

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
January 11, 2023
Approved Minutes

DATE: January 11, 2023
TIME: 4:30 p.m. – 6:33 p.m.
PLACE: Council Chambers

ATTENDANCE: Deputy Mayor Steve Gallant; Councillors Jill Chandler; Gordie Cox; Ron Dowling; Jody Jackson; Jeff MacDonald; Kevin Reynolds, Director of Planning, Development, and Heritage; Kim O’Connell; Director of Finance and Technology; Jeremy Pierce, Deputy CAO and Director of Recreation, Culture, and Events; Jeannie Gallant, Director of Infrastructure; Wendy Watts, Community and Business Engagement Manager; and Mary McAskill, Recording Clerk

REGRETS: Jeremy Crosby, CAO

CHAIR: Mayor Steve Ogden

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Steve Ogden called the Regular Monthly Council Meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance and those viewing via social media.

Mayor Ogden took a moment to acknowledge the land upon which we gather is the unceded territory of the Mi’Kmaq people, and we pay our respects to the Indigenous Mi’Kmaq people of this territory past, present, and future.

2. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Councillor Cox felt he had a conflict of interest regarding Planning Resolution PH001-2023 – Neil and Sarah McIntosh – Accessory Building within Front Yard, and he will recuse himself when we come to that item.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Councillor Jody Jackson and seconded by Deputy Mayor Steve Gallant that the agenda be approved as circulated.

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Gordie Cox and seconded by Councillor Steve Gallant that the regular monthly meeting minutes of December 14, 2022, be approved with the noted change:

On the planning report, Councillor MacDonald wanted it noted that the comments he made were not from him personally, but rather from the report he presented.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil

6. PRESENTATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Nil

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

The report was included in the agenda package for Council to review. Mayor Ogden reviewed his report as follows:

- The Town received new funding for the Switch Program, and we had meetings with the representatives of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and PACE Atlantic who run the program on the Town's behalf, regarding what approach we are going to take with the funding;
- Had the honour of attending the ceremony to light the Menorah to mark the beginning of Hanukkah;
- Attended several Christmas receptions and had the opportunity to discuss Stratford issues with members of the provincial cabinet, MP Lawrence MacAulay, and many others involved in business, government, sports, and education;
- Participated in a discussion following a presentation by consultants about possible funding options for a new recreational complex;
- Along with community and business engagement manager Wendy Watts - had the pleasure of presenting welcome packages and gifts to two new businesses – Spicey Chef and Upcycle; and
- Had the pleasure of greeting residents and visitors at the annual New Year's Day Levee.

Mayor Ogden took a moment to thank Deputy Mayor Steve Gallant for presenting an award on behalf of the Town to the player of the game at the recent Colonel Gray Basketball Tournament.

Councillor MacDonald understands from the Committee of the Whole meeting that in regard to the Switch Program funding, there will be notices going out. Community and business engagement manager Wendy Watts replied that is correct. She noted that the first email went out to the group who were at the final stage and ready to sign contracts. The second email was then sent out to everyone else on the list, and on January 10, 2023, we started to promote it to the general public.

8. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (CAO) REPORT

The report was included in the agenda package for Council to review. In the CAO's absence, the Deputy CAO gave an overview of the report as follows:

- December was a very productive month for CAO Crosby. He had a very good meeting with a representative of MP Lawrence MacAulay's office talking about future projects and opportunities for the Town, and the promise of future meetings;
- Attended a Zoom consultation regarding the province wide population strategy being developed;
- Attended the Housing Supply Challenge training seminar;
- Switch Program follow up meeting;
- Transit meeting with the Town of Cornwall and the City of Charlottetown (which the Deputy CAO also attended). Deputy CAO Pierce noted that funding has been received for electric buses.

Councillor MacDonald asked if there was any mention of possible expansion of routes or expansion of the daily schedule of the routes in Stratford. Deputy CAO Pierce replied that the expansion issue has been a long time discussion. At the last meeting the Town of Cornwall also made comments that they would like to see some expansion. However, nothing was offered at this time.

9. SAFETY SERVICES

a) No Report

Councillor Jackson stated that the first meeting of the new committee will be held on Monday, January 16, 2023.

b) Street Light

No Report

c) RCMP

The report for the month of December was included in the agenda package.

