

REGULAR MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING

April 8, 2015

Unapproved Minutes

DATE: April 8, 2015
TIME: 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
PLACE: Stratford Town Centre, 234 Shakespeare Drive

PRESENT: Councillors Diane Griffin; Gary Clow; Gail MacDonald; Keith MacLean; Steve Ogden; and staff members Robert Hughes, CAO; Patrick Carroll, Director of Planning; Kevin Reynolds, Development Officer; Kim O’Connell, Director of Finance and Technology; Joanne Weir, Recreation Director; Kim Dudley, Community Engagement Coordinator, and Mary McAskill, Recording Clerk

REGRETS: Jeremy Crosby, Director of Infrastructure

CHAIR: Acting Mayor Randy Cooper

1. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Mayor Cooper called the Regular Monthly Council Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Councillor Gary Clow and seconded by Councillor Steve Ogden that the agenda be approved as circulated. Motion Carried.

3. MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Diane Griffin and seconded by Councillor Gail MacDonald that the Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2015 be approved as circulated. Motion Carried.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Nil

5. PRESENTATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

In response to the challenge to Canadian mayors from His Worship, Naheed Nenshi, the Mayor of Calgary, we are pleased to have a poetry reading at our Council meeting this evening in honour of National Poetry Month.

We are honoured to have with us Island poet Yvette Doucette. Yvette has written and performed monologues at the Guild as part of a show *Solo Works*. She has read her poetry on Victoria row as part of the summer Jazz and Poetry on the street series.

In 2006/2007, Yvette was commissioned by CBC to write for, and compete in, the island portion of the CBC Poetry Face Off. Her poetry has been published in *Letting Go: An Anthology of Loss and Survival*, *Arts East Online*, and in the *Anthology of Canadian writers with Black Heritage*, *The Great Black North*.

Over the years Yvette has been committed to supporting the Island community in many ways, including as Chair of the PEI Writers Guild. She won the 2011 Island Literary Award for Young Writers Services, and in 2013 Island Literary Award for Distinguished Contribution to the Literary Arts of Prince Edward Island.

At this time Acting Mayor Cooper invited Yvette to take the floor.

Yvette stated that she was honoured to be here during poetry month and is pleased that Council extended her the invitation.

Ms. Doucette recited two poems – *Winter Field* and *All Fruits Are Ripe, Mama*. (The poems are attached to the minutes).

All Fruits are Ripe, Mama

She walk pon de watah's edge
De dramah is dis dream
She stand aan skip a' red sand
And she mind a net, she eyes a net
She wondaa, what mek she walk?
Whe she come heah?

Long ago she ah small gurl in Kingston town
She runnin' feet hit sunbake diret
An she skip school to play in de gully
"Keep this baby back one more year," superintendent say
Mortify she, and so arm she stubborn self
To get learnin, ta show 'im she no nonsense pickney
She pride, shape she life

Here papa, 28 years older than her mama
Say of his wife, "I am de rum, and she is de watah"
Everyday him walk out de 'eavy iron gate
Ta go to work, ta talk down de corna
In de evenin' to play violin fee a weddin dance
On' a Sunday ta take de sacrament to de country folk
No time to spend wid 'is own brood-dey noise so!
"Let my ears eat grass," he reoar and dey scatter.

Her mama, sweet sweet,
Heart lik' a mango
Hand lik' a rod
De neighbor Mrs. Ellis yess 'cross de fence
"Mrs Chevvy, why yah no get ah country gal ta help wid all a dat work?"
She mama's eyes flash, and she chin tilt so
She naps she sheets 'pon de line
She say "My girls can do they own work, an I mine.
I'll not be havin no slave in my home,
God willin, those days be 'over in Jamaica."

She is walkin' pon de water's edge, de dreamah.
She stan' awwn ah slip a red sand.
In 'er mind she see de net she cast long ago
'cross de cold, silky Atlantic
Her young aim reckless but true.

She marry ta come 'ere,
Never say why 'im, why 'ere
When she feel dey eyes pressin' on she skin,
She pull in de air between she teeth
"these Islanders are close-minded, big-headed, nosy and judgmental as any Jamaican."
She open she mouth again
Den think twice to say more to she oldest gurl chile
She say, "don't you tell anyone family business, hear!
You'd talk to anyone with ears, like birds in the morning!"

She aan ah farm, in de smallest province ah Canada.
Her hands strain de cows milk
Brush she tears
Knead de dough fee bread
Pull the baby atop de wood in ah sleigh
Alone in she work
No woman fried come ta call
Five children needin' somethin'
Her 'usband caught in de fist of de past
She come ta guard she deep soft-self
Behin' she tilt chin.

