

**Police & License Committee Meeting
March 4, 2025
Town Council Chambers**

Present

Chair, Deputy Mayor Diane Roberts
Councillor P. McKenna
J. Pellerin, Bylaw Enforcement
Sgt. J. Jessome, RCMP
Const. L. MacInnis, RCMP
R. Peter, StFX
E. Yeo, StFX

Also, In Attendance

D. Halfpenny, Admin Assistant Eng. & Planning
S. Long, Acting Director of Community Development
K. Meisner, Director of Public Works

Absent with regrets

Councillor J. Sullivan
S. Smith, Bylaw Enforcement

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the Police and License Meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

It was Moved and Seconded “to approve the agenda as presented.”

Motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

It was Moved and Seconded “to approve the May 15th, 2024, as presented.”

Motion carried.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1 Crosswalk Beacons

The Chair noted that there are plans to add an additional two Crosswalk Beacons. It was stated that Main and Court and Main and Acadia are two potential areas for the new beacons to be placed. Discussion followed on relocating one to the Shoppers Drug Mart crossing on Main Street.

K. Meisner commented that a WSP has done several Traffic studies for the Town and that they should be reviewed to aid in the determination of where the best locations are to place the crosswalk beacons. He provided an example that data had identified that transition areas into the town of Antigonish such as at the top of Hawthorne would demark a high-risk location.

4.2 Nuisance Party By-Law

S. Long updated the Police and License Committee on the status of the bylaw. She explained that the Summary Offense Ticket fees are awaiting approval from the province for several Town of Antigonish bylaws. She stated that R. Delorey, CAO has been advocating to the province to have the fee schedules approved. She noted that D. Amo, Communication student has been tasked with reviewing the bylaws to ensure that the SOT fee structures are current. S. Long will update the committee when the fee structure for the bylaw is approved.

4.3 St Patrick's Day

R. Peters commented that a joint communications message from the Town and StFX would serve as a reminder to StFX students of the consequences of being charged with violating the Nuisance Party Bylaw.

J. Pellerin will send out an email to the landlords to provide a friendly reminder of the Nuisance Party Bylaw and encourage the landlords to discuss with their tenants.

Sgt. J. Jessome encouraged all committee members to reach out to the RCMP if they hear of any plans for large party gatherings.

Constable L. Macinnis noted that he had received a request from StFX students to seek a location for a street gathering. It was stated that this is illegal and such an event would not be sanctioned.

Sgt. Jessome acknowledge that the RCMP will use a similar approach to enforcement for St. Patrick's Day events as they have with the Home Coming. He noted that staffing is now returning to normal and acknowledged that an increase in RCMP goes a long way to increasing coverage for these types of events.

E. Yeo commented that the collaborative efforts of landlords, alumni, town and RCMP have made for a winning recipe that is showing results. She stated that getting lots of health-related messaging, respect messaging, the efforts of the good neighbour working group and creating special events to keep students on campus have improved tailgate partying. She noted that the StFX Student Union is crucial to engage students by focusing on events that occur on campus such as opening the sub. She explained that the Student Union would need financial support to attract students to the event and not lose money. She stated that she has reach out to the Student Union with an offer of financial support for them to open the Sub.

Councillor P. McKenna commented that the young people love a local band called Gasper and that E. Yeo should check on their availability for a St Partick's Day event.

Sgt. J. Jessome noted that efforts pay dividends and that the coordination and consistent messaging is making a difference locally. He commented that the visiting

students are more of an issue than the local students. He stressed that it is important to have a means to improve their expectations.

J. Pellerin Bylaw enforcement commented that the trend for students nationally is that they are drinking less and that he sees a decrease in problem houses in Antigonish.

E. Yeo noted that 60% of students live off campus and messaging is working. She explained that the healthy lifestyle message is reaching the students.

5. New Business

5.1 Speed Signs & Speed Limits

J. Pellerin reported that there are currently two electronic speed signs one which is positioned entering the Town on Hawthorne Street and the second near Mount Cameron heading towards St. Martha's Hospital.

Sgt J.Jessome and Constable L. MacInnis agreed that those are two areas that the RCMP identify as benefiting from the electronic speed signs.

The Chair Deputy D. Roberts inquired as to what an electronic speed sign costs.

J. Pellerin will investigate the cost and report back to the committee.

Councillor P. McKenna commented that often vehicles seem to be moving faster than they are due to the loudness of the vehicle.

Discussion followed on measures to decrease speeding.

K. Meisner, Director of Public Works advised that traffic calming measures are being built into Active Transportation Plans. He stated that as designs are finalized these considerations are part of the Capitol budget process. The Infrastructure Committee will be looking at these types of issues.

J. Pellerin stated that traffic signage on Braemore Avenue is noted as being 50 km an hour except when students are present, and then the speed limit decreases to 30 km an hour.