Constable Cindy Bowring noted that Council had a copy of the report in their agenda package. She added that there is usually a more detailed part to the report, but the analyst who puts it together is currently away on training.

Councillor Cox asked Constable Bowring if she thinks that the speed sign that flashes the speed of each car is a deterrent to speeding. Constable Bowring replied that she felt it was definitely a deterrent for some people. She added that they do receive the recorded reports from the speed sign, as well as the time of day they were recorded.

Mayor Ogden asked staff which speed is being recorded as a car goes through, and infrastructure director Jeannie Woodard noted that she will find out and pass the information on to Council.

Constable Bowring stated that new Corporal Dave Weatherbie has been assigned to Stratford and he will attend the Safety Services meeting on January 16, 2023, and he will attend the rest of the meetings going forward. He is a resident of Stratford, and he will be posted at the Stratford RCMP office.

Deputy Mayor Gallant mentioned that surveillance cameras, similar to an E-Watch program, had been discussed at past meetings, and he would like to see this item on the Safety Services agenda. He suggested maybe three cameras could be a possibility this year to get things started. Constable Bowring agreed that surveillance cameras would be an invaluable tool. Mayor Ogden agreed that it is very important, and it could be part of the budget discussions.

Councillor Cox suggested putting the message 'lock your cars' on our website and signboard. Constable Bowring agreed that cars are not being broken into, it is more of a crime of 'opportunity' when cars are left unlocked.

Councillor Chandler noted that in looking over the report there are still instances where investigations are still open and/or under investigation. She asked that in cases of sexual assault, assault, and administering of a noxious substance – if those instances happened in public places, is there typically any public awareness done. Constable Bowring replied that if something was deemed to be a public safety issue, it would absolutely be put out to the public.

Mayor Ogden noted that *Bell Let's Talk* for mental health is coming up on January 25 and he wondered if Constable Bowring could think of something that the Town could do. Constable Bowring replied that it is definitely a social media thing, and she noted that maybe the Town could do something similar to what Cow's has done, and then build on it next year.

d) Humane Society Report

The report for the month of December was included in the agenda package.

e) Transit

The report for the month of December was included in the agenda package. Councillor Jackson noted that the numbers are getting back up to where they were, and actually above where they were in 2019 before the pandemic. It is also great to see that there will be funding for the electrification of the fleet.

Councillor Chandler noted that when reviewing the transit summary, she wondered if there was more information available so we could see what the trends are – assuming that there is heavier ridership for the morning and evening commute, and if there are routes that are less utilized. She noted that Council is getting questions regarding the expansion, so it would be great if we could have the breakdown of usage. Deputy CAO Pierce stated that he is not aware of any additional information, but he will look into it.

Councillor Jackson stated that he worked with transit when it started, and he knows that the owner was very keen on the data and making sure the routes were set up properly. We are going to do everything we can to try and make sure we expand, but it needs to make sense.

f) Cross Roads Fire Department

The report for the month of December was included in the agenda package.

g) Resolution SS001-2023 Appointment of Directors to the Cross Roads Rural Community Fire Company

Moved by Councillor Jody Jackson

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Steve Gallant

WHEREAS the Town of Stratford has a right and a responsibility to appoint seven members to the Board of Directors of the Cross Roads Rural Community Fire Company; and

WHEREAS Council intends to appoint two members each year for three year terms so that there is regular turn over on the Board, but also continuity with only two new members per year.

BE IT RESOLVED that the following persons be appointed to serve on the Board of Directors of the Cross Roads Rural Community Fire Company for the year 2023:

Town Council Representative:

- Councillor Jody Jackson

Community Representatives:

- Kevin Jenkins (3rd year of 3 year term)
- Carol-Anne Duffy (3rd year of 3 year term)
- David Milligan (2nd year of a 3 year term)
- Kathy Livingstone (2nd year of a 3 year term)
- Teresa Hennebery (1st year of a 3 year term)

- Mark Lanigan (1st year of a 3 year term. Term to begin June 1, 2023)
- Dave Swan (Term extended to the end of May 2023)

Discussion This resolution was discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting. Councillor Jackson noted that the appointment of Dave Swan being extended until the end of May is because the terms on the fire company board and the Town's appointments are different. The fire company's appointments run until the first of May and that is why we are extending Mr. Swan's appointment.

