

MINUTES
TOWN OF ANNAPOLIS ROYAL
REGULAR COUNCIL
January 17, 2011
9:00 a.m.

ALL TO ORDER: Mayor Roberts called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Present: Mayor Roberts, Deputy Mayor Shaffner, Councillor Hudson, Councillor Fearon, Councillor Power, Councillor Mueller-Sparenberg, CAO Boyer, DOF Robinson, Chief McNeil, Kevin McLean, webmaster Troy Woodland, Annapolis County Director of Recreation Debra Ryan, Andre Bouchard, Administrative Assistant Monica Mills as recording secretary, members of the public.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES:

Moved by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor Hudson that the Council minutes from December 20, 2010 be approved. Motion carried.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA:

- It was recommended that any business concerning the Police Department be moved to the beginning of the Council meeting in case the Chief of Police had to attend to police business.
- A presentation in memory of Grant Potter by Annapolis County Director of Recreation Debra Ryan and André Bouchard

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Hudson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Shaffner that the agenda for January 17, 2011 be approved with additions. Motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS

Grant Potter Presentation: André Bouchard and Debra Ryan

Debra Ryan introduced the presentation stating that it was first presented on November 17th, 2010 at the annual Recreation Nova Scotia Dinner and Awards Reception in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Following the keynote address at the reception, Laurene Rehman, President of Recreation Nova Scotia, had presented Gina Potter, Grant Potter's wife, with the Recreation Nova Scotia President's Award of Distinction. The theme of the award was "Living Recreation to its Fullest". This was the first time this award was presented. Debra Ryan concluded her introduction with a thanks to Council for giving them the opportunity to present the video.

André Bouchard presented the video montage of Grant's life to Council, which included many photographs of Grant involved in the various recreation activities that he organized for the Town. The video may be viewed on the Town of Annapolis Royal's website, as well as at <http://www.facebook.com/v/457127240953>. After the presentation, Mayor Roberts stated that he and Councillor Hudson had attended the awards dinner and it was clear that Grant Potter had a great impact on the recreation community and the Town of Annapolis Royal. Mayor Roberts thanked Debra Ryan and Andre Bouchard for their presentation.

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9:20 am - Troy Woodland, webmaster for the Town of Annapolis Royal.

Troy Woodland presented the new format for the Town website, which was soft launched on December 11, 2010. The reason for the soft launch was to streamline the site at a time when there was a lower volume of visitors to work out any issues. Troy Woodland stated that the site has been a work in progress for approximately ten years. Some of the changes included making the Town calendar of events a focal point of the site. New technology and media has also been integrated into the site including a blog, twitter and a link to Facebook. One advantage to the new media is that it provides an ongoing archive of stories while giving the public the opportunity to voice their comments and opinions. Residents can apply for their own login identities and passwords and contribute to the site which would result in fresh content. Councillor Power asked who would be responsible to maintain the site. Troy Woodland responded that the responsibility was shared between himself and administrative staff. Councillor Power asked if administrative staff and Troy Woodland had higher authority on the site than residents would. Troy Woodland responded in the affirmative. An important feature of the site is a visitor counter that monitors the number of people that visit the site. This enables the tracking of the number of visitors, the time people spend on the site and the location of these individuals. This information will be important in marketing the Town.

