

**Police & License Committee Meeting
November 19, 2019
Town Council Chambers**

Present

Chair, Councillor D. Roberts
Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis
Councillor M. Farrell
S/Cst. J. Pellerin
S/Cst. S. Smith
S/Sgt. W. McBeath
S/Sgt. B. Moody

S. Elliott, St. FX University Student Representative (absent)
R. Peters, St. FX University Representative

Councillor J. MacPherson
Glenn Graham (Hillcrest Street Resident)

At 12:03 PM the Chair called the meeting to order and round-table introductions were made.

Approval of Agenda

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Agenda as presented.” Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Minutes of the August 13, 2019 Police and License meeting as presented.” Motion carried.

Business from the Minutes

- Parades & Marches

S/Cst. S. Smith stated nothing has come from the province regarding parades and marches, in the meantime they have developed a parade/marches guide. He noted they had worked with RCMP and have shared it with Highland Society, Women’s Resource Center and Recreation Department. (Remove from Agenda)

W. McBeath noted the Take Back the Night event was held without any issues.

Crosswalks – Acadia/Main, Hawthorne Street/Annie’s Bluff

Acadia/Main - The Chair noted that at the last meeting it was suggested that there is a tree that needs trimming in that area of Acadia and Main Streets and the possibility of putting buckets and flags at that crosswalk. S. Smith agreed to address the matter of buckets/flags. He noted that buckets can be removed on Hawthorne/Brookland as a flashing light has been now been installed at that location

Hawthorne/Annie’s Bluff – It was noted consultation would have to take place and would have to have input from a local commercial business. (Remove from agenda)

- Homecoming

The Chair noted it was her understanding that town officials will meet with A. Beckett. A de-briefing is still expected. R. Peters indicated he would reach out to A. Beckett.

- Cats

The Chair noted this was an issue at one of the trailer parks which is now under new ownership, and it is her understanding that the new owners intend to do something to rectify the situation. The Chair agreed to check on the matter.

- Ticketing at St. FX

The Chair questioned the status of ticketing on campus.

S. Scannell noted the Town is looking at an electronic ticketing system, which will allow tickets to be generated on site, as well as a sharing a case management system with enforcement partners. More information will be available for the next council meeting.

- JEIN System

S. Scannell noted the matter can now be removed from the agenda. He noted additional hours have been added to staff at the detachment to do JEIN look ups being requested. (Remove from agenda)

New Business

- 3-Way Stop – Northview/Maple

The Chair spoke to request from resident on Wedgewood Driver for a 3-way stop sign in this area. S. Smith noted the request does not meet the criteria for a 3 way stop (children) and that stop signs are not to be used to slow speeds. He further noted he could not see that the traffic numbers would be able to warrant it.

Brief discussion took place.

- Parking Matters – Hillcrest Street (Re Mayor L. Boucher), West End Main Street (D. Roberts)

Discussion took place regarding the parking situation on Hillcrest Street. Currently, parking is permitted on one side of the street but not the other. It has been reported that this has caused some inconvenience for some residents of Hillcrest Street.

Discussion took place, with S/Cst. S. Smith noting the matter was brought forth by residents on Hillcrest Street, as the street was being utilized by students for parking. He noted he had met with residents who wanted changes and outlined how they came to a consensus to have 30-minute parking on one side of the street.

S/Cst. S. Smith noted he did receive a complaint from the Graham family. S/Cst. S. Smith responded to a query from Mayor L. Boucher stating that no parking signs would be going up.

Councillor J. MacPherson noted the major problem is students who attend St. FX and park in that area for convenience. He stated he feels there should be a permit issued to residents to allow them to park in front of their own homes. S/Cst. S. Smith stated this would require changes to signage.

Mayor L. Boucher stated that if we were to go that route the Town would have to look at other areas and used Pleasant Street and Gillis Way as examples.

Councillor J. MacPherson stated he feels Hillcrest Street is unique and this could be accommodated.

G. Graham stated if there was a student parking issue, that it may be at the bottom of the street noting he had heard issues with Highcrest Nursing Home, and with someone being blocked in. He addressed the issues his family is facing with parking. He stated that although parking passes might be new to Antigonish it is used in other jurisdictions and made his case as to why the Town should try it as a pilot project.

Discussion ensued.

S. Scannell noted he and G. Graham met and flushed things out, and further stated that if the Town is interested in revisiting the matter he would want to be sure they are doing it with the interest of all the residents on Hillcrest Street. He further noted this would increase administration on staff, and the need to keep in mind that this would not cover the winter parking ban where no vehicles are permitted to park overnight on streets.

R. Peters stated that parking spaces on campus isn't where the students want it to be, that there is usually parking just not where students want it. He noted they are working toward a paid parking system on campus and that this could compound issues of students parking on streets.

S/Cst. S. Smith noted there have been a number of units on Hillcrest Street that have been converted to rental units and questioned whether students would also receive passes.