Question: **CARRIED**

10. RECREATION, CULTURE AND EVENTS

a) Report

The report was included in the agenda package. Councillor Chandler noted that the first meeting of the new committee will be held on January 26, 2023. She reviewed the report as follows:

New Year's Levee – For the first time in three years the Town was able to host its' annual New Year's Levee on Sunday, January 1 and approximately 600 people attended.

Canada Games Torch Relay – The Town of Stratford and the Canada Games Torch Relay Committee are working through the final details of the Friday, February 3 torch relay which will take place within and around Stratford. A reception will follow in the gymnasium. The evening will be the first of a series of Canada Games events in our community. Gymnastics will be hosted at the Norton Diamond Centre from February 20 – 24. The Town will also host a children's cultural event on Saturday, March 5.

Arts and Culture – The anticipated interactive public art piece for Pondside Park, the 'Leap' by Stratford artist Gerald Beaulieu, was installed on December 13, 2022. The piece was commissioned by the Town in 2021 and has been a wonderful addition to Pondside Park.

Art Programming – On January 21 and 22, the Town will be hosting an all ages and all skill level art activity to create lanterns to decorate the gym for the Canada Games Torch Relay event. This event will be led by Island artist Ryan McAdam Young.

It was noted that the winter 2023 classes have begun and will run through until the end of March.

Stratford Youth Centre and Council – The youth centre was closed for the holidays and reopened on January 9. Prior to the break, the youth council and youth centre were

able to complete their fundraising and their 'Helping Hands Projects' for the holidays. A family was also sponsored from the Glen Stewart School for Christmas.

The youth centre's annual awards and holiday party was held in December. The event recognizes the outstanding contributions and the countless volunteer hours put forth by members of the youth centre.

Programs – All winter 2023 programs are open for registration with many programs already started. A new program being offered is the co-ed adult soccer program that serves to complement the other adult recreational programs such as pickleball, volleyball, and badminton.

Fitness Area and Gymnasium – The fitness area continues to contribute to the social, physical, and mental well-being of Stratford residents, with approximately 97 users per day.

Outdoor Winter Activities – Weather permitting, the Town will have groomed and cleared trails along with outdoor skating rinks. To date, the current weather conditions have not allowed for rinks to be established.

Councillor Chandler noted that she had the pleasure of attending a fundraising event for local artist Robert MacMillan. The event was hosted by the Lucky Bean and was held at the Stratford Emergency Services Centre. Councillor Chandler noted that she had an opportunity to speak with Mr. MacMillan and some other artists, and they discussed the impact of the loss of the studio, and they are advocating for a future space in Stratford.

Councillor Chandler took a moment to congratulate fellow Council member Gordie Cox who was recently named a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow. This is an award that is offered in appreciation of tangible and significant assistance given for the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations among people of the world, and Councillor Cox was recognized for the years he dedicated to the Rotary's local strive program for students.

Councillor Jackson asked if there might be an opportunity this year to utilize the baseball fields with the lights for some kind of winter activity. Deputy CAO Pierce replied that there have been discussions about having a perimeter skating rink around the exterior of the ballfield. He added that a year ago through the previous Council, we were able to acquire a water truck for the first time which would allow us to facilitate a project such as this one, so we will keep the project on the 'radar.' Deputy CAO Pierce didn't think

the rinks would be very well utilized this winter with the weather conditions we are experiencing.

Councillor MacDonald stated that he has been speaking with youth/family coordinator Duane Pineau who mentioned that there would be an opportunity for Town Council to drop into the youth centre. Councillor MacDonald felt that it would be a great idea and he asked Deputy CAO Pierce if that would be something he could facilitate. Deputy CAO Pierce replied that Council will find that the youth centre is one of the more impactful programs that we operate within the Town. Young children from grade 5 to 12 volunteer somewhere between two to three thousand volunteer hours a year. It builds character and Duane Pineau has certainly done a wonderful job. Duane spends Monday and Tuesday evenings at the youth centre being involved with the kids. If anyone would like to meet with Duane in his office or down at the youth centre, it would be a benefit for everyone. Deputy Mayor Pierce noted that it has been a past practice of Council to even sit in on the Youth Council meetings.

Mayor Ogden felt it would be an excellent idea and he has advocated in the past to get the youth involved in making recommendations to Council regarding youth programs.

Councillor Cox noted that the students that are in grades 11 and 12 can access community bursaries up to 150 hours and they get five dollars an hour from the province which comes out to \$750.

Deputy Mayor Gallant asked about the plans for the torch relay on February 3 and Deputy CAO Pierce replied that we are still finalizing some of the details with the Canada Games. What is lined up to date is that the torch relay will start at the Cotton Centre and work from the Cotton Centre up the Bunbury Road across the intersection by the ESSO, and all the way around the Our Lady of Assumption (blue) Church. It will then come down the Stratford Road to Kinlock Road and end up at the Town Centre. There are 16 members of the community who will be participating in the torch relay and following the relay there will be a reception at the Town Centre.

11. FINANCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- a) The report was included in the agenda package for Council to review. Councillor Ron Dowling noted that the first meeting of the new Finance and Technology Committee will be held on January 18, 2023.

Councillor Dowling stated that it was great to see all the people come out for the Levee and based on the conversations that were had, it was a very exciting event. It is obvious that we have a very engaged citizenry and that will make it all the more interesting and

engaging for Council and staff over the next four years. Councillor Dowling also expressed his appreciation to the staff who were involved in the preparation of the Levee, as it is a tremendous undertaking and it's all done behind the scenes. Everything went off without a hitch.

He gave an overview of the report provided by the finance director Kim O'Connell as follows:

- The January utility bills have been processed and the e-bills have been issued. Residents should have their mailed copies by January 12, 2023, and the due date for payment is February 13, 2023;
- Budget preparations are in full swing, and the department heads are meeting on a regular basis to prepare the budgets;
- Budget meetings with Council will get underway in February;
- Budget requests are posted on a regular basis on social media and the closing date for budget submission is January 11, 2023;
- Our financial coordinator Daniel Zhang is leaving the Town for a new job opportunity, and his position has been posted with a closing date of January 20, 2023;
- Working on Hurricane Fiona disaster claims and working with insurance adjusters on Fiona damage to Town properties continues; and
- Staff is very busy with day to day tasks.

Councillor Dowling stated that we appreciate what Director O'Connell, and all her staff do for us all.

Councillor MacDonald noted that on the revenue for December 2022 – minor ball, minor soccer, and minor basketball all show nil values. Finance director O'Connell replied that she will be deleting those line items as the Town is no longer responsible for minor ball, minor soccer, or minor basketball. It is now all done through separate organizations. However, she added that they do pay a field levy to the Town.

b) Financial Statements

Included in the agenda package for Council to review.

12. PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND HERITAGE

- a) The Report was included in the package for Council to review. Councillor MacDonald noted that a meeting was held on January 3, 2023. There were some residents present and some residents were viewing virtually. It was a great meeting with some great discussions to start the year. There can be no doubt that going into 2023, there are some large projects that the current Council has inherited, and they are well underway.

Councillor MacDonald acknowledged the Town's planning staff's effort to date to bring the matters forward and work will continue on our major projects. Even with the major projects, we still have the day to day planning tasks that will always be ongoing.

b) Permit Summary

Included in the agenda package for Council to review. Councillor MacDonald briefly review the summary.

Councillor Cox excused himself at this time (conflict of interest in regard to Resolution PH001-2023) and left the meeting.

c) Resolution PH001-2023 – Neil and Sarah McIntosh – Accessory Building within Front Yard

Moved by Councillor Jeff MacDonald

Seconded by Councillor Jill Chandler

WHEREAS an application has been received from Neil and Sarah McIntosh to place an Accessory Building, a Private Garage which is Detached, within the front yard of the property located on parcel number 299883, at 14 Upper Tea Hill Crescent; and

WHEREAS in accordance with section 8.1.1. Accessory Buildings and Structures shall be permitted on any Lot but shall not: (b) be located within the Front Yard or Flanking Side Yard of a Lot; and

WHEREAS notwithstanding subsection (b) above, Council may issue a Development Permit for an accessory Use, Building or Structure located within the Front Yard or Flanking Side Yard of a Lot, where the Town is satisfied the Structure includes Building design components such as Building material, scale, and form are consistent with surrounding Development; and

WHEREAS this particular lot is irregularly shaped with reduced frontage on Upper Tea Hill Crescent and slopes down to Edgehill Terrace. The existing Main Dwelling is built into the slope and sits lower than the street. The proposed location has been strategically chosen so that the Private Garage will appear as a projection of the Dwelling from the street by taking advantage of the reduced frontage, locating the Garage within the required setbacks for a Single Dwelling within the R1L zone, and including Building materials to match the Main Dwelling; and

WHEREAS the surrounding Development also encompasses a property that has an existing Accessory Building located within the Front Yard. For these reasons, as well as proximity to the driveway for the storage of vehicles, proximity to the existing kitchen for the convenience of bringing in groceries, and the cost associated with building into a slope; the applicants are requesting approval from the Town to place their Accessory Building within an area that is consistent with what is already established within the neighborhood.