At this point, Town Crier Peter Davies addressed Council stating that he felt that there was not enough emphasis on the historic uniqueness of the Town of Annapolis Royal. He added that the Town is the only one in Nova Scotia where the Town Crier visits the Farmers' Market every Saturday and cries in both official languages. Peter Davies added that although the Town has recognized the importance of the town crier by naming the monthly newsletter *the Town Crier*, more emphasis on this role should be placed on the website. Troy Woodland responded by stating that there is an entire page on the website that is dedicated to the Town Crier, adding that more photos could easily be added to the site. Peter Davies also suggested that the website be colour coordinated with different colors for topics of interest for tourists and topics of interest for residents adding that this was an inexpensive means of separating the audiences. Wayne Smith stated that there wasn't a need for pretty photographs, that it was a question of how the information was presented. Paul Paquette added that it was interesting that the Town Crier had difficulty searching for the page dedicated to him. Troy Woodland pointed out that there was a search icon at the top of the web page that would facilitate searching the site. Troy Woodland concluded his presentation stating that local businesses could be listed on the site quite easily and that an information package could be developed to facilitate this. He added that this was a soft launch of the site and that all comments and opinions were valuable in improving the site. Mayor Roberts thanked Troy Woodland for his presentation.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Item	Decision / Action	Responsibility	Target Date
1. Waterfront Development Funding Update	CAO Boyer reported that last week she had filed an application with ACOA for \$1,000,000.00 in funding towards the Waterfront Development Project. She also reported that an application for funding from Health Promotion and Protection for \$128,000.00 was also submitted. Mayor Roberts queried if the funding was for the old or new design of the project. CAO Boyer replied that it was for the new project. She also reported that Kevin Burnell was approaching Board of Trade members and businesses for donations for the project.	CAO ² Boyer	
2. Budget Process	DOF Robinson stated that changes that were approved at the Board of Police Commissioners meeting had been added to the draft budget. Councillor Fearon asked if the budget had been approved. DOF Robinson replied in the negative adding that this was a draft budget, version three.	DOF ³ Robinson	

² Chief Administrative Officer

³ Director of Finance

Item	Decision / Action	Responsibility	Target Date
1. Water Tests	<p>CAO Boyer reported that water tests have been viewed and are within the required parameters.</p> <p>Mayor Roberts stated that the Environment Committee has requested a quarterly report of the results of the water tests.</p> <p>Councillor Power stated that there has been a lot of information regarding fluoride being added to water, she asked for confirmation that fluoride was in Town water. Public Works Manager Kevin McLean stated that there was no fluoride in the Town's water. The water comes from the County and they do not add any.</p>	CAO Boyer	
2. Council's Response to CCAR ⁴ (Tab 1)	Please refer to Appendix A.		
3. Annapolis Royal Fire Department (Tab 2)	Council reviewed the year-end fire report.		
4. Results from inspection completed by Town Insurers (Tab 3, Tab 4)	<p>Loss prevention recommendations.</p> <p>CAO reported that an inspection of all town properties occurred this year and that each loss prevention recommendation would have to be reviewed and addressed. CAO Boyer added that discussions will have to be held with interested parties and an action plan will have to be developed.</p>	CAO Boyer	

⁴ Concerned Citizens of Annapolis Royal

<p>5. Funding request from ADPC for an organizational review of the ADPC (Tab 5)</p>	<p>Councillor Fearon asked who was making the funding request. CAO Boyer replied that the three towns that run the planning department were. Chrystal Fuller, Managing Director of ADPC, had applied for funding from the Province. The Province recommended that in a study of this magnitude each interested Town should contribute to the funding of the project to demonstrate their commitment to the project. The plan would present options of how to continue to operate the Planning Department. Councillor Mueller-Sparenberg stated that this project would be a good investment. Councillor Fearon stated that a good consultant would be very important.</p> <p>Motion 1: It was moved by Councillor Mueller-Sparenberg, seconded by Deputy Mayor Shaffner that the funding request from ADPC be approved contingent on provincial funding. Motion carried.</p>		
<p>6. Dog Park</p>	<p>Councillor Mueller-Sparenberg proposed the creation of a fenced-in dog park. Councillor Fearon questioned the location of the park. Councillor Mueller-Sparenberg replied that a piece of Town land that has little value could be used, for example the land behind the soccer field. Councillor Fearon questioned how much the fencing would cost. Councillor Mueller-Sparenberg replied that a fundraising event could be held to raise the funds. Mayor Roberts stated that it was a possibility in the next year and requested a proposed budget from Councillor Mueller-Sparenberg.</p>	<p>Councillor Mueller-Sparenberg</p>	

