

**Waste Management Committee Meeting
February 12, 2020
Council Chambers
9:30 a.m.**

Present

Councillor J. MacPherson, Chair
Councillor, Diane Roberts
L. McLean, Antigonish Chamber of Commerce Representative
N. Haverkort, Eastern Region Solid Waste Management Co-ordinator
K. O'Handley, Eastern Region Solid Waste Compliance Officer
D. Halfpenny, Engineering & Planning Administrative Assistant

Absent

Councillor A. Murray
S. Elliot, STFX Representative

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded, "That the Agenda for be approved. **Motion carried.**"

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded, "That the December 12, 2019 meeting minutes be approved as circulated." **Motion carried**

Correspondence

No correspondence

Business Arising from Minutes

Tree Mulching

Chair, J. MacPherson commented that once again the Antigonish Kinsmen Club and the Antigonish Fire Departments have done an excellent job with the Tree Mulch.

N. Haverkort reported that the trees were received free of all decorations and the event ran smoothly. The chips were taken away for storage and will be used in future for a walking trail.

Dumpster Pilot Project

N. Haverkort unveiled the magnet signage which will be placed on a blue dumpster behind MacLeod Group site. She noted that a second sign may be placed on the Royal Bank dumpster pending permission to do so by the Royal Bank. She commented that the signs are part of a pilot program to determine if the signs will deter illegal dumping. She advised she had designed the signage and had K. Gorman provided input into the color selection and usage of the Town of Antigonish logo.

Committee members agreed that the signs look good and are highly visible.

The pilot project will be underway at the two locations and monitored closely over upcoming

months. If there is a reduction in illegal dumping at these sites further consideration will be given to placing signage on other bins.

Waste By-Law

J. MacPherson advised he will speak to J. Lawrence regarding the fine tuning and preparation of the final draft for approval of waste management committee in order to make recommendation to Council for adoption.

N. Haverkort noted that some necessary changes are: 1) determining where to incorporate changes for the lodging home by-law; 2) identifying the plastic bag ban, and 3) expansion to include the provincially banned items.

HHW

N. Haverkort advises that the HHW permit approval from the Department of Environment has not been received due to the Engineer in charge being off on sick leave and not having a replacement.

D. Myers will advise when it has been approved.

New Business

Provincial Programs

N. Haverkort stated that the electronics recycling program has been enhanced to include gaming gear and GPS devices.

The oil program will include oil, oil containers, oil filters, lubricants, sprays, glycol and glycol containers. NS is the last of the provinces to create regulation so that industry would set-up the Used Oil Management Association (UOMA) program here. The gathering of waste oil she advised may still be used for burning in a waste oil furnace, however a collection program will see approved sites have materials dropped off by the public and picked up by a collection service for recycling. Approved drop-off sites are available in Town, the list was read from the website (<https://ns.uoma-atlantic.com/en/>)

N. Haverkort commented that on March 1, 2020 these materials will be officially banned. She noted that as a Region we will discuss how to officially implement and regulate especially when dealing with curbside rejection matters. She advised once a decision is made that it will be important to educate the haulers and residents.

Plastic Ban Bag

Chair, J. MacPherson commended Sobeys on their recent move away from single use plastic bags.

N. Haverkort noted that bill 152 will see the total ban of single use plastic bags; bill 152 allows for the addition of other single use plastic items. She explained that there are exemptions such as use for bulk food, live fish, frozen food, meat, fish or poultry. She advised that there is a complete list on the provincial website of exceptions and alternative bag restrictions. She noted that a list of questions and answers is being developed, signage will be available for retailers,

and it is important to note that the ban is not enforced through the environment act. It is a separate Act that will be enforced by Nova Scotia Environment.

L. McLean commented that the blue bag and clear bag programs are still in effect for waste collection.

N. Haverkort acknowledged that the program for waste remains the same at this time. She stated that a blue cart program would be a step forward. However, it would be an investment to purchase the blue carts, roll out the new program and it would necessitate the changeover of equipment by the hauler to dump the carts.

Review of Committee Structure

J. MacPherson, Chair advised that he would speak to D. Wilson about the status of the change in committee structure and when the ads would be placed to call for submissions for a new member.

Divert NS

N. Haverkort advised that Divert NS has expanded its educational programs to bring more educational initiatives into the schools. She noted that Divert NS is increasing its social media presence with ads focused strongly on waste reduction.

