

APPROVED MINUTES
Regular Meeting Water and Environment Committee
1:00pm Wednesday, Apr 20, 2022
North Shore Community Centre

PRESENT:

Committee Chair Councillor Wanson Hemphill, Committee Members John MacDougall, Robbie Moore, Connine Egan, Justin Walsh, Mayor Gerard Watts (on phone) and CAO Stephanie Moase

1. CALL TO ORDER: 1:03 pm by Committee Chair Councillor Wanson Hemphill

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

It was duly moved and seconded that the agenda be approved with the addition of item 4.4 Erosion on the Covehead Bay

Moved by John MacDougall and seconded by Connie Egan

All in Favor

MOTION CARRIED

2.1. Disclosure of Pecuniary or Other Conflicts of Interest:

There were none.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

It was duly moved and seconded that the minutes of the Feb 16, 2022 meeting be approved as presented

Moved by Justin Walsh and seconded by Robbie Moore

All in Favor

MOTION CARRIED

3.1. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was a request for an update on the Stanhope Peninsula Potable Water Committee work. The consultant CBCL has begun work but the committee has not met as of yet.

4. NEW BUSINESS:**4.1. Septic Bylaw**

Committee discussed the changes requested by Council to only apply to lots that are below the Provincial minimum of 0.574 acres.

It was duly moved and seconded that the Committee request Council to reconsider the original bylaw for the following reasons

- The maintenance of septic systems is very important for groundwater security. Water quality is important for all residents. Having a by law that limits to a certain sized lot may unintentionally imply that it is not as important for bigger lots to maintain their systems.

- A Bylaw that requires only owners of undersize lots to pump their septic tanks every five years is divisive, creating two standards and making the Municipality divisive
- The Bylaw should apply to all owners equally
- a sewage leak is a threat to groundwater security regardless of the lots being large or small especially if the property is sloped
- The requirement that septic tanks be pumped every five years imposes a very minimal burden; we want to send a universal message

Moved by John MacDougall and seconded by Justin Walsh

All in Favor

MOTION CARRIED

Discussion on Pools in Stanhope Peninsula

Committee discussed the effects that filling/topping up swimming pools may have on the potentially precarious state of the groundwater on the Stanhope Peninsula.

It was duly moved and seconded that the Committee recommend to Council to consider a ban on the filling and topping up of pools using groundwater on the Stanhope Peninsula, should be using only trucked in water.

Moved by John MacDougall and seconded by Robbie Moore

All in Favor

MOTION CARRIED

4.2. Rain Barrels

Chair Wanson Hemphill discussed some pros and cons of using rain barrels, what funding that can be applied for and what subsidies that can be applied to make the rain barrels affordable. Will be tabled for further discussion at the next meeting.

4.3. Erosion on Covehead Bay

The committee discussed that there is concern growing across the Island regarding more frequent erosion issues and more extreme weather events. Siltation in the estuaries and bays affect all aquatic life. What action can be taken by the community to reduce contaminants being carried into the water. Storm water mitigation needs to be reviewed. How can each property owner address erosion issues. What steps can the Municipality take to ensure property owners are addressing erosion issues. What steps is the Covehead and Tracadie Bay Sustainability Committee discussing? Can we create a checklist/brochure for property owners with waterfront property for development officer to review with the owner when developing.

5. NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, June 1, 2022 @ 1:00 pm

6. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:41 pm

Moved by Justin Walsh and seconded by John MacDougall

All in Favor

SIGNED: Wanson Hemphill, Chair

DATE: