

Cumberland Forestry Advisory Committee

April 6 2020

7:00-8:00, Virtual Meeting on Zoom

Attendees: Jonathan McClelland, Ian Ripley, Norman Paupin, Ron Furlong, Deputy Mayor Shelia Christie, Steven McLelan, Mac Davis, Keith Thompson, Anne Lebrun Ruff, Barry Tupper, Matthew MacGillivray, Jeff Black, Kevin Merriam - Meeting Chairman

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM by meeting chair – Kevin Merriam

Item 1 – Meeting Chairman- Kevin Merriam welcomed all participants and thanked everyone for the call virtually. He hoped that everyone was doing well and taking care of themselves and their families. Approval of Agenda.

Item 2 – Approval of the minutes of the March 11, 2020.

Item 3 – Business Arising from the Minutes – Review of March 11 meeting “action items”.

Action Item: Committee to ask be back on the Transition Teams’ agenda shortly after the March 29th meeting. Due to the global pandemic, the March 29th meeting was cancelled. The Committee discussed whether the Transition Team was still meeting. Was reported that the Transition Team was still active and were due to have a meeting on April 7, 2020. Suggested that since the Transition Team was still active, it was important to maintain the relationship already established and the CFAC should ask to participate in the next meeting.

Action Item: Committee members were asked to submit all suggestions regarding influencers to critique document and potential guest speakers for March 29th meeting. No meeting on March 29th, but as soon as possible the community meeting will be held. There will still be a need to have guest speakers at the meeting. The committee was asked to still make suggestions regarding participants.

Action Item: Approach Bill Lahey about presenting at the March 29th meeting. No meeting on March 29th, but group will approach Mr. Lahey about participating at the community meeting when it was scheduled.

Action Item: A letter be written to the Transition Team regarding the implementation of the proposed percentage of crown lands subjected to high production harvesting and the harm this could cause to the value of the land. The committee discussed this reason for this action item. During the March 11th meeting, an CBC article was brought to the committee’s attention. The article indicated that the closure of Northern Pulp could affect the province’s implementation of the recommendations of the Lahey Report. Was explained that the committee needed more clarity regarding the percentages that would be used on harvesting crown lands. Suggested the question be added to any potential correspondence that may be sent to the Transition Team. Was added that the percentages suggested represented the AAC as it is today. Why was the province not looking to grow the forest industry? Boosting the industry by bumping up the high intensity percentage

could make Nova Scotia sawmills more robust. Voiced a concern regarding the CFAC speaking on behalf of the entire province and not specifically for Cumberland County. Was suggested that this topic should be discussed with other regions of Nova Scotia and could be one action item that is shared with the Transition Team on behalf of the entire province. Also suggested that it was a Cumberland County issue to look at the percentages of high intensity harvest and the revenue that could be generated. Those agreed that a regional spin on the ask would be appropriate and asked for volunteers to prepare the letter. Members offered to help prepare a letter and was suggested that before a letter to the transition team was prepared, it would be helpful to see the presentation that the Province had intended to provide at the Stakeholders meeting. They said it would reach out to the department and see if he could get a copy of the document. The committee agreed to table this action item until more information was available.

Item 3 – Task Group Updates

Immediate Action Team – Reported that the action team had met 4 times with 10-12 members participating. Action team objective was to provide meaningful updates to the committee. Action team's last meeting was February 13th and at that time the committee was put on hold until more direction was provided by CFAC. Was it worth reactivating the team and if yes, what could be contributed? Kevin Merriam answered that the CFAC has a potential Strategic Plan and in order to implement the items, committee members would need to participate. Maybe not necessary to reactivate the Immediate Action Team, but members could help in implementing the strategies. Those agreed that that was a way to move forward.

Policy Action Team – Provided an update prepared by committee chair. The action team gets together weekly and were working on 7 categories. Nothing specific to report, but the team is working on the tasks and working on the results of the survey.

Market Development Action Team – Reported that the team had not met for some time but are looking into some opportunities and which ones could be viable for Cumberland County.

Long Term Planning Action Team – Provided a report for this team. The team has met on March 8th and had a good general discussion. The action team is waiting for the strategic plan for more guidance.

Communication Team – Reported that the team had met to establish policies and procedures but were now stalled due to the cancellation of the March 29th meeting. This team was also waiting for guidance from the plan.

Item 5 – New Business

Review of Available Government Emergency Programs – Provided information regarding the support programs that were available due to COVID 19. After briefing, some of the programs were discussed in detail. The Cumberland Business Connector has produced a Forest Sector Update dated April 1, 2020 (copy attached), which lists the programs and provides information on each.

Review and discussion of “Future of Forestry-Strategic Plan” – a draft version of the document was provided to the committee members. Was said that the document contained a lot of excellent information regarding the pathways, shared vision, and strategies, but it may be too detailed for the community meeting. Suggested that there be 2 documents, the full plan, and a summary document. The committee members were asked to spend time reading the document and bring recommendations and suggestions to the next meeting. This draft document is a summary of the work that has been accomplished to date, but still too long. The committee members need to have an opportunity to digest the information in the document and establish priorities. After much discussion, the members agreed to take the 2 weeks until the next meeting and share suggestions and ideas with other committee members. Item was tabled until next meeting.

At this point in the meeting, the Chair noted that the duration of the meeting was much longer than anticipated and asked if the final item under new business Communication to Public Regarding Current State of Forestry could be moved to the next meeting. Was agreed upon.

The next meeting will also be a virtual meeting and will be held on April 13th at 7pm. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.