

Cumberland Forestry Advisory Committee

May 27 2020

7:01-8:31pm, Virtual Meeting on Zoom

Attendees: Deputy Mayor Shelia Christie, Jonathan McClelland, Ian Ripley, Norman Paupin, Craig Tupper, Ron Furlong, Frank Gallant, Velda Fromm, Carole Blenkhorn, Kevin Merriam - Meeting Chairman.

Meeting called to order at 7:01 by meeting chair – Kevin Merriam

Item 1 – Meeting Chair – Kevin Merriam welcomed everyone to the meeting. An additional item was added under Item 5. The agenda was amended. Motion carried.

Item 2 – The minutes of May 20th were introduced into the meeting and with no additions or amendments the motion to accept the minutes as circulated.

Minutes approved.

Item 3 – Business Arising from the Minutes

Review of May 13th Action Items.

Action Item 1– Working on drafting a letter to Mark Peachey around recommendations for the DoT’s consideration ahead of the implementation of next year’s spring weight restrictions.

Was reported that this was still ongoing.

Action Item 2- Incorporation of the suggested edits into the draft document and present for a motion of acceptance next meeting.

Was reported that the suggesting revisions had been made to the document and a draft copy was distributed with the meeting information. The committee discussed some of the additions and omissions regarding the Terms of Reference. Moved for the adoption of the Terms of Reference as presented.

Terms of Reference approved.

Action Item 3 - Promoting the May 31st meeting consistent with how the original Sunday public meetings were promoted.

Was reported that social media platforms were used to promote the community meeting. The Business Connector sent out a mass email to all contacts regarding the meeting.

Action Item 4 - To have 50 copies of the Short Form Strategic Plan printed up on quality paper.

50 copies of both the short- and long-term Strategic plan documents were available.

Action Item 5 – Sharing of a call list with those who agreed that they could take the time to make phone calls to encourage people to attend the online meeting on May 31st. Was reported that the

phone calls were on-going, and results of the calls indicated that Facebook Live as a popular option for attending the community meeting.

Final Review of “Draft” Terms of Reference covered in review of Action Item 2.

Review final edits to Strategic Plan short document Was reported that the final edits had been completed prior to the copies of being printed.

Item 4 – New Business

Final Planning for the CFAC Community Meeting –Committee members were provided with a draft of the agenda for the meeting. The committee discussed each item and the chose the best committee member(s) to present the required information. The best process for handling questions and answers from the community were discussed. Jonathan McClelland and Norman Paupin offered to monitor the questions and funnel these to Frank Gallant during the Q & A period. The committee members concluded this item with a revised plan and were hopeful for good attendance on the 31st of May.

Item 5 – Additional Agenda Items - Policy Action Team Request

Was reported that the policy team had met earlier in the day and were requesting clearance from the CFAC to do a survey of Cumberland County silviculture contractors. Policy team is looking for information regarding funding requirements and what was realistic regarding amount of work that could be done with current workforce and equipment for the upcoming season. The Committee members agreed that this would be very useful information and approved the survey. The Policy Action Team had also discussed the taxes levied on wood lots and the method used to set the tax base. It was suggested that the team try to make a presentation during the annual meeting of the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities. Was suggested that a better avenue would be the Provincial Department of Municipal Affairs. Was added that the Department of Municipal Affairs was very aware of the work being done by the CFAC. Committee asked for authorization to have a conversation with Kelliann Dean regarding this topic. There were no objections.

Item 6 – Closing Comments

Kevin Merriam thanked everyone for participating and indicated that he will be reaching out to some committee members before the Community Meeting on May 31st. Was asked if a date had been sent regarding meeting with the Transition Team. Was reported that a specific date had not been set, but members of the Transition Team were aware that the request would be forthcoming, and that the CFAC would try to get on the Team’s agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31pm.