider something along this line. Further discussion took place.

Ms. A. Arnold spoke to trees that are dying. Brief discussion took place on some education that would have to be put in place should a tree planting program involving the public move forward.

D. Geldart noted that in some areas there are specific trees that are not permitted to be planted due to diseases and noted that in Truro Norway Maples are banned.

A. Arnold spoke to an email regarding a discussion she had had with H. Steeghs about the new trees planted by him, noting two (2) of them are doing very well.

Brief discussion took place on trees being grown in H. Steegh's nursery.

D. Geldart noted that there are some ash trees that appear to be more resistant to disease.

At 5:38 pm L. Jewkes joined the meeting

D. Kyle noted that the Town of Truro has information on their tree program online.

M. Farrell questioned whether B. McKie could have summer maintenance staff water saplings with plain water.

M. Farrell stated that she feels and adopt a tree program is a great idea. However, she cautioned that any promotion be worded to ensure residents are aware that the tree is their responsibility.

Councillor D. Roberts questioned whether the CACL watering crew would be able to water the saplings, however it was noted that the CACL crew's water contains fertilizer.

Councillor D. Roberts noted that this year's budget has already been approved, so any consideration for a tree program would have to wait until the next budget for consideration however, discussion should take place with S. Scannell first.

The Chair suggested that the information from today be gathered and discussed with S. Scannell prior to a motion being put forth.

It was suggested that S. Scannell speak directly with D. Geldart.

At 5:38 pm L. Jewkes joined the meeting

- Maple Trees with Blight

Councillor M. Farrell spoke to a county resident who raised concern with the Town's Elm Trees, that they contain blight and his fear that they would eventually affect his trees. D. Delgart spoke to the fact that not all Maple trees have blight and noted that it blight from a Norway Maple would not affect a red maple for example. He further spoke to the fact that different trees are affected differently in various areas.

- Flower Program Discussion

The Chair noted this would be a general discussion on the flower program and spoke to the colours used over the past three years. He noted his personal preference not to use sweet potato vine as they tend to take over. A. Arnold stated that the vines in the bridge baskets worked very well and stated that they were clear that sweet potato vines were to be restricted.

The Chair noted that he would like to see more colour in the flower baskets.

Diane Roberts noted she asked the emcee of the 55+ games speak to the Town utilizing the 55+ Games flower colours in the Games promotional material but did not receive a response.

Various members of the Committee provided positive comment on the flowers. Brief discussion took place on whether CACL were still watering the flowers.

L. Jewkes questioned whether the remaining flowers in the planters could continue to be watered. The Chair noted the small flower boxes should be removed as soon as possible.

Brief discussion took place on locations currently available along Main Street where trees could be planted.

Councillor M. Farrell suggested more baskets be placed on the bridge adjacent The Wheel and that a couple of extra bridge baskets be purchased in the event of vandalism.

A Arnold noted that the trees overhanging the baskets on the bridge by The Wheel affects some baskets. She further noted that the sidewalk planter next to Gabrieau's was full of herbs, and another planter beyond Marie's flowers that had cherry tomatoes, etc., and questioned how this came about.

The Chair noted he would question S. Scannell as to whether fertilizer was used in the vegetable/herb planters.

Brief discussion took place.

A Arnold noted 99.9% of the hanging baskets were very lush, and spoke to the issue of the supply by one supplier. The Chair noted the matter would be looked in to.

- Communities in Bloom Conference

The Chair noted that he had made an executive decision not to attend the Communities-in-Bloom Conference and noted that he had discussed this with O. Landry. He further noted that he did not feel that attending was warranted.

D Kyle questioned whether some of the symposiums might be made available later from the Communities in Bloom website.

Brief discussion took place on the Drummer's Wood property adjacent Columbus Field.

- Christmas Décor

The Chair advised the Committee that he is expecting that Christmas Décor would be arriving soon.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:22. Next meeting second week in October.