

Cumberland Forestry Advisory Committee
May 6 2020
7:00-9:00pm, Virtual Meeting on Zoom

Attendees: Jonathan McClelland, Ian Ripley, Norman Paupin, Ron Furlong, Shelia Christie, Steven McLelan, Mac Davis, Keith Thompson, Matthew MacGillivray, Dave Ritchie, Craig Tupper, 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 joining the meeting. He also thanked Ron Furlong for distributing the meeting information to the participants. There were two items added to the agenda if time permitted – Policy Committee Report and new correspondence to the Minister of Environment from Tim Houston. Kevin asked for approval on the agenda.

Agenda approved.

Item 2 – Approval of the minutes of the April 29, 2020.

Minutes approved.

Item 3 – Business Arising from the Minutes – Review of April 29th meeting “action items”.

Action Item 1: Communications Committee to be provided with an editable copy of the short form document. Any feedback that has been received is to be forwarded to the Communications Committee as they revise the document.

Communications Committee was provided with an editable copy of the short form document and that the document provided had been updated to include recommendations from the April 29th meeting.

Action Item 2: Promoting the May 13th meeting consistent with how the original Sunday public meetings were promoted.

The discussion on the May 13th community meeting was tabled until later in the meeting.

Action Item 3: Provincial Transition Team to be contacted regards getting CFAC representatives on the agenda to present the short form of the CFAC Strategic Plan.

Reported that no official request had been made to the Transition Team.

Action Item 4: Incorporate the feedback received on the long version Strategic Plan and bring it back to CFAC for approval.

Meeting was had via zoom and a third draft of the document should be ready by the weekend. (May 9-10).

Action Item 5: Provide suggestions on potential revisions to the Terms of Reference that CFAC may wish to consider. When those suggestions are sent out for CFAC to consider a digital copy of the original will be included so that the committee members will have both in hand.

This action item is completed, and the document was provided to the committee members and a review of this document was on the meeting agenda.

Item 4- New Business

Discussion of **“Future of Forestry – Strategic Plan”** (short paper) Committee was provided with a copy of the comments on the short document along with changes and additions.

Committee was reminded that the closure of Northern Pulp and the loss of a market for chips and low-grade wood should still be the focus of the committee. The forest industry in Nova Scotia needed an immediate solution to this problem and it needs to be a part of this document.

Debert Tree Nursery - There is an immediate need to assist the nursery which is in danger of closing and if it closes would be detrimental to the NS forest industry.

After a length discussion of each of the pathways and the recommendations from the committee, it was agreed that the proposed date for the Community Meeting of May13th would not be possible. The committee as a whole need to understand the document and believe in the pathways. Also, the committee needed to agree regarding the content of the summary document. The Immediate Action Items need to be added to the document and should be an integrated part of the focus when presenting document to the community. These items include a market for wood chips and low grade fiber, bio char, building codes, renewal energy and possible financing through Forestry Credit Board.

Review of Terms of Reference is postponed until next meeting

Discussion on Community meeting set for May 13th - The committee discussed the date for a community meeting. This community meeting could not be scheduled until the summary document was completed and agreed to by the committee. It was suggested that the meeting be tabled until the later part of May. It was agreed to by the committee members that the date for the Community meeting would be discussed at the next meeting of the CFAC.

Item 5- Additional Agenda Items.

Correspondence to the NS Minister of Environment from Opposition Leader Tim Houston. An electronic copy of this letter was provided to the committee members. The contents of the letter were questions regarding Northern Pulp. Committee members were provided with a summary of a conference call with Northern Pulp officials. Was suggested that the CFAC ask Northern Pulp to provide an update regarding plans for the future of the facility.

New Action Item: A request be made to Northern Pulp officials to provide an update to CFAC.

A member of the committee has an upcoming meeting with officials from Northern Pulp and would ask them to contact the CFAC.

Policy Committee Report - A short discussion was held regarding the task group recommendation to the CFAC (economic impact of closure of Northern Pulp vs Covid-19 impact). Since this was not deemed to be a high priority at this time, the recommendation was retracted at this point. Policy committee remains active and will provide updates and recommendations as necessary.

Next meeting May 13th at 7pm.

Adjournment - The next meeting will also be a virtual meeting and will be held on May 13th at 7pm.
Meeting adjourned at 9:47 pm.