Back home, she say she work at breaktime
Help de teachers, de sistahs, sweatin in dere black robes,
Dey give she lunch fee she labour.
She cross de school yard to shake the chalk rags

And smatty finger jab inna her face-
Lickle Petah, black kik' a piece ah coal, stop her
Say, "YOU, miss, you is conceited."
He see dat she want more den de children
Hanging like dark petahls round 'im.
She focused, she not laughin at de boys
An makin eyes, she brought up him ire,
"You is conceited."

So pride she, so fierce she, so smart she
Off she go to America on one of three Kinston scholarships.
She clean rooms for book money, always workin, savin, watch, waitin.

When she return home, she work in de bank
When it time for she to leave,
Dey like she work so, dey ask if she 'ave family could fill she place
But dey shock when she bring she sistah Hilly
"Your sister, well, we need a certain kind of girl for teller service.
Don't you have a sister that looks *respectable*, like you?"
She left de bank to join a life of service to the Lord
A convent in New York
Dey send she back – dey say,
"dis is a black ordah, a jamaican ordah."
She too light skin fee de dark sistahs.

She is walkin' pon de water's edge, de dreamah.
She stan' awwn ah slip a red sand.
Caught in de net she cast long ago
Always de colour of sking shaping she life.

"There are so many shades of green on PEI," she say
Such beauty between here and the road."
So much milk, this fresh cream, how I wish I could give some
Of this butter to my mother," she say.

Some cold intah nights, she call us children out to see
De pink colours dancin' in de sky, de constellation she
Name for us: Andromeda, Orion, Pegasus, Callisto and the Great Bear.

Where is she now in de great black see of the sky?

In a dram I see her, walkin' like watah.
She come pon me on' a path flowerin wild purple and red hibiscus

Fragrant wid de smell ah organce blossoms
Green and jeweled and huming wid bees
She smile is like de sun in de sky.
She throw open she arms and she whoop.
She say, “my daughtah! You is I daughtah!”

An I, dreamah, say to her,
All fruits ripe, all fruits ripe mama, all fruits ripe.

Winter Field

Those fields that farmer cleared by hand, are growing up in trees now.
The alders root where the ground is moist, and the spruce and
Fill in the higher ground. Those who come and go from the house
Rent sixty acres to young brothers. They thought not to waste
An inch of land planting soy for their pigs. They split the land with
Their wide, sharp plow right to the line of woods. Gone under their blades
Is the old right-of-way – a hard path beaten into the ground travelled
As the crown flies by foot, by horse and wagan or buggy or sleigh
To the school or village store for over 100 years.

Gone too, and good riddance the rusted car bodies
In the r graveyard behind the barn, the metal drum for burning trash
The lengths of iron, baking twine, pipe, old leather harnesses
Anything that might be used again for some purpose, someday _
Saved in a time before everyone had credit to buy what they wanted.
Hi workshop has fallen in on itself waiting to spark some dry summer night.

The wooden wheel rimmed with metal from his wheelbarrow is nailed atop
A barrel to hold birdfeed. The main gate notches to the left now and has a latch.
Last September's long grasses tangle against the fence above thinning snow
Between the pasture and what was once planted. Grey poles and sagging
Barbed-wire left behind from someone's dream of farming. I knew him.

To the northeast, grasping branches reach to the sky from squat trunks.
The apple orchard shrunken to less than a dozen weathered trees
Caught together at the tops, creaking in the wind as one desolate body.
You'd need a scythe to cut your way through to them, and why would you?
Haven for the redheaded woodpeckers; just the odd fruit filled with worms
They likely fall, still green. I would guess too the raspberry canes have grown
All about the trunks that no one climbs, through warmer days would tell for sure.
I catch myself wondering, come spring, what will blossom there?

Damp with the melt of snow, but drying fast in the April winds, that field

Is almost ready for burning off. “Things’ll grow better afterwards,” he’d say.
I knew him. Nothing resembling success. Days of chore and chore on tip of chore
To form a lost list of what was most important, what was not yet done, what was
To be planned, started, continued, or finished, today; a mind for calibrating weighing, and
seeing the fastest, the best most efficient way to take on the task.

I knew him. With his hat brim pulled down over his eyes. Stopping from the haying under
the cloudless summer sky. Resting for a few minutes after lunch
_a breeze, the prickle of fresh mown hay under his shoulders, cicadas in the elms.
Needing nothing but water from his own well, chicken wrapped in foil, something
Sweet, and strong tea with milk as August wrapped itself around everything
As bring and long and impossible as the truth of memory. I knew him.

To that heart, I throw a burning field; