

**Special Council Meeting  
August 3, 2017  
Town Council Chambers**

**Present**

Mayor L. Boucher  
Deputy Mayor W. Cormier (via telephone)  
Councillor M. Farrell  
Councillor A. Murray  
Councillor J. MacPherson  
Councillor D. Roberts

**Also Present**

J. Lawrence, CAO  
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk

Delegates

**Absent with Regret**

Councillor D. MacInnis

**Call to Order**

Mayor L. Boucher called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, noting this was a Special meeting of Council

**Approval of Agenda**

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Agenda as circulated." Motion carried.

**Presentations**

- Antigonish Affordable Housing Society  
Mayor L. Boucher called Ms. C. Cameron to provide details on their request for further town-owned land.

A site plan was previously distributed.

Ms. C. Cameron noted the Town had provided the land, and they constructed the first Phase I of four (4) units. She spoke to the quality of the development, gardens in place, etc. She noted they are now going into fundraising mode to move forward with Phase II.

She noted they are not just building buildings, they are building community, and spoke to the navigator currently in place. Moving toward Phase II plans included a community room. Putting it in a basement would be both expensive and would not be barrier-free.

Discussion then took place on perhaps seeking additional land from the town for the community room, storage, washers and dryers, and a space for the navigator.

As a member of this community, she knows the feeling of losing privacy, and spoke to growth in Town that affected her personally. They are very cognisant of privacy and would ensure that landscaping would be done to ensure everyone in the area has privacy.

Ms. C. Cameron spoke to the idea that affordable housing lowers property values, and stated that this is simply not true. Can proceed with the 10 additional units but this would make a huge difference.

Mr. A. MacGillivray spoke briefly on photos provided to the Town. He noted they are hoping to add additional gardens as well. CAO J. Lawrence apologized and printed copies of the photos provided for the benefit of those in attendance.

In response to a query, Mr. A. MacGillivray noted the proposed building is 20X24'.

Photos were distributed to those in attendance. Mayor L. Boucher questioned whether those in attendance had recently discussed the property in question, and it was noted no discussion had taken place. In response to a suggestion that perhaps the building could be shifted and the land split.

Deputy Mayor W. Cormier questioned whether AAHS would be willing to provide a 20' buffer to be dedicated as a green space. C. Cameron indicated that they would certainly be willing to provide a buffer if it could be done.

At 7:27 PM Ms. C. Cameron vacated the podium and Mr. & Mrs. Mike Marenick noted other members of Thompson Street were also in attendance. Mr. Marenick noted they were also in attendance due to his request to Council to purchase the land in question. He spoke on acquiring their current property, and their experience of their children growing up on Thompson Street, and noted this is one reason they wish to purchase the property. Mr. Marenick then spoke to not knowing the land was for sale, and thought the land was not usable. He stated others on Thompson Street would also be interested in purchasing land.

Councillor D. Roberts questioned whether the Marenicks would be open to the lot in question being buffered. Mr. Marenick responded that the first preference would be to purchase the lot, however, should Council not agree to sell the land to them, the buffering proposed would help.

In response to a query from Councillor A. Murray, others that live on Thompson Street and in attendance would be willing to purchase the lots abutting their properties.

Mayor L. Boucher then entertained questions from the gallery. Councillor A. Murray then put forth a possible suggestion.

At 7:45 PM the delegates left the meeting and it was "Moved and Seconded to go to In Camera." Motion carried.

At 7:59 PM it was moved to adjourn and go into open Council

"It was Moved and Seconded to transfer the lot requested by the Antigonish Affordable Housing Association for \$1.00, with specific stipulations related to maximizing green space, the opinion of the Solicitor and any other items that the Municipal Government Act speaks to." Motion carried.

"At 8:00 PM it was Moved and Seconded that the meeting be adjourned." Motion carried.