BE IT RESOLVED that approval be granted to an application from Neil and Sarah McIntosh to place an Accessory Building, a Private Garage which is Detached, within the Front Yard of the property located on parcel number 299883, at 14 Upper Tea Hill Crescent.

Discussion: This resolution bears the recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Heritage Committee.

Mayor Ogden stated that he had asked the planning if there was any analysis done for possible negative effects. He noted that even when it is not required to send notices to residents, staff will still analysis the effects on surrounding properties. Town planner Dale McKeigan stated that the analysis showed that there would be no negative impact because what is being proposed and what is on the adjoining property is very much the same. The town planner added that the proposed building meets all the conditions, and it would not set a precedent because there is already one next door.

Councillor MacDonald added that it will not set off a flood of applications of people looking to put sheds in their front yards. When you look at the characteristics of this lot and where it is going to be situated, it is by far the best use of the land.

Question: **CARRIED**

Councillor Cox returned to the meeting at this time.

d) Resolution PH002-2023 – DP229-22 – Studio Brehaut Architecture – Part 3 Commercial – 8 Myrtle Street

Moved by Councillor Jeff MacDonald

Seconded by Councillor Jill Chandler

WHEREAS an application has been received from Studio Brehaut Architecture to construct a 21,428 sq. ft. Commercial Building (18,428 sq. ft. Commercial Space and 3,000 sq. ft. Storage Space), on Lot 1C, parcel number 1021617 (approx. 1.17 acres in total area) located at 8 Myrtle Street within the Stratford Business Park; and

WHEREAS the 21,428 sq. ft. Commercial Building will be fully serviced with municipal sewer and water and contain surface parking for 61 vehicles; and

WHEREAS this development is located within the Mason Road Core Area (MRCA), and it must be designed in accordance with the Design Standards for the Business Park Zone (M2). All aspects of the conceptual design plans submitted have been reviewed and meet the design guidelines for the M2 Zone; and

BE IT RESOLVED That approval be granted to an application that has been received from Studio Brehaut Architecture to construct a 21,428 sq. ft. Commercial Building, on Lot 1C, parcel number 1021617 (approx. 1.17 acres in total area) subject to the following:

1. Conformance with the conceptual drawings submitted to the Town prepared by Studio Brehaut Architecture, dated November 25, 2022, including Storage/Warehouse revision, dated January 5, 2023.
2. A detailed servicing plan must be submitted for approval to the Stratford Utility Corporation.
3. A detailed stormwater management plan must be prepared by a qualified engineer and approved by both the Town of Stratford and DOTIE.
4. A detailed landscaping plan must be submitted by a qualified expert outlining the details and quantities of the materials to be used.
5. A detailed Erosion and Sedimentation plan must be prepared showing how erosion and sedimentation will be controlled and contained during construction.
6. All other relevant provisions of the Town of Stratford Zoning and Development Bylaw #45 are met.

Discussion: This resolution bears the recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Heritage Committee.

Councillor MacDonald stated that the committee had a very good discussion on the request. When the application initially came in, the Town staff did a lot of work on the front end of things. Councillor MacDonald felt that the building was architecturally pleasing. He noted that the concern that the Planning Committee had was that it did not meet the requirements for the number of parking spaces that a building that size required under our bylaw - they were short 10 parking spaces. This was brought to the committee's attention by the planning staff. The

concern was that they did not have tenants in mind other than the client Studio Brajo. They needed to have 71 parking spaces, but they were only showing 61 spaces and they did not have a parking plan in place. They stated that they had been in discussions with adjacent land owners about using their parking spaces.

Councillor MacDonald stated that they had a discussion on whether or not they could even grant an approval on something that does not really meet the requirements of the bylaw. The director of planning Kevin Reynolds told the committee that they were waiting for some additional information from Studio Brehaut Architecture which was received, and they designated 3000 square feet of the building to be warehousing, so that reduces the parking requirement down to the 61 spaces. This means that they are now in compliance of the bylaw with the intended use of their building.