<p>7. New standing sections in the <i>Town Crier</i></p>	<p>Councillor Mueller-Sparenberg suggested two new standing sections in the monthly newsletter:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A new section that features a Town Councillor or staff member 2. A section that features a local business <p>He added that the monthly newsletter was underutilized for the purposes of promoting local businesses. Councillor Mueller-Sparenberg suggested having one business featured a month with each business doing its own. CAO Boyer suggested that the Board of Trade could head this initiative. Councillor Mueller-Sparenberg also suggested that a section of the newsletter concentrate on Town staff or Councillors to provide insight into the daily lives of the people who work for the Town. Councillor Fearon and Councillor Power stated that enough Councillor information was provided in the newsletter. Mayor Roberts suggested contacting the Board of Trade for an article each month highlighting a local business.</p>	<p>Councillor Mueller-Sparenberg</p>	
<p>8. Nova Scotia Municipal Finance Corporation Client Survey (Tab 6)</p>	<p>CAO Boyer indicated that this survey was for elected officials only adding that even though it was too late to mail it, it could be completed online. Councillor Fearon indicated that she would be interested in information sessions.</p>		
<p>9. Waste Management News (Tab 7)</p>	<p>Mayor Roberts indicated that an updated waste management flyer would be a useful supplement to the Newsletter. Councillor Power agreed that it would be a good refresher for the community. Councillor Mueller-Sparenberg indicated that there seems to be an issue with the apartment buildings and their waste separation. Councillor Fearon suggested that Public Works could put green bins at these locations and do the collection. Mayor Roberts indicated that it may not be possible to get Public Works to do this as it would add to expenses. CAO Boyer stated that apartment dwellers could freeze their compostables and then take them to neighbourhood collection sites adding that this issue may not be resolved today. CAO Boyer stated that there must be education for people that are in apartments, perhaps a flyer for new and old tenants.</p>		

10. Funding Application (tab 8)	It was recommended by staff that Council approve the Celebrate Canada application even though the deadline had passed.		
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RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Item	Decision/Action	Responsibility	Target Date
1. Recommendations from Committee of the Whole (Tab 9)	<u>Motion 2 :</u> Moved by Councillor Fearon, seconded by Councillor Power that the amended Flag Flying Policy be approved by Council. Motion carried		
	<u>Motion 3:</u> Moved by Councillor Fearon, seconded by Councillor Power that Council support the adoption of the Funding and Governance Agreement with ADEDA. Motion carried.		
2. Recommendations from PHAC ⁵	<u>Motion 4:</u> It was moved by Councillor Fearon, seconded by Councillor Mueller-Sparenberg that the proposed changes to 204 St. Anthony Street be approved. Motion carried.		
3. Board of Police Commissioners	It was recommended by the Board of Police Commissioners' that the November 2011 vacancy for the position of Chair of the Board be advertised as soon as possible.		

⁵ Planning & Heritage Advisory Committee

Police Board Manual (Tab 10)	For review, Police Board Manual. CAO Boyer indicates that there was a need to include outcomes for the key accountabilities for each position. Councillor Power stated that in the meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners, Vice Chair DeWolfe stated that the wording "efficient operation" was too general and needed to be more specific. CAO Boyer suggested that members of Council review the manual and circulate their comments, which would be revisited at a later Council meeting.		
Board of Police Commissioners By-Law	<u>Motion 5:</u> It was moved by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor Mueller-Sporenberg that the Board of Police Commissioners by-law be given a first reading. Motion carried.		
4. Environment Committee	Mayor Roberts reported that the Environment Committee had suggested a community feed-in tariff alternative power source for the sewage treatment plant. Councillor Fearon suggested that the item be added to the strategic plan. Mayor Roberts also reported that the Environment Committee had suggested a Town Clean-up day in April. CAO Boyer asked who would organize the event. Mayor Roberts stated that the Environment Committee would. Councillor Fearon supported the suggestion.		

