

Cumberland Forestry Advisory Committee

April 22 2020

7:00-8:30, 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, Velda Fromm, Ernie Gilbert, Jeff Black, Kevin Merriam - Meeting Chairman

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM

Item 1 – Meeting Chairman- Kevin Merriam welcomed all participants and thanked everyone for the call virtually. Kevin thanked the meeting participants for their understanding regarding the postponement of the meeting for April 20th. The events from the weekend have left everyone in Nova Scotia in shock and he hoped that everyone was doing well and taking care of themselves and their families.

Agenda approved.

Item 2 – Approval of the minutes of the April 6, 2020.

Item 3 – Business Arising from the Minutes – Review of April 6th meeting “action items”.

Action Item # 1: Committee to ask to be back on the Transition Teams’ agenda shortly after the March 29th meeting. The Committee discussed whether the Transition Team was still meeting. 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.

New Action Item: Prepare a letter to formally ask to be on the agenda of a meeting of the Transition Team.

Action Item: Committee members were asked to submit all suggestions regarding influencers to critique document and potential guest speakers for March 29th meeting. Community Meeting will be scheduled at some point and group was reminded the Committee to keep thinking about influencers.

Action Item: Approach Bill Lahey about presenting at the March 29th meeting. When the Community Meeting is scheduled, committee will contact Mr. Lahey regarding his participation.

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. Since the April 6th meeting, they have received and shared with the Committee Members 2 documents regarding this proposal. Committee members still have questions regarding the new version of the provinces Forest Management Plan. Committee will reach out to contacts and determine when the Stakeholders meeting will be held. Was asked if it would be appropriate to ask the Transition Team to allow CFAC to have input on the plan. The Committee discussion on the

plan brought forth many questions and comments. The Committee members agreed that it was important to have a voice on these proceedings and suggested that one person would be the best choice for this representation.

Item 4 -Task Group Updates

Policy Action Team – The action team has been active since the last meeting. The team have looked at all the proposed initiatives and has flagged the ones that are policy items. Some of the deal with meeting with other groups in Cumberland and putting a focus on wood use. The Team is working on several items that are only in the early stages but could have an impact on the forest industry.

No other Action Teams had met since the April 6th meeting.

Item 5 – New Business

Next Steps for the CFAC – Further Review and discussion of “Future of Forestry- Strategic Plan”

A draft strategic plan had been presented to all committee members at the April 6th meeting and at that time, members were asked to look at the document and provide comments. The Committee needs to determine how to get to the finish line regarding this plan, everyone needs to be on the same page regarding the plan.

Spoke about the need to regroup and determine what the process will look like. The committee needs to determine a schedule for moving forward. 2 separate step processes where provided to the Committee.

The committee needs to be in agreement on the document. Although it is a long document and committee members are busy, there need to be a commitment from the Committee Members to provide feedback regarding the document. After listening to the Committee members and the need for facilitation of the plan, it was suggested that the next call should include Frank Gallant. Committee members were tasked with providing comments regarding the plan to Frank and to copy the other committee members prior to the next meeting. It was suggested that the committee needed to send a timeline and provide this timeline to Frank. Agreed that the Committee needed to provide Frank with firm expectations regarding the process. Was asked if the committee was in agreement regarding the participation of Frank Gallant attending the next meeting and assisting in moving the plan forward. Committee members agreed.

TIR letter to CFAC

Was reported that they had received a response from the February 25th letter to Minister Hines on April 22. Was voiced that the length of time between the letter and the response from the department was unacceptable. The Committee discussed the response and the gaps and deficiencies with the department’s implementation of some of the suggestions in the letter from CFAC

Action Item - Work on a response to the letter from Mark Peachy on behalf of Minister Hines.

Other Business:

The Transition Team was still meeting, but no indication on progress. Member offered to contact Transition Team member and try to obtain information on what the Transition Team was working on and to suggest to that the CFAC would like to be on the agenda for a future meeting.

Committee was reminded that the Environment Department was supposed to provide Northern Pulp with new "Terms of Reference" last week. To date nothing had been sent out. Was reported that he had conversations with Northern Pulp and if the "Terms of Reference" were not received by Northern Pulp by Friday, April 24th, the company was going public. Was suggested that a letter be sent to the Premier, the Environment Minister and the Transition Team regarding the disappointment regarding the lack of response regarding the Terms of Reference and the government needs to stop using Covid-19 as an excuse for the downturn in the forest industry. It was agreed by the Committee to table this discussion until the next meeting to see if the Friday April 24th Deadline was met. Was pointed out that the Province of Nova Scotia did not give Northern Pulp a single day and the deadline had already been missed by the Department of the Environment.

Chairs thanked the Committee members for participating on the call. The dedication of the Committee was evident give the willingness to come together to work on a common goal after the horrendous week in Nova Scotia.

The next meeting will also be a virtual meeting and will be held on April 29th at 7pm. Kevin Merriam adjourned the meeting at 9:06 pm.