

**MINUTES**  
**TOWN OF ANNAPOLIS ROYAL**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL**  
**December 18, 2006**  
**9:00 a.m.**

The regular meeting of the Council was held on Monday, December 18, 2006 in Council Chambers at Town Hall. In attendance were Chair Mayor John Kinsella, Deputy Mayor Jane DeWolfe, Councillors Sherman Hudson, Phil Roberts and Doug Shaffner, CAO Amery Boyer, Director of Finance Melony Robinson and Administrative Assistant Jackie Longmire as recording secretary. Carolyn Sloan of the Annapolis Spectator joined the meeting.

Regrets: Councillor Ron Boulding

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES**

**November 20, 2006**

**Motion # 1**

*It was moved by Deputy Mayor DeWolfe, seconded by Councillor Hudson approval of the regular Council minutes dated November 20, 2006. Motion carried.*

**ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA**

None

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**December 18, 2006**

**Motion # 2**

*It was moved by Councillor Shaffner, seconded by Councillor Hudson approval of the agenda dated December 18, 2006, as amended. Motion carried.*

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None

**PRESENTATIONS**

Dutch Elm Disease: Anna Haley on behalf of Michael Susnick - Ms. Haley presented her opinion on the removal of infected elm trees to Council. She said that through her own research she has discovered that the effects of Dutch Elm are not removed unless the entire root system of the infected tree is also removed. She said that the roots of the infected trees in Annapolis Royal are not removed so the threat of further disease is still present. She questioned the random removal of trees and why there was no cohesive plan. She suggested that a second opinion from another arborist be requested before any trees are removed.

Ms. Haley also asked why this topic was never open for discussion or input from the public. Mayor Kinsella said that the issue of Dutch Elm

Disease has been open for discussion for several years and that the public was always welcome to voice their opinion. He made reference to the three strategic planning meetings that were recently held; the public had the opportunity to address any issues within the Town at those meetings. He explained that the existing policy was set by Council as a result of other Town's experience with, and response to the disease.

Ms. Haley asked why residents with infected trees on their property were not given the option of proper testing or injections. CAO Boyer said that the Historic Gardens are injecting 2 trees and are not making recommendations to Council to change the existing policy. Ms. Haley said that she is not disputing David Lee's expertise but she believes a public discussion should be held so that all concerned residents can voice their opinions and offer suggestions on the subject.

Ms. Haley also asked a series of questions on behalf of Michael Susnick; each question was addressed. Mr. Susnick believes that there has been a moratorium declared by Council and only particular trees are identified for removal. Mayor Kinsella said there has been no moratorium declared and trees are removed as they are identified by the arborist. Mr. Susnick also wondered if the Town has ever tendered for arborist services. CAO Boyer and Mayor Kinsella were unaware whether the service had ever been tendered as David Lee has served as the Town arborist for several years. Councillor Roberts suggested that the Town consider exploring who is available for arborist services. Mr. Susnick also questioned the posting of the minutes to the website. It was explained that the minutes pass through a series of review and approvals and are then forwarded to the webmaster for posting. There is no conspiracy to hide minutes or to keep them from being posted for public review. Councillor Roberts said that there has been ample opportunity for public discussion on this issue and residents should never feel that the door is closed. A response letter to Michael Susnick's correspondence received at the Committee of the Whole meeting on December 5, 2006 is still in the process of being drafted.

Ms. Haley was thanked for her comments and suggestions. The discussion continued after she left Council Chambers. Deputy Mayor DeWolfe said that it was time to have a specific meeting to address the issues of Dutch Elm Disease. It was agreed that an effort should be made to re-establish the Tree Task Force. Arrangements will be made for a public meeting to re-establish the Tree Task Force; membership requests will be made at that time.

## **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Decision / Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
{a} Regional Emergency Management Bylaw	Final reading was completed on the Regional Emergency Management Bylaw.  <i><b>Motion #3</b></i> <i><b>It was moved by Deputy Mayor Jane DeWolfe, seconded by Councillor Shaffner for the adoption of the Regional Emergency Management Bylaw.</b></i>		
{b} Th_r_se Casgrain Volunteer	It was agreed that the Town would not nominate anyone for this award at		

Awards	this time. CAO Boyer said that the nominations are open until February 2007 if Council wished to offer nomination suggestions for staff to pursue.		
--------	--	--	--

**MOTION(S) OF RECONSIDERATION:** none

**MOTION(S) OF RESCISSION:** none

**OTHER NOTICE(S) OF MOTION:** none

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Item	Decision / Action	Responsibility	Target Date
{a} Water Reports	Reports have been reviewed and found to be satisfactory.	CAO	
{b} Building Bylaw	CAO Boyer said that there are still some problems with the wording of section 7 in the Building Bylaw. The Town Solicitor George Lohnes will forward proper wording and it will be inserted into the bylaw. CAO Boyer said that the new wording is language clarification and not considered a substantive change. First reading is complete.		
{c} Day Care Centres Tax Reduction Bylaw	This bylaw would eliminate Business Occupancy Tax and reduce commercial taxes to residential for Day Cares in Town. Council agreed that this was a fair and reasonable bylaw. First reading is complete.		
{d} Request from Paul Thibideau	A letter was received requesting acknowledgement from the Town for the retirement of Goldie Thibodeau who has worked in the Town for approximately 40 years. It was agreed that a certificate of service award would be presented to Ms. Thibodeau at the next meeting of Council on January 15, 2007.		
{e} Baptist Church Sanitary Infiltration	Corroded pipes at the Baptist Church have been identified as a source of infiltration into the Town's sanitary sewer system. Based on existing Town policy, the expense for repair would be the responsibility of the Church.		

