

Minutes of a Town of Pictou Business Advisory Committee meeting in Pictou Town Hall 6:30 pm on the above date. Jim Ryan presiding.

PRESENT: Major Jim Ryan, Members Kevin Nokes, Peter Fraser, David Craig, Helen Buchan and Vivianne LaRiviere

REGRETS: Tabitha Co

ALSO PRESENT: Michelle Young, Community Development Officer (Ex-officio)

1. WELCOME

Mayor Jim Ryan welcomed all present; regrets sent by Tabitha Co.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions to the agenda included: Other Business b: Signage and c: John Howard Society Brief Recap.

MOTION: To approve the agenda with the above additions. BAC-06-25-24-003
MOVED, SECONDED AND APPROVED

3. BUSINESS ARISING

a. Land Use By-Law, Planning Strategy and C1 C2 Zoning

J. Ryan reviewed the Land Use By-Law and what is allowed in each zone. Discussions followed on: development agreements, site plan approvals, housing density in downtown core, developing cooperatives, tiny homes and boarding houses. Two key priorities were identified:

1. Town being proactive in the development of multi-residential spaces.
2. Removing all R1 Zoning to allow the growth of building multiple units.

Recommendation summary: To take a pro-active approach to multiunit housing and have input on how to advance this to encourage population growth. To determine and control types of density growth through development agreements and site plans.

Other discussions included the zoning of West River Road and having more control over the type of development at the entry of Town and the VIC lot (C3).

b. Committee Survey Feedback - Priorities

Feedback from the survey was reviewed. Responses identified priorities over the next year. These included:

- Supporting and attracting small business.
- Increasing capacity in our accommodation sector.
- Establish a clear and attractive identity – a brand refresh that attracts younger people, and incorporates our marine location, art community and waterfront.
- Focused discussions with business owners to gain insights into their experiences and challenges.

Action: to survey business owners who own property to gain feedback to guide the committee's focus and priorities; to gain insight into the concerns of our business sector.

- c. Map Update
M Young will provide an update at the next meeting.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Security Cameras
H Buchan discussed the need for cameras in the downtown area to act as a deterrent to vandalism and other activities. The Town will explore this further and will provide an update at the next meeting.
- b. Signage
The Town of Pictou has a signage program that was developed in 2010. There are some recommendations in the program that have been installed, for example gateway signage. It was felt that we should advance the signage program with professional direction. Further discussion at the next meeting.
- c. John Howard Society
The consensus among the group is that there was insufficient communication from the province and the John Howard Society regarding the purchase of the Front Street property for their organization. It was recommended that the Town should write a letter addressing this issue.
- d. Other
There were a couple of other items brought up in general discussion:
 - Historical Stone Buildings – idea to inventory and map our stone buildings; usage of QR code to promote our built heritage.
 - Open Doors Event – an opportunity to bring visitors into Pictou for home tours

5. REGULAR MEETING DATE

Date: Tuesday, July 23, 2024
Time: 6:30 pm
Location: CN Station

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

APPROVED

James J. Ryan, Mayor

Kyle Slaunwhite, CAO