Diversions Credits

N. Haverkort reported that diversion credits are basically the same as last year at \$11,000. She explained that C&D continues to decrease the diversion credits but acknowledged that C&D remains out of our hands. She spoke of the positive component of older buildings being replaced with new energy efficient builds that increases the tax base for a municipality.

Discussion continued on educating contractors to reduce waste as much as possible by reselling cabinets, etc. The Waste Management Committee praised the effort of Bethany whose efforts prevented the municipality from going into a negative position with diversion credits.

N. Haverkort commented that J. Teasdale of CACL is exploring the creation of a Reuse Space and is seeking help with finding funding sources. His plan is to create more jobs for his CACL workers. He estimates that the initiative would require \$60,000 to get off the ground. However, the opportunities to reuse materials would be an asset to the community for decreasing waste.

EPR

N. Haverkort advised that a newspaper ad will run on Feb 22 and Feb 29 2020 in the Chronicle Herald to draw the public's attention to the Extended Producer Responsibility and create an awareness that the citizens for NS are paying twice for recycling where in other provinces the industry pays for the recycling.

The Chair asked what else can be done.

N. Haverkort responded that continued efforts by the Regional Coordinators; maintaining Municipal pressure are important steps to gain Provincial support and move EPR forward.

Care2Share

Event is scheduled April 24 & 25.

Discussion centered on how to better promote the event. N. Haverkort advised that she had left the Facebook group open and people continue to join. It has been updated with the new dates and links to the ERSWM,ca website.

J. MacPherson, Chair commented that K. Gorman should be consulted with to see how the Town could best use social media to create a series of tidbits to encourage people to participate in the event.

N. Haverkort suggested that traditional media such as the Casket may be able to promote the event through their events listing.

The Committee agreed that all avenues should be explored to increase awareness and effectiveness of the program.

Budget Items

Discussion followed on implementing of uniform litter can program with replacement of a minimum of two of the old concrete style cans with the three slot sorting stations a year.

D. Halfpenny to get a current quote on 3 slot sorting stations and forward to K. Proctor, P. Eng. Director of Public Works to add as a budgeted item for Waste Management.

N. Haverkort commented that stickers for green bins that say no plastic may be another small budget item to be used as a test pilot for the residential green bins.

Discussion followed on size of stickers and whether stickers would be permit by homeowners as they own the bins.

D. Halfpenny to get a quote from Admiral to see what these stickers would cost. Whether they could only be added to newly purchased bins or expanded to include existing needs to be determined.

Butt Blitz Program

N. Haverkort explained that Butts Blitz is a program where people pick up cigarette litter. It is scheduled for April 18, 2020. A collection location would need to be established. The Town of Antigonish has been asked to participate. Press releases and other promotional material will be sent out with a list of participants. It is a global initiative through a Greener Future.

After much discussion the Waste Committee agreed that they should participate provided a suitable location could be found.

N. Haverkort noted she would check with the Antigonish People's Place Library to see if they would be interested in being a drop off location.

It was determined that all groups and citizens should be encouraged to participate.

It was moved and seconded that the Waste Management Committee recommend to Council that the Town of Antigonish participate in the Butt Blitz on April 18, 2020 providing a drop off location can be established. **Motion carried.**

Education and Compliance Report Compliance Officer Report

K. O' Handley reported that he was meeting with two businesses to deal with organic materials; black bags continue to be an issue, he noted that several off campus international students had been identified as using black bags and tossing into the StFx IC&I load. He had followed up with these individuals to educate them on the program and fines associated with noncompliance. He stressed that education is a constant battle with new residents to the area.

N. Haverkort introduced a new updated waste sorting guide. N. Haverkort to supply electronic version to the committee members.

It was moved and seconded that the Compliance Report be accepted. **Motion carried**

Chamber of Commerce Report

L. McLean advised Waste Management Committee that the businesses have concerns about the cost of maintaining dumpsters as they are now being charged a fuel and environmental surcharge. These extra charges combined with the upcoming increase in minimum wage will have an impact on small businesses.

L. McLean will continue to monitor situation as GFL has been contacted by some businesses to clarify increased costs noting that NS doesn't have a carbon tax.

It was moved and seconded that the Chamber Report be accepted. **Motion carried.**

Next Meeting Date

- Next Waste Meeting will be held **March 11, 2020 at 9:30 am.**

It was moved and seconded, "That the meeting be adjourned."

Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.