	Engineer Kevin Skebo has provided options which include the Town paying half of the expense to repair the problem. Several other options were discussed by Council which included: providing the Town backhoe to help defray the costs, covering the portion of the expense from the main to the right of way and combining the work with other Town projects in that area to reduce the expense to the Church. It was agreed that all other options would be explored before a decision was made.		
{f} Request from Alan Melanson of the Historical Association of Annapolis Royal	The Historical Association of Annapolis Royal has requested that the tax on the lighthouse property be reduced from commercial to residential. Mr. Melanson made the same request in 2005 and was informed that he must apply for such a reduction. According to the Property Tax Reduction Bylaw, the property no longer qualifies for the reduction because of its income. A response letter will be drafted thanking Mr. Melanson for his patience and explaining that the association must apply for the reduction annually.		
{g} Request for a decision Re: Temporary coverall building at the Public Works yard	The Superintendent of Public Works has requested approval for a \$3,000.00 expense to erect a temporary storage shelter in the Public Works yard. The shelter would be required for a period of three years until the new Public Works facility is expected to be built. It would be used to store equipment, salt and other items. There is the possibility of sharing the shelter and the expense with the Clean Annapolis River Project.		
{g} Town Crier - reappointment	The annual re-appointment of the Town Crier is due again. Council agreed that Peter Davies is doing a tremendous job on behalf of the Town and the re-appointment would take place at the next meeting of Council on January 15, 2007.		
{h} Policy on Council Expense Allowance - Annual review	<p>The annual review of the Policy on Council Expense Allowance has been completed. The Policy will be updated to reflect the current dates, no other changes will be made.</p> <p><b><i>Motion #4</i></b>  <b><i>It was moved by Deputy Mayor DeWolfe, seconded by Councillor Shaffner to approve the Council Expense Allowance Policy for the year 2007.</i></b>  <b><i>Motion carried.</i></b></p>		
{i} Insurance Tender	The general insurance coverage for the Town will expire in March, 2007. An ad will appear in the local paper in January, 2007 for the tender process.		

## RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS

Item	Decision / Action	Responsibility	Target Date
{a} Recommendations from Committee of the Whole	<p><b>5. It was moved by Deputy Mayor DeWolfe, seconded by Councillor Hudson approval of the policy on Tree Take Downs; this policy relates to the cost share issue for removal of trees that straddle Town property. Motion carried.</b></p> <p><b>6. It was moved by Deputy Mayor Dewolfe, seconded by Councillor Shaffner approval of the encroachment permit application for the wheelchair ramp located at 6 Drury Lane. Motion carried.</b></p> <p>It was noted that there are some issues with the sidewalk which connects to the wheelchair ramp at 6 Drury Lane. Apparently the sidewalk does not match up to the ramp and there is a dangerous dip in the connection of the two. The Building Inspector is investigating the problem and the options for repair.</p> <p><b>8. It was moved by Councillor Hudson, seconded by Councillor Shaffner to table the approval of a donation to Surrette's Fire Department, until further information is received. Motion carried</b></p>		
{b} Board of Police Commissioners	There was no meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners in December; the next meeting will be held in January, 2007	Deputy Mayor DeWolfe	
{c} Mayor's Report	Mayor Kinsella reported that he has attended several meetings and functions during the past month which included: Destination South West Nova Scotia meeting regarding the amalgamation of the three tourism trails, meeting with the Annapolis District Board of Trade concerning day to day issues, meeting with a business owner regarding a Downtown Business Committee, Mayor Ron Gullon's retirement reception, and the Digby Christmas Daddies. Mayor Kinsella was also present for the signing of the Development Agreement between the Town of Annapolis Royal and Rob and Joanne Lawrie for the construction of the new Home Hardware warehouse.	Mayor John Kinsella	
{d} King's Theatre	Councillor Roberts expressed thanks to the Town on behalf of King's		

	Theatre for the structural repairs that were completed in the basement of the Theatre. It was also noted that the King's Theatre Board meeting are now being held in the Council Chambers of Town Hall. Councillor Roberts said that he is also serving on the Human Resources Committee of the Theatre.		
--	--	--	--

## CORRESPONDENCE

Item	Decision / Action	Responsibility	Target Date
{ a } None	Mayor Kinsella said that he has been dealing with general correspondence through read in files and will not be placing correspondence items on the agenda in the future unless an action is required.		

## OTHER BUSINESS

A discussion regarding a possible time change for future Council meetings will be held at the Council meeting on February 19, 2007.

## QUESTIONS

**NEXT MEETING** January 15, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.

## ADJOURNMENT

*It was moved by Councillor Shaffner to adjourn the meeting.*

<b>Action:</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Signature</b>

Reviewed by Mayor John Kinsella		
Changes made by Administrative Assistant Jackie Longmire		
Approved for website by Mayor or CAO		
Forwarded to the Website		