

Minutes of the Beaver Bank Town Hall
Held at the Beaver Bank Kinsac Community Centre
May 11, 2023 at 7pm
Attendance: 60

Call to Order

Victor Cobb, Chairman of the Beaver Bank Community Awareness Association, welcomed everyone to the Town Hall and called the meeting to order.

Singing of O'Canada –led by Art Mitchell and Victor Cobb

Special guests in attendance:

Councillor Lisa Blackburn

MLA Brian Wong

Staff Sergeant Lyndon Morrison of the RCMP

Fire Services Station Divisional Commander Gord West

Captain Kevin Crewe of the Beaver Bank Volunteer Fire Department

Bob Trowsdale, Past King Lion of the Beaver Bank Lion's Club

Brian Johnson of the Beaver Bank Brown Hall

Officer's reports

2019 Secretary's report, read by Keilie Samson. Move to approve the minutes as read: Elmer Grove; motion seconded by Marina Johnson.

Treasurer's reports covering fiscal years 2019-2022, read by Brian Pitts. Move to approve the report as read: Brian Pitts; motion seconded by Elmer Grove.

Brian Pitts presented the Beaver Bank Community Awareness Association's returning board members, no new board members nominated. Move to approve the BBCCA Board Members as read: Brian Pitts; seconded by Elmer Grove.

Community Reports/Presentations:

Beaver Bank Community Awareness Association

Victor Cobb, Chairman of the BBCAA, presented updates on the work being done, namely:

- plans for the Beaver Bank Ball Field (walking trail, picnic tables, gazebo, etc)
- update on the Windmill Fund with explanation of how the money is divided into 3 categories: social programs, capital projects, and multi-year projects and examples of the types of initiatives supported under each of these categories.
- Changes to the BBCAA bylaws which needed to be updated
- Joint Emergency Management (JEM) Team: always looking for volunteers. Signup sheets are available which will help us determine the resources available within the community when faced with an emergency.

Beaver Bank Volunteer Fire Department Report

Captain Kevin Crewe provided an informative presentation including an insight into their dedicated team of volunteers, firefighter training, statistics on calls they have responded to, the community food drive campaign, a reminder of Emergency Preparedness Week, overview of the burning restrictions, information on civic signs, and ended by stressing the importance of safely driving past emergency vehicles when they are responding to an emergency.

Beaver Bank Brown Hall

Brian Johnson presented some details regarding the Brown Hall and mentioned that the community is getting good use out of the 102 year old building which is being well maintained. Some additions that have been made include traffic cameras, the outdoor sign which they intend to make visible for traffic going in both directions, the website, and internet access.

Upcoming projects include:

- Adding a second wheelchair ramp for which they have raised approximately \$7000
- Taking over the lease of the Harold T. Barrett Scout Camp and adjacent land (50 acres) which is currently in progress. Plans will include a 1.3 km non-motorized walking trail.

- Currently in discussion to be included as a warming center. Looking for volunteers for this initiative. Please visit their website or contact by phone to get involved.
- Brown Hall rentals are arranged by phone.

Beaver Bank Lion's Club

Past King Lion, Bob Trowsdale, delivered a presentation explaining the activities of the Lion's Club including the different ways they help individuals within the community as well as the many charities they support. All members of the Lion's Club are volunteers –no one is paid, and Bob thanked those who support their efforts.

Upcoming plans involve:

- Submitting a float in the Beaver Bank Parade of Lights
- Winter Warmth Project: between May 15 and September 15, they will be looking for donations of winter clothing (hats, mitts, gloves, snow suits, etc). 3 locations will be available to drop off items.
- Lion's Club plans to host an open house at some point and they are always looking for volunteers.
- Feel free to drop in Thursdays and Fridays at 6pm.

RCMP - Lower Sackville Detachment

Staff Sergeant Lyndon Morrison welcomed everyone to attend the 150th anniversary of the RCMP on May 23, 2023, where they will be hosting a BBQ and handing out swag at the Lower Sackville detachment.

Audience was offered the opportunity to ask questions several of which revolved around ATV operators that pose a nuisance by either speeding or not abiding by the law (ex: under age, no permits, operating on roads, etc). The best way to have a police presence is to report these situations so the RCMP has a record of it and can plan patrols accordingly.

There was also a discussion as to the possibility of rejuvenating the Citizens on Patrol group.

Councillor Lisa Blackburn

Councillor Blackburn provided an update on various topics touching the residents of Beaver Bank which included:

- Pot holes on Beaver Bank Road: Asphalt has peeled off which is a warranty issue. Follow-up is being done with the contractor. Plans to re-pave between Meadow Drive and Tucker Lake.
- Speed limit reductions: background as to how the speed reduction was determined and 3 crosswalks to be installed (Brown Hall, Mayflower, Grove Avenue)
- Railway Track: now removed from Beaver Bank Road and lights dismantled however buses still have to stop as the sign has not been removed yet.
- Bypass: Looking to get this back on the books –it is a provincial project
- District boundaries: Beaver Bank and Lower Sackville will be combined together as one district. This impacts the municipal voting district only.
- New ATV rules: determining which roads are affected will factor into the new rules.
- Construction across from Chen's store: 2 apartment buildings going up. Under the rules the owners only needed a building permit to proceed. Landscaping will be incorporated with a path to the new crosswalk that is expected to be added at this location on Beaver Bank Road.
- Integrated Regional Plan: The plan will include expansion of water and transit service. Extension of the transit service has been a topic of concern for Beaver Bank.

Province of Nova Scotia

MLA Brian Wong said a few words about learning the history surrounding various topics affecting Beaver Bank from some key community members following his election to the MLA position (ex: Scout Camp land lease, Beaver Bank Bypass, the creation of the Woodbine Community Association).

The province has passed legislation for off road vehicles (ATV's). The new legislation establishes a set of rules around off-highway vehicle operations and allows riders better trail connections.

Brian read an excerpt from a letter he received from the Joint Regional Transportation Agency indicating that The JRTA will review the need for the Beaver Bank Bypass as part of the regional transportation system. The Regional Transportation Plan is expected to be completed in November 2024.

Brian is willing to work with community members to bring projects to light, and encourages residents to reach out to his office to discuss how he can help.

Door prizes were awarded.

Question and Answer Period

Questions centered around the impact of the amalgamation of Beaver Bank and Lower Sackville on the funds available for road maintenance, the Beaver Bank Bypass, building of more apartments at the corner of Beaver Bank Road and Windgate, issues related to Parks and Recreation including opportunities to develop in Woodbine and on land at Majestic and Beaver Bank Road, maintenance of trees that were planted by the city, trail system where train tracks are no longer in use.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned by Victor Cobb at 8:50pm and everyone was invited to partake in light refreshments.

-minutes by BBCAA Board Member, Keillie Samson