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

<p>(a) Board of Police Commissioners</p>	<p>Councillor Power reported that Cliff Thompson had been sworn in as a part-time constable to assist with the recent vacancy. She also stated that a Community meeting is tentatively set for February 17, 2011 to discuss loss prevention for businesses. Councillor Power stated that Chief McNeil's overtime had not been approved as it was not presented at the meeting. Councillor Power stated that an advertisement for a replacement for the new vacancy created by the relocation of Cpl. Chase would be advertised and Business Representative Brian Keevil and Councillor Mueller-Sparenberg would assist with the hiring procedure. Mayor Roberts stressed that preference should be given to a trained candidate. Councillor Power also stated that she would act as a liaison between Administrative staff and the Police Department to facilitate with communication.</p>	<p>Councillor Power & Councillor Mueller-Sparenberg</p>	
<p>(a) Board of Police Commissioners</p>	<p>Councillor Power reported that Cliff Thompson had been sworn in as a part-time constable to assist with the recent vacancy. She also stated that a Community meeting is tentatively set for February 17, 2011 to discuss loss prevention for businesses. Councillor Power stated that Chief McNeil's overtime had not been approved as it was not presented at the meeting. Councillor Power stated that an advertisement for a replacement for the new vacancy created by the relocation of Cpl. Chase would be advertised and Business Representative Brian Keevil and Councillor Mueller-Sparenberg would assist with the hiring procedure. Mayor Roberts stressed that preference should be given to a trained candidate. Councillor Power also stated that she would act as a liaison between Administrative staff and the Police Department to facilitate with communication.</p>	<p>Councillor Power & Councillor Mueller-Sparenberg</p>	

(b) Mayor's Report	Mayor Roberts reported that he attended the following events in January: January 1: -the Town and Legion Levée - the Fire Department Levée January 6: -Meeting with the County Warden, Reg Ritchie, County CAO Brenda Orchard and CAO Boyer. January 10: Meeting with the Mayor of Bridgetown, Art Marshall, Acting CAO Grant Cook and Deputy Mayor John Smith.	Mayor Roberts	
(c) ADEDA ⁶	Councillor Mueller-Sparenberg stated that there was no new business to report.	Councillor Mueller-Sparenberg	
(d) ADPC ⁷	Council reviewed the following reports: 1. Fire-inspection Report (Tab 11) 2. Development / Building Report (Tab 12)		
(d) King's Theatre	Councillor Fearon stated that there was a meeting last week and that Janice Slaunwhite is doing a wonderful job as indicated by the full-house on Friday. Councillor Fearon also stated that Norma Mason had resigned as treasurer. She added that there was discussion concerning upgrading the projection system at the Theatre to digital with the cost being the main deterrent, but the Theatre was looking into possible funding options. Councillor Fearon reported that there would be an all-day strategic planning meeting in February.	Councillor Kathie Fearon	
(e) REMO ⁸	There was nothing to report.	Councillor Sherman Hudson and Mayor Roberts	
(f) Historic Gardens	No meeting.	Councillor Pat Power	

⁶ Annapolis Digby Economic Development Agency

⁷ Annapolis District Planning Commission

⁸ Regional Emergency Measures Office

{h} Twinning Committee	There was nothing to report, although there is an indication that people from Royan, France may visit later this year.	Mayor Phil Roberts	
{i} Hanse Society	Deputy Mayor Shaffner reported that there was a meeting later this month regarding a program of maintenance for upcoming year.	Deputy Mayor Doug Shaffner	
{j} Environment Committee	The committee minutes had been forwarded to Council and CAO Boyer.	Mayor Phil Roberts	
{k} Planning and Heritage Advisory Committee	There was no meeting prior to Council.	Councillors Kathie Fearon and Sherman Hudson	
{l} CAO's Report (Tab 13)	CAO Boyer reported that there was one item to add: that renewed NSPI and Fort Anne assessment appeals for 2011 were renewed.	CAO Boyer	

CORRESPONDENCE.