The town planner Dale McKeigan noted that what Councillor MacDonald has explained with the storage and warehouse area reducing their requirement for parking spaces, it is important to note going forward that should the owner or developer of that property decide that they want to use that space for storage or warehousing in the future, or for offices, and it becomes part of the square footage, they would come back to the Town looking for possible off-site parking somewhere else through an agreement. However, as it 'sits' right now it fits everything that we need to have to move forward.

Councillor Chandler asked if someone could help her visualize it, by making a comparison because she doesn't understand the size of the building based on square footage. Councillor MacDonald asked the town planner if we had a 'bird's eye view' of the development and the town planner replied that the Reactive Health Building would be relatively comparative in size to the proposed building.

Question: **CARRIED**

Councillor MacDonald noted that the committee also had a discussion on what role the Town is going to want to take on in regard to short term rentals. That item was just for discussion purposes at this point in time. The Town has contracted with a company called Granicus and what they do is engage in monitoring short term rental accommodations and Airbnb's and they provide entities like the Town with information about what is being offered in our community. This is done by a process called web

scraping. We have received some information from the company, and we plan to receive some additional information to show us what people are looking to rent short term in Stratford.

Councillor MacDonald noted that Heritage Sub-Committee had the unveiling of the third interpretive panel on November 9, 2022, for the war time tragedy that took place in Stratford.

13. INFRASTRUCTURE

- a) Report - The Report was included in the package for Council to review. Deputy Mayor Steve Gallant reviewed the report as follows:

The infrastructure staff remain busy with the ongoing cleanup of downed trees from Hurricane Fiona. Downeast Landscaping continues to assist with the efforts to remove downed trees along our trails, in our parks, playgrounds, and greenspaces.

Several infrastructure projects under design are progressing well and on track for tendering in January or February, such as the waterfront boardwalk, the Kinlock Road multi-purpose path, the community campus site servicing, and the upgrades at the Corish sewer lift station. Staff is involved with review and coordination with the consultants to keep these design projects on schedule.

Design services for the upgrades to the Bunbury sewer lift station was awarded to CBCL Limited, and consulting services for updating the Active Transportation Master Plan was awarded to UPLAND Planning + Design. The tender for the Bunbury sewer lift station upgrades will be issued in March, with work anticipated to begin in the summer. The final submission of the Active Transportation Master Plan update will be submitted by the end of April.

During the month of December there were no major sewer or water emergencies. There was a short duration power outage with the windstorm on December 23; however, this was managed with no issues.

14. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

- a) No Report
- b) **Resolution CW001-2023 – Federation of Prince Edward Island Municipalities (FPEIM) Board Member Appointment**

**Moved by Deputy Mayor Steve Gallant
Seconded by Councillor Jeff MacDonald**

WHEREAS the Federation of Prince Edward Island Municipalities (FPEIM) constitution allows for a member of the Stratford Town Council to serve as a member on the FPEIM Board; and

WHEREAS a seat became vacant after the election on November 7, 2022.

BE IT RESOLVED that Mayor Steve Ogden be appointed to serve as a member of the FPEIM Board of Directors as the Town's representative for the remainder of the term.

Discussion: This resolution bears the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole.

Question: **CARRIED**

c) **Resolution CW002-2023 Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) – Election to the Board of Directors**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Steve Gallant

Seconded by Councillor Gordie Cox

WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) represents the interests of member municipalities on policy and program matters that fall within federal jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS FCM's Board of Directors is comprised of elected municipal officials from all regions and sizes of communities to form a broad base of support and provide FCM with the united voice required to carry the municipal message to the federal government.

BE IT RESOLVED that Council of the Town of Stratford Prince Edward Island endorse Mayor Steve Ogden to stand for election on FCM's Board of Directors for the period starting in January 2023 and ending in June 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council assumes all costs associated with Mayor Ogden attending FCM's Board of Directors meetings.

Discussion: This resolutions bears the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole.

