

# Kentville Community Development Committee

## MINUTES November 24, 2009

### PRESENT

Mayor David L. Corkum, Director Mark Phillips, Frank MacFarlane, Tiffany Connell, Gary Cleveland, Dave Ritcey, Linda Power and Recording Secretary Lindsay Young.

### CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Corkum called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and reported that all members were present with the exceptions of Gary Morse, June Moores, Bruce Beaton and Brian Desloes.

### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Dave Ritcey and seconded by Gary Cleveland

**that the agenda be approved with the addition of the following items**

Under Presentations: (a) Kings County Complex  
Under New Business: (b) Town Merchandise, (c) Community Development Position, (d) Next Meeting Date.

### MOTION CARRIED

### PRESENTATIONS

**(a) Kings County Complex – Mayor Corkum**  
Chairperson Mayor David Corkum reported to the committee that the County of Kings is considering moving the Municipal Building out of Town in order to build a larger complex that would potentially include Access Nova Scotia, Service Nova Scotia, and the Courts. Mayor Corkum asked for comments from the committee on the issue.

Points from discussion:

- It was suggested that the Town should do whatever possible to retain the services currently offered in Kentville, including the County Municipal office and the Law Courts.
- It was argued that Law Firms in town locate in Kentville out of desire to be close to the Law Courts.

There was concern that to lose those facilities would be detrimental to business.

- It was stated that loss of the services Access Nova Scotia provides, and the Court services would be detrimental to the economic stability of the Town.
- It was suggested that for the Municipality to build a complex that might compete with private business would be morally inappropriate.
- Discussion around what type of approach should be taken by Council when dealing with the issue took place for some time.
- It was suggested that a voice representing the Kentville business community be established to convey the interests of businesses in Town regarding the possibility of the loss of the Municipal Complex.
- It was asked whether an economic impact assessment might be beneficial.
- It was suggested that the business community needs to be made formally aware of the issue as it develops.

It was moved by Dave Ritcey and Seconded by Gary Cleveland

**that the KCDC Committee recommend to Council that a proactive initiative be taken by The Town of Kentville to retain the County Municipal building, and provincial services currently offered in Kentville**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**(a) September 2009**

It was moved by Dave Ritcey and seconded by Linda Power

**that the Minutes of September 2009 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**(a) Action Plan Review**

Highlights from the action plan review included:

- **Website:** Tiffaney Connell reported she is currently working with the IT professional to

update the “Explore Kentville” section of the website. More in depth information about accommodations, local business, etc. will be added as progress continues.

- **Business Membership:** There was some discussion around the creation of a business membership including an incentive package. The committee agreed that further discussion on this item is needed.
- **Storefront Displays:** Wreaths have been offered to downtown businesses, 21 businesses have requested wreaths, and there are 50 in total available.
- **Banners:** Pumpkin People Banners have been removed and regular banners have been installed.
- **Advertising Calendar:** an advertising calendar is being developed so Town Businesses will be aware of when the Town is doing larger scale advertising and may take advantage of possible advertising partnerships.
- **Webster Court Redevelopment:** Tiffany Connell reported that she continues to keep the Merchants on Webster Court informed about what is taking place on that Street.

#### **(b) VIC Update**

Tiffany Connell reported that the VIC will be relocated to the corner of Cornwallis and Main Street. The VIC will be called a “Welcoming Centre” and is a partnership between the County of Kings, the Town of Kentville and Destination Southwest Nova Scotia and will operate year-round. The new Welcoming Centre is scheduled to open in the new year.

Points from Discussion:

- It was asked if alternate sites had been considered. Mayor Corkum reported that other sites had been discussed, and that the current site

was identified as ideal by Destination Southwest Nova Scotia.

**(c) Commercial Property for Sale**

Tiffany Connell reported that currently there is not much information to share. There is currently an offer on a parcel of land off of River Street on the former CP lands. The for sale sign advertising commercial property in Kentville has been erected.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**(a) N/A**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**(a) Kentville Library Update**

Director Phillips reported that the County has pulled back the previous agreement to provide the land for the new library. The commitment has been put on hold by County Council as a result of another project taking priority. He reported that a meeting was held between Town representatives and the Library committee to discuss possible alternate plans for moving forward.

Points from discussion:

- Questions were raised about the size and scope of the project. Discussion surrounding the project continued, including talk about the cost of the project and the modern design of the building.

**(b) Town Merchandise**

Mayor Corkum suggested selling Kentville Merchandise and using funds raised to support programs and grant programs. Staff will look into options. Specific suggestions included number plates and hats.

Points from Discussion:

- It was suggested that the new Welcoming Centre would be an appropriate place to sell Kentville Merchandise.

**(c) Community Development Position**

Tiffany Connell reported that she will be off on maternity leave beginning in March. She reported that Kentville Connection will be complete before her departure and that she will be on leave for one year. Director Phillips reported that the Department will be

looking at options for covering the vacancy.

**(d) Next Meeting Date**

Next Meeting Date is set for January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 7:00pm in Council Chambers.

**ADJOURNMENT**

7:30 pm meeting adjourned.