1. Invitation from the Municipality of the County of Annapolis. (Tab 14)
2. Letter from Property Valuation Survey regarding NSCAF⁹ addresses update. (Tab 15) Some information for assessment purposes may be inaccurate due to the issue

OTHER BUSINESS

Calendar: Committee of the Whole: February 9, 2011
Council Meeting: February 21, 2011
Board of Police Commissioners': February 16, 2011
PHAC: will be set at a later date.

⁹ Nova Scotia Civic Address File

IN CAMERA

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Shaffner, seconded by Councillor Power that the meeting go in camera at 12:12 pm.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, February 21, 2010 at 9:00 am

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Shaffner, seconded by Councillor Power that the meeting be adjourned at 1:00pm.

<i>Action:</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Signature</i>
Reviewed by Mayor Roberts	2011.02.08	MR Roberts
Changes made by CAO	Feb 11, 2011	
Approved for website by CAO	Feb 11, 2011	
Sent to webmaster	Feb 14, 2011	

Appendix A

Mayor Roberts stated that this was a draft response to the concerns of CCAR and that once the response was approved by Council it would be sent to Carole Milligan and Paul Paquette of CCAR. The document was too extensive to make copies for all attendants in the gallery.

Mayor Roberts commenced to read the following:

1. *"Town Council and Administration are not demonstrating fiscal responsibility...a realistic plan for sustainability has not been produced"*.

Council's response: A draft strategy for financial independence was developed in October 2009 (see appendix A attached). Since then, a think tank session was held on October 31, 2009 followed by a Town Hall meeting on December 22, 2009. The planning horizon for budgets has also been extended out to five years.

2. *"Zero-based Budget"*

Council's Response: While Council appreciates where the group is coming from, the Town's budget is a relatively simple one and it is not hard to see what money is being spent on. The Town is actively involved in a discussion with its neighbours about cost sharing of services.

3. *"Discretionary Spending Limits"*:

Council's response: The Town has no set limits. All items are subject to plan and budget approval. It is the responsibility of staff to ensure that Council priorities are addressed and that any anticipated over-budget items are offset elsewhere in the budget.

At this point, Councillor Fearon added that when news came of loss of revenue from NSPI, a notice went out to all staff and Council members that there was to be no discretionary spending. Mayor Roberts added that there have been discussions with neighbouring municipalities and that every municipality is bracing for a huge cut-back in funding which makes the cost-sharing of services an option.

4. *"Strategic Plan and the Role of the Mayor, Councillors and the CAO"*

Council's response: The Town has had a strategic plan in place since 2002. It is reviewed and updated every year, with public input every three years. The role of Council and Councillors are set out in the Municipal Government Act. The position description, statement qualifications, critical accountabilities and limits of authority for the CAO are well documented.

5. *"Policies and Procedures Relating to attracting and retaining businesses"*.

Council's Response: The Town relies on ADEDA for the Business Retention and Expansion Program which it fully supports. The Town also pursues all economic development leads that are sent our way.

6. *"Support of Business"*:

Council's Response: The number of commercial accounts in Town has increased from 84 in 2002-2003 to 92 in 2010-2011. Town Council established a Business Liaison Committee but found that there was no sustained interest in continuing with such a committee. It is felt that the marketing role should be a shared responsibility with the support of Council. Councillor Mueller-Sparenberg stated that the Business Liaison

Committee dissolved itself; it was initially supposed to be a joint effort between the Town and business owners but after six or seven meetings, only the Chair and Councillors attended meetings so it ceased to exist. Councillor Mueller-Sparenberg added that the Committee could easily be started again.

7. *"Communication"*:

Council's Response: Open houses will continue in a variety of formats.

