

TOWN OF ANNAPOLIS ROYAL
SPECIAL 1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
November 18, 2009
11:00 am

A special meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held on Wednesday, November 18, 2009 in Council Chambers at Town Hall. In attendance were Chair Mayor Phil Roberts, Deputy Mayor Doug Shaffner, Councillors Kathie Fearon, Holger Mueller-Sparenberg and Pat Power, CAO Amery Boyer, Director of Finance Melony Robinson, and Executive Assistant Jackie Longmire as recording secretary. Several members of the Farmers' Market Association and the public were also in attendance.

Regrets: Councillor Sherman Hudson

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Roberts called the meeting to order. He said that this was a special meeting of the Committee of the Whole that was scheduled to specifically address issues with the Farmers' Market. He read comments that were received via e-mail from Debra Kuzyk. She commented on changes that had been made at the market to try and relieve congestion and also made suggestions regarding parking and vendors.

BUSINESS ARISING

Item	Decision / Action	Responsibility	Target Date
1. Review of existing Farmers' Market lease	<p>The current lease was signed on May 1, 2007 and does not expire until 2012. If the lease is to be changed, both parties must agree to the changes.</p> <p>The group discussed canopies, vendors beside the old post office building and parking. The vendors who are in the space beside the old post office are actually in a spot where the ground is sloped and tables would not work in the area. There is to be a four-foot passage way for</p>		

	<p>pedestrians in that area and it was agreed that the four-foot allowance be maintained. It was agreed that the vendors in that area can continue to use the space as they have for several years.</p> <p>Market Coordinator Corinne Warner says that she does not allow canopies inside the actual market area. The canopies are used by vendors on Church Street. The market does have a supply of tarps that it uses for the main market area if it is raining. It was noted that most of the vendors who use canopies have been using them for several years and their use is basically grandfathered in. Any new vendors who participate in the market are not permitted to use canopies simply because of space restraints.</p> <p>Parking on the sidewalk and blocking the view of Lower St. George Street was identified as a concern at the last meeting. It was agreed that every effort would be made to keep the sidewalk and the area directly in front of the market on St. George Street clear.</p> <p>The market electrical outlets and the possibility of charging more per rental to those vendors who use electricity was discussed. The Director of Finance will review the electrical expenses and it will be later determined whether or not vendors will be charged an electrical fee. The electricity issue will be discussed at the Farmers' Market Annual General meeting in March 2010. The current lease states that water and electricity expenses are covered by the Town; if there is to be a change it will be addressed in 2012 when a new lease is drafted.</p> <p>The extra vendor space that was gained by blocking off a portion of the parking area has been good except that one of the handicapped spaces is lost. The extra space will be re-organized for the 2010 market season so that all of the handicapped parking spaces are available.</p>		
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	<p>Dogs in the market continue to be an issue and CAO Boyer said that it is actually a provincial regulation that makes it necessary to keep dogs from the market. There are signs posted but some patrons and vendors continue to bring dogs to the market. Ms. Warner said that there have been occasions when she has asked people with dogs to leave. She said that it was only if the dogs were causing a problem within the market. A “no dogs” sign will be added to the Farmers’ Market sandwich boards for the 2010 season. It will also be noted on each of the signs posted around the market area that the no dogs rule is a provincial regulation.</p> <p>Corrine Warner asked about the one-weekend per season that the Community Band plays at the Market. It does cause some congestion at the front of the market but it was noted that most patrons simply move with the flow of people and there have never been any problems. It was agreed that the Community Band will continue as it has for future markets with every effort made to keep congestion to a minimum.</p> <p>It was noted that the Market Coordinator has a good handle on the organization of the market and what can work and what doesn’t work. Decisions for placement and organization for the 2010 market season will be left to her discretion based on the advice provided by Council today. The Farmers’ Market Association is not in breach of the current lease.</p>		
2. Future of the summer Farmers’ Market	<p>The Town had requested that the Market open on May 1 for the 2009 season but that request was denied after a vote by the Farmers’ Market Association. This request will go back to the Association for discussion at its Annual General Meeting. The market went until the end of October in 2009 and it is expected that this extension will continue in future years.</p>		
3. Recommendations for changes	<p>Mayor Roberts said that he would like to have a meeting early into the 2010 Farmers’ Market season to discuss any issues that may arise.</p>		

	<p>It appears that concerns that were raised in the middle of the season this year have been addressed. CAO Boyer will find the relevant information relating to the provincial dog regulations.</p> <p>It was noted that the Wednesday market has grown in size and now includes food vendors. All of the issues discussed will also apply to the Wednesday market.</p>		
4. Winter Market	<p>Mayor Roberts said that the Winter Market is going well with approximately 12 vendors and in excess of 200 patrons for the first two weeks. It was noted that the winter market is probably not something that the Farmers' Market Association wants to become involved in but it will be discussed at the Annual General Meeting in March, 2010. Mayor Roberts said that there is a \$500.00 grant available through Select Nova Scotia that the Market Association would be eligible for, if it was to become involved in the winter market. The Town is currently overseeing the winter market but is not eligible for the grant. It was noted that the Association would have to hire a market coordinator and this would be an additional, significant expense.</p>		

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councillor Power that the special Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned.

1Action:	Date	Signature
Reviewed by Mayor Roberts		
Changes made by Executive Assistant Jackie Longmire		
Approved for website by CAO		
Forwarded to the Website		

