

Waste Management Committee Meeting
October 9, 2019
Council Chambers
9:30 a.m.

Present

Councillor J. MacPherson, Chair
Councillor A. Murray
Councillor, Diane Roberts
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

L. McLean, Antigonish Chamber of Commerce Representative
S. Elliot, STFX Representative

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded, "That the Agenda for Oct 9, 2019 be approved with the addition of Dumpsters and New public committee member under new business. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded, "That the September 11, 2019 meeting minutes be approved as circulated." **Motion carried**

Correspondence

No correspondence

Business Arising from Minutes

Waste Bylaw

N. Haverkort advised that she provided the latest draft of Waste Bylaw to Committee and Town staff and as directed by Committee. It was shared for information with no timeline for review.

Discussion followed on how to deal with C&D issues, special events, and food truck vendors and how best to incorporate requirements into licensing.

J. MacPherson will speak to the Chair of Planning Advisory Committee to gain input on C&D concerns from J. Bain, Director of EDPC.

Care2Share

N. Haverkort advised that more advertising is required for this event. She noted that more people are joining the Facebook Group even after the event deadline has expired.

Discussion followed on increasing the amount of exposures for event lead up, making Care2Share a spring and fall event and, increasing awareness through STFX social media.

EPR Efficiency Study Update

N. Haverkort advised that the EPR report 'Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Solid Waste Resource Management System,' has been released. The report was prepared by AECOM Canada Ltd. She explained that the data was obtained from the DATACALL survey and the study focused on governance, community profiles and financial modelling with an overview of best management practices from other jurisdictions. She outlined the key take-aways from the report:

1. NS Waste Resource Strategy is over 20 years old and requires revision to facilitate change.
 - A) Lack of clear provincial vision.
 - B) Planning with clear targets that are achievable and enforceable.
2. Provincial requirements to consider provincial infrastructures as a whole to prevent over supply of landfills, recycling facilities, etc.
 - A) Positive result for NS if EPR is implemented.
 - B) Waste Management is an essential service, key principles need to be established to provide equitable costs throughout NS.
3. Municipalities have been working in silo, no incentive to work with neighbouring municipalities to coordinate services to keep costs low for citizens and inline with a provincial strategy.
4. CAO's and elected officials are key decision-makers as such there needs to be a provincial education and outreach on cost benefits of NS reaching it disposal target.
5. Clear definition of the role of Regional Chairs Committee and the Federation of Municipalities to avoid a duplication of work.
6. Direct Education cost assessment.
7. Review of recycling beverage program
8. Clarify role of Divert NS and regions/municipality.
 - A) Standardize program across the province, common list of banned items,
 - B) Enable development of province wide education campaign what goes where.
9. Intermunicipal Agreements to avoid duplication of services, focus on provincial goals.

The report recommended that NS Environment, the regional authorities, Federation of Municipalities, local municipalities, and Divert NS determine which practices can be applied to the updates to the solid waste management system. The study recommended that standardized waste service procurement contracts would reduce administration between regions; reducing the single use items would cost effective; and doing a full cost accounting would be necessary.

N. Haverkort noted that it was encouraging that the report indicated that EPR would be a benefit to Nova Scotia. She advised that the Regional Chairs had received the report but had not gone so far as to approve the report. She commented that the report is in the Ministers hands and a decision will be made in the next couple of months concerning EPR. She explained that the full report is lengthy over 300 pgs and she would send a copy of the AECOM presentation to Waste Committee.

HHW

Awaiting permit to operate from the Department of Environment. Expected Grand Opening November, 2019.

Waste Reduction Week

N. Haverkort updated that during Waste Reduction Week there will be a presentation at the Antigonish People's Place Library in the Community room from 12:00- 1:30 p.m. Lunch and Learn on October 23, 2019 which will include giveaways, to share information on Waste Management initiatives and reduction tips. She advised that Sunflower Natural foods will provide a talk about bulk foods and products, and the Waffle Bus Stop will share their waste reduction practices and challenges. The event is open to small businesses and the general public..

She noted that the event is being promoted through the Farmer's Market newsletter and event information will also be sent to the Chamber of Commerce for circulation. She advised that that a light lunch will be served and that it will require that anyone planning to attend register.

J. MacPherson noted that K. Gorman had provided door prizes that fit well with the theme for Waste Reduction Week. He encouraged the Waste Management Committee to register and attend if possible. He asked if K. Gorman should promote the event on the Town website and social media.

N.Haverkort commented that it is primarily a small business lunch and learn and therefore the focus is on reaching the small businesses such as Farmer's Market participants and Chamber members but that once the event gets closer she will provide K. Gorman with information to circulate.

Bulky Waste Pick Up

Bulky Waste Pick Up numbers have not been received yet from J. Dee of Eastern GFL but are expected to be reported by next meeting.

Mobius Awards

N. Haverkort reported that the Sisters of St Martha were selected to receive the Mobius Award of Excellence for Institution of the Year. The Award celebration will be in Halifax on October 30 and Waste Management Committee Chair J. MacPherson will be attending as per the recommendation of V. Pitts. The Sisters of St Martha have been informed and are delighted with the news.

Hurricane Dorian Special Pick Up

Residents appreciated the event.

Waste Can Locations

J. MacPherson noted that he had been approached by a group of dog walkers who had asked if an additional waste can could be located on their walking route. They explained it would be easier to dispose of doggy waste. He noted there were other locations that citizens had asked for a waste can.

Discussion followed on locations that may require a waste can, whether there were any additional waste cans at Public Works that could be used and other considerations to purchasing, installing and pick up procedures for waste.

D. Halfpenny reminded the Waste Management Committee that a Waste Can had been

removed from St Ninian Street due to a citizen complaint of litter cans being over stuffed with residential waste and blowing on to his property.

K. O' Handley noted that he had dealt with the complaint from the citizen on more than one occasion and that the problem was stemming from students using the litter cans to dump residential waste.

It was moved and seconded, "that the Waste Management Committee recommend to Council that 4 additional litter cans be added one in each of the following locations near Braemore Bridge, Cairn Park, St Ninian Street, and West St." Motion Carried.

New Member

Councillor A. Murray commented that he had been approached by a new resident to the Town of Antigonish that had recently retired and has a background in waste management. The new resident was very interested in contributing to the community by sharing her knowledge of waste management. A. Murray asked if it would be possible to advertise for an addition to the Waste Management Committee.

J. MacPherson noted that he would ask J. Lawrence how to go about changing the terms of reference for the Waste Committee.

Discussion followed on the current Waste Committee structure and the lack of a residential member. All agreed that having a resident who had had a career in waste management would add to the committee.

It was moved and seconded, "That the Waste Management committee recommend to Council that the Waste Management committee be expanded to include a member of the public." Motion Carried.

Single use Plastic Ban Update

N. Haverkort reported that Bill 152- is on its third reading and expected to be proclaimed by next week. She advised she will be tracking the amendments. She noted that the Ecology Action Group, Plastic Free Lunenburg commented on the Bill both supporting the province. The Canadian Plastic Industry Association is opposing the ban but has not provided any solutions.

If passed, retail/ industry will have a year to prepare for the legislation. Retailers will still be allowed to use single-use plastic bags for live fish and bulk items. There will also be exemptions for food banks and charities. The legislation won't require retailers to charge for alternatives to plastic bags.

Discussion followed and all agreed that progress is being made.

Chamber Report

Unavailable

Education and Compliance Report Compliance Officer Report

K.O'Handley reported that dumpsters continue to be a challenge with students illegally dumping unsorted waste into town merchants dumpsters. He advised that locking the dumpsters has resulted in waste being dumped around the dumpsters.

Councillor A, Murray stated that he had caught several students in the act of carrying their unsorted waste towards merchants' dumpsters. He reported that he had spoken directly to the student advised that he was a Town councilor and a member of the waste committee, and informed the person of the fine associated with illegal dumping. He noted that some of these locations would have video surveillance cameras that would catch the culprits in the act.

Discussion followed on educating the landlords and tenants on proper waste procedures; ensuring that green bins are provided by landlords and that have proper sorting items on hand such as clear and blue bags; and potentially releasing the photo on social media of the culprits committing the illegal dumping.

K. O' Handley advised that he will be contacting a specific landlord whose tenants have been identified as illegal placing items in a merchant's dumpster to ensure that the apartment building has the appropriate storage and green bins on site and educational material has been provided to the tenants.

Discussion followed on the challenges of educating students on proper sorting for Antigonish and that if a few students are fined the word will get around that it will not be tolerated.

It was moved and seconded that K O'Handley's report be accepted. Motion Carried.

N. Haverkort mentioned that the new resident flyers could be used as a handout when new residents sign up for power or to hand out when an issue arises at curbside. Following the meeting K. Gorman posted the flyer to the website following the last waste meeting.

Next Meeting Date

- Next November 20, 2019.

Motion

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.