8. *"Cronyism at Town Hall"*:

Council's Response: Following a two-year collaborative marketing effort by volunteers, Town Council decided to establish a contract position up until March 31, 2011 to develop a collaborative marketing network for the Town that would be sustainable into the future. Destination South West Nova Scotia, The Annapolis District Board of Trade. The Applied Geomatics Group at COGS and ADEDA were all asked if they would assist in the selection. DSWNS, the ADBOT and AGRG agreed and reviewed applications. The decision regarding the incumbent was made by consensus.

9. *"Overstaffing in General"*

Council's Response: Staff levels are determined by two things. One is the demand for services, the second is the ability to pay. In 2009, the Town started using attrition as a way to reduce expenditures. Downsizing is already well underway.

10. *"Lack of Clarity in the Present Budget"*:

Most of the same line items have been appearing in the budget for more than eight years. Council will consider an amended format for presentation.

Mayor Roberts stated that he sympathized with what people were saying about how difficult the budget is to read, adding that it could be clearer and that Council is working on this.

11. *"Need to Lower Both Residential and Commercial Tax Rates"*

Council's Response: Over the last nine years, tax revenues for the Town have increased by 11%. There has been a modest increase in the number of accounts.

12. *"Council should be lobbying to have tax assessments reduced"*:

Council's Response: Property owners who believe that their assessments are too high have the ability to appeal their assessments. Most property owners who have appealed have been successful.

Mayor Roberts stated that there was currently no mechanism for any municipal council to lobby the property valuation body to lower assessments. Councillor Mueller-Sparenberg added that he had attended three meetings, two with CAO Boyer, concerning a new approach for tax fairness and that the results haven't been received yet. He added that the cap rate is unfair and that a new means of assessment has to be developed. Paul Paquette stated that in his previous presentation he was discussing tax assessment not the tax rate. Wayne Smith added that it was a comment from the community.

13. *"Stop Grant Shopping"*:

One of the critical accountabilities of the CAO, as approved by Council, is to optimize Town assets. One of the ways this can be done is to leverage Town money. According to audited financial statements, the Town brought in \$894,197.00 last year under the Building Canada Fund as part of the stimulus package. Other grants brought in \$66,000.

So the Town brought in \$960,192.00 in special purpose grants. The Town borrowed to help cover its share of the projects completed. All of this money was spent on buildings, vehicles, storm drains, sidewalks, King's Theatre and water transmission and distribution. The Town only pursues the initiatives outlined in its strategic plan if there is the money and/or the people-power to do it. The Water Utility is now in a better financial position and will be able to support the next three water infrastructure projects. However, before it does so, an application will be made to the Province's Capital Assistance Program for 50% dollars.

Mayor Roberts stated that in discussions with neighbouring towns, Council realizes that in terms of infrastructure, Annapolis Royal is a leader. He added that future residents and Council will not have to worry about this infrastructure as the money has been spent prudently, while other towns are facing a bleak future. Mayor Roberts added that the Town is ahead but since many of the improvements are underground, they aren't as visible to residents. He noted that the next projects are not that major and they mostly concern old water lines.

At this point, Angela Chartier interjected stating that all of the items being addressed in the draft response were not the issues that CCAR wanted addressed. She added that Council was addressing the individual comments within the CCAR package, not the suggested actions that CCAR presented. Rion Microys added that the comments that were included in the CCAR package were to demonstrate the disconnect between the community and Council. Wayne Smith added that if Council did the same research as CCAR did that Council would receive the same comments from residents. At this point Wayne Smith left the meeting.

Val Peterson stated that she didn't understand why Town Hall did not have different email lists for different groups in Town adding that she had no idea that the public could contribute to the website. She concluded by saying that better communication was needed because it appeared that Council was representing itself, not the community. At this point, Kent Thompson addressed the other attendees in the gallery stating that with all due respect he had been regularly attending Committee of the Whole and Council meetings for approximately a year and this was the first time that he had seen any of the other attendees there. He added that the meetings were very open and that he hoped that people would continue to come to the meetings.