Discussion moved to a sign for people to slow down near the RK MacDonald Nursing Home. J. Pellerin advised that he is unsure what type of sign would be appropriate. Speed signs are a provincial matter and to request changes to a street requires a request being sent in writing, complete with a speed study. The request is then assessed on a neighborhood-by-neighborhood basis.

5.2 Street Parking on Highland Drive and Braemore Avenue

Deputy Mayor D. Roberts stated that she has been hearing from residents about parking on Braemore and Highland Drive.

J. Pellerin stated that parking is allowed on certain parts of Highland Drive from the Fairview to Fatima area. He noted that portions of Braemore also allow for parking. However, he advised that bylaw enforcement had spoken with students to be mindful of parking on the street during school hours.

5.3 Update on SOT

S. Long reiterated that R. Delorey, CAO had been advised by Halifax that they are making progress on approving the updates to the fee structure for the bylaws. The Communication student, D. Amo, is working on matching the bylaws with the new summary offence ticket fees.

5.4 Flo EV Charging Station

S. Long, Acting Director of Community Development reported that when the charging stations were installed there were no provisions included in the project for monitoring the units. Therefore, she stated a new Bylaw or Policy will need to be created to deal with rate changes, ensure the units are in good working condition, scheduling maintenance or replacement. She advised that another option would build the EV Charging Station into the Parking Bylaw. S. Long noted that Community Development will be responsible for the Flo EV Charging Stations going forward and that somewhere in the next month they will determine the Bylaw or Policy path forward.

5.5 Creighton Lane Parking Lot

S. Long noted that Community Development is reviewing the metering of the Creighton Lane Parking and removal of the planters that are in disrepair. She advised that a significant number of parking meters have been out of order. She commented that the meters are costly to repair. Therefore, Bylaw Enforcement has been unable to enforce metering in this parking lot. Community Development is looking at options to move to a hotspot app, or parking kiosk. She noted that the kiosk at Sydney St needs to be replaced as it is not accessible and needs to be repaired.

P. McKenna commented that perhaps the best option would be to leave the Creighton Lane Parking lot as a free parking zone. He noted that the parking lot is in need of work. He stated that it would all be dependent on if the revenue was worth the cost of maintenance and enforcement.

J. Pellerin noted that there are issues for merchants that identify that their staff will sometimes use the free parking instead of leaving it available for customers.

Discussion followed on the state of the Creighton Land Parking Lot.

K. Meisner commented that the Creighton Lane Parking Lot has been under review for the past five years for redesign and would fall under a Capitol upgrade. He noted that he would see this as an item for the Infrastructure Committee.

6. Reports

6.1 Town By-Law

J. Pellerin reported that unsightly premises and solid waste bylaw infractions remain the top enforcement issue with 83 cases being investigated for unsightly premises and 103 for solid waste. Other investigations handled by Bylaw were Taxi issues, Land Use, Lodging Homes, Minimum Standards, Noise, Prohibited Signage, etc. He noted that six dogs have been registered since October 2024.

Bylaw has replaced thirty 30 parking meters on Main Street and there is another eight meters to replace on Main Street.

The Winter parking ban remains in effect until April 15, 2025. He noted that Bylaw has been out 5 nights for enforcement. Down considerably from previous winters.

J. Pellerin stated that training is ongoing and that he has completed his Traffic Control Person and Temporary Workplace Signage. He noted that he will be attending the Atlantic Bylaw Officers Association conference and training in May.

J. Pellerin commented that S. Smith will be retiring in May after a twenty-nine-year career with Bylaw enforcement. He extended his congratulations to S. Smith on his well-deserved retirement and expressed gratitude for S. Smith's dedication and hard work. He noted that he will miss him and wished him all the best in his exciting new chapter.

6.2 RCMP

Sgt J. Jessome reported that Sgt K. Hillier is assigned to other duties for the next month and Sgt W. MacBeath is unavailable to attend the meetings at this time. He noted that morale is up at the detachment now that they are getting up to full staffing again. He stated that one more member will be joining the Antigonish detachment in April.

He noted that if there are specific areas that require attention for speeding infractions, he could reach out to the Traffic Division. He acknowledged the new body cameras that are now worn by the members and explained how they protect members by clarifying details when dealing with enforcement issues. He explained how the device records and then it is uploaded to the digital management system.

Constable L. MacInnis advised that he had returned to the Antigonish area. He noted that Antigonish is much busier than his first term due to the increased demand at the hospital and overall call volume. He agreed that with the full complement of members and the new body cameras things are moving in a positive direction.

6.3 STFX

There was no formal report from StFX.

The next meeting was scheduled for April 15, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

7. Adjournment

Councillor P. McKenna made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.