S. Scannell noted that one of the things coming from the proposed Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) would be a parking study, and that perhaps this issue could be incorporated into the study.

The Chair advised that Administration would look further into the matter.

Mayor L. Boucher cautioned that Mr. Graham's situation is not unique and that there are issues in other areas as well.

In response, S. Scannell noted that a parking study could be added into the upcoming budget (next fiscal year).

The Chair thanked the delegates for their attendance and they left the meeting.

- Correspondence - West End Main Street

It was noted that a letter was received from M. Gabrieau, with the Chair questioning whether the Town is looking at creating more parking in the west end area of town and noted there is some metered parking behind the former Federal Building.

Discussion took place.

S. Smith stated that it is his understanding that the town is no longer looking for parking as development takes place.

Mayor L. Boucher noted that the Town will be looking at an overall plan for Chisholm Park.

S. Scannell noted there have been a lot of requests from people vending in that area that want the town to install electrical plugs, make water available etc. He stated he did do a walk-through of the area and will get back to look at it again in the new year.

It was generally agreed to leave a parking study on the agenda. The Chair and Mayor will both respond to M. Gabrieau. Discussion took place. Mayor L. Boucher and S. Scannell to discuss parking matters further.

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council consider including money in the 20/21 fiscal year budget to carry out a parking study to understand the issues regarding parking and recommend a solution in collaboration with efforts being made St. FX University regarding parking.” Motion carried.

Discussion took place.

- Crosswalks (Mayor L. Boucher)

Mayor L. Boucher noted it was brought to this Committee then to Council and spoke to the number of times crosswalks are painted. She stated she has noticed in other areas that wherever there are hand signal lights there are minimal lines at intersections, but mid-block or busier areas have cross bars and wonders if this is now a new best practice. She further noted she would like to have the CAO direct staff to look into the matter.

S. Smith noted the matter was previously looked at and although he supported it, it was thought to be too costly

“It was Moved and Seconded to recommend to Council to look at the possibility of transverse paint and a cost analysis for the commercial areas of Town in the mid-block area.” Motion carried.

Discussion took place on the painting of crosswalk lines and the type of paint that is used. It was noted that there is another option – that being thermal plastic (costly).

“It was Moved and Seconded to look into the current cost of line-painting and cost analysis to use an alternate material to make the paint lines for crosswalks last longer.” Motion carried.

The Chair indicated she would be forwarding information she had received at a recent conference regarding crosswalk signs that feature lights.

- Flags & Buckets (Funding 20/21)

The Chair spoke briefly on the matter of the flags constantly being removed at crosswalks/

It was Moved and Seconded to recommend to Council to include \$1,500. In the upcoming budget for the purchase of crosswalk buckets and flags.” Motion carried.

Reports

- By-law Enforcement

S/Cst. S. Smith noted that a big concern is garbage and unsightly premises, and stated notices are going out regarding the winter parking ban.

J. Pellerin noted staff had met with the new owners of the trailer parks, and that matters are being looked into.

It was noted that a former bar in town has now been sold.

The Committee was advised of another case before the courts under the Solid Waste Bylaw.

- RCMP

W. McBeath questioned whether there has been any discussion in changing the name of one of the trailer parks within the Town, brief discussion took place.

S/Sgt. B. Mooney noted he did not have a report for September. He stated it was busy with the hurricane, noting it was not as busy with university orientation. October was busy, particularly with Homecoming, along with other statutes way up.

S/Sgt. B. Mooney indicated he had spoken with S. Scannell, and that if the Committee feels the monthly reports are valuable that he could provide further details and noted as an example the current report doesn't break down liquor act matters to make it meaningful to the Town.

The Chair indicated she is happy with current report, but if there is a better way of reporting she would be open to receiving it. It was generally agreed to have B. Mooney further break down the stats in his monthly reports.

R. Peters expressed an interest in receiving previous homecoming stats. W. McBeath agreed to forward the information to R. Peters.

It was reported that the total fine amount for one day was \$44,500., with more than half of that reduced. Discussion took place.

W. McBeath spoke to the positive that came out of collective Homecoming Committee. He noted it began a couple of years ago, as started dealing with landlords, and that they now have had buy in from landlords. He spoke to the real partnership with St. Martha's and St. FX and noted they had partnered to have those who did not need to stay at the hospital taken back to campus.

R. Peters noted a lot of effort was put in to activities, however the weather didn't cooperate until later in the day.

It was noted there is currently a full complement of staff until December 1st, will lose one staff member at that point.

Brief discussion took place.

- St. FX University Representative

R. Peters reported debrief for homecoming. He noted they are partnering with the Town on ticketing, pleased with efforts of Town/RCMP for ticketing. Working on costing on paid ticketing programming. Will share those in a public way as well as sharing with the Town.

Brief discussion took place on St. FX parking passes.

S. Smith noted that those being towed on campus tend not to be reoffenders.

- St. FX Student Union
No one in attendance.

Next meeting likely in January, unless something pressing.

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:49 PM