Mayor Roberts asked the gallery if they wanted him to proceed with the draft response. Paul Paquette stated that Council should deliver the finalized document. Paul Stackhouse stated that he thought that there was a very clear policy that these meetings should be recorded. Councillor Fearon responded in the negative. Paul Stackhouse stated that if these meetings were recorded, then Council could see that CCAR had requested a response to their suggested actions.

Mayor Roberts stated that one aspect that he would like to address was the suggestion of the Town Hall Meeting format for Council. He stated that there are Town Hall meetings but that they generally address one issue and he gave the example of the reassessment NSPI plant. Mayor Roberts added that the Town's policy was that Town meetings were to be for the discussion of single topics not for the running of the Town. He stated that there was an intent to have open houses quarterly. Councillor Power added that Council would revisit their response and develop one that addressed CCAR suggested actions. Rion Microys asked when the special COW meeting was held because there was no

indication on the website. Administrative Assistant, Monica Mills apologized and stated that it was her fault that the date had not been added to the website.

In response to the question, Councillor Power stated that Council felt that a special meeting should be called to address the concerns of CCAR.

Paul Paquette stated that when advertising meetings it was important to understand that not everyone uses the internet and that it should not be the exclusive means of communication.

Mayor Roberts responded by stating that the meetings were also advertised in the monthly newsletter, adding that it was unrealistic for a councillor to go door to door to announce the next COW and Council meetings. Rion Microys pointed out that the Mayor did go door to door when he was running for council, adding that Council members shouldn't look at themselves as unwanted visitors but as girl guides. Mayor Roberts stated that his weekly attendance at the Farmers' Market was very useful, as he was able to meet with a lot of residents. Rion Microy stated that all councillors should attend. Councillor Mueller-Sparenberg stated that communication goes both ways adding that the Councillors are accessible by phone and by email. He mentioned that all Council's contact information was available in the monthly newsletter adding that they were open for discussion at anytime. Councillor Mueller-Sparenberg stated that all Councillors are members of various committees and that some of them had full-time jobs which limited the amount of time that they had for visiting residents door to door. He added that he became a councillor not for the money but because he was a concerned citizen. Mayor Roberts stated that in a year and nine months there would be a new election and that he hoped to see some of the CCAR members running for council. He added that he got involved in council because he was a dissatisfied citizen and he wanted to make things better. Mayor Roberts stated that in his opinion, the present Council was a dedicated group of citizens who work very hard to improve the Town and they were open to any criticism as it was useful to identify areas in need of improvement. Carole Milligan stated that CCAR requested a new draft response that focused on the suggested actions.

Mayor Roberts stated that Council would revisit their response at the next COW meeting. Rion Microys suggested that Council focus on the suggested actions. Paul Stackhouse stated that he felt disappointed that Council did not see this as an opportunity to collaborate with a large group of people that could contribute and clarify actions on what needs to be done, but instead CCAR had received a list of bureaucratic answers. He added that he felt Council was being defensive when the intent of CCAR was not to attack Council but to provide suggestions. Paul Stackhouse added that he felt it was appropriate to discuss the Town as they wanted to improve it and that the answers that Council were providing were 'stock' answers that were not in depth. He added that the Town of Annapolis Royal was a smart community and that Council should use this to become a shining example in the province.

Kent Thompson addressed the gallery stating that this was ridiculous as CCAR had requested a response, which Council was trying to provide only to be told that their response was inadequate. He added that everyone should attend the open houses and more COW and Council meetings. Mayor Roberts stated that Council listens to all opinions from the public and that a new response would be discussed at the next COW meeting.

At this point, Jerri Costa stated that she would like to thank Council for being so calm and she would also like to thank the community for developing the CCAR report. She added that members of CCAR pay taxes and that they should partner with Council to develop solutions as she sees a lot of brilliance in Town and invites everyone to move here. At this point all members of the public left the meeting.