Question: **CARRIED**

d) **Resolution CW003-2023 Procedural Bylaw Amendment 47-B – 1st Reading**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Steve Gallant

Seconded by Councillor Gordie Cox

WHEREAS it is desirable to rename the Accountability and Engagement Committee to be now known as the Intergovernmental Affairs and Accountability Committee to better reflect the current and upcoming work of the committee; and

WHEREAS a change to the terms of reference is also required to reflect the work of the Intergovernmental Affairs and Accountability Committee; and

WHEREAS it is desirable to discontinue the Events Sub Committee and have the work of this committee now be reflected in the Recreation, Culture and Events committee, with use of ad-hoc and one-time community volunteers as required.

BE IT RESOLVED that attached Bylaw # 47-B, a bylaw to amend the Council Procedural Bylaw (Bylaw # 47), be hereby read and approved a first time.

Discussion: This resolution bears the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole.

Question: **CARRIED**

15. SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

- a) Mayor Ogden congratulated Councillor Gordie Cox on receiving the Paul Harris Award. He noted that it is a very prestigious award, and it is well deserved.

Councillor Gordie Cox noted that the committee will hold their first meeting on February 1, 2023. He noted that staff is pleased to welcome Maddy Crowell back from maternity leave and resuming her role as the Town's sustainability coordinator. Katie Sonier, who filled in for Maddy, will be moving into a new role assisting the 'Shape Stratford Project' and we are happy to have her remain on staff.

Earlier this week the Switch program was re-launched after receiving some additional funds through the Federation of Municipalities (FCM). Councillor Cox noted that the funds will go quickly, and he encouraged residents to get their applications in.

The residential tree planting program for 2023 is being offered for a third year. The goal of this program remains the same and that is to help residents access low-cost, good quality, native species trees for their properties. This program is typically geared toward residents who do not have any trees in their front yards, but exceptions will be made this year due to Hurricane Fiona damage. Applications will be accepted starting in mid-February.

The Stratford community gardens now have 87 garden plots that are allocated to individual community members each season for a small fee. Renewal of garden plot rental is now open for returning gardeners until February 3 and will be opening for new gardeners on February 13, 2023.

The Town has officially launched the 'Senior's Engagement Program. There are three components to the program:

- Senior Match and Exchange Program – this is done through an app which can be downloaded called 'Stratford Connects.'
- Newcomer Match – this program, through the application on the Town's website will match newcomer individuals and families in our community to seniors who are able to provide friendship, as well as offer guidance, learning, and mentoring to the newcomer(s), with a hope that long lasting friendships are made.
- Stratford Grandparent Program – this program, through an application on the Town's website will match families in our community with young children to seniors who are willing to provide and develop inter-generational supports to the family.

More details on all these programs can be found on the Town's website. There is also an information session being held on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. in the Southport Room.

The Diversity and Inclusion Sub-Committee was on hand to arrange for some international food vendors for the New Year's Levee. This is always a favourite at the Levee, as well as other events that are held throughout the year.

Councillor Jill Chandler left the meeting at this time 6:30 p.m.

Councillor Jackson asked if there was any update on Moore's Pond and Kelly's Pond and infrastructure director Jeannie Woodard replied that we did start the project at Moore's Pond last summer and we had intended to do some dredging in the pond in the fall and then Hurricane Fiona hit. The contract was awarded to Island Coastal, and we are looking to proceed with the project this summer. Along with that project, we will be doing work at Kelly's Pond, and we will be partnering with the province to replace the culvert that crosses Keppoch Road – which discharges from the pond.

Councillor MacDonald noted that he heard some concerns from residents in regard to Jordon's Pond and that it is getting shallow, and they wondered if there were any plans for it. The infrastructure director replied that the efforts that we are going to put into Moore's Pond and Kelly's Pond will help minimize the impact in Jordon's Pond. It was also noted that the watershed group has applied for funding to do some work in Jordon's Pond as well.

16. ACCOUNTABILITY AND ENGAGEMENT

- a) No Report

17. HUMAN RESOURCES

- a) No Report

Councillor MacDonald asked if there was any progress made on recruiting a building inspector and the Deputy CAO replied that we have gone out a few time looking for qualified applicants but so far we haven't been successful. However, Carter Livingstone, who was formerly in that position, has agreed to continue to help out until we find a replacement.

18. INQUIRIES BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

- a) No inquiries were made.

19. OTHER COMMITTEES

a) Stratford Senior's Complex

Deputy Mayor Gallant agreed to be the chairperson for the Stratford Community Senior's Committee.

20. APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMITTEE

Nil

PROCLAMATIONS

Nil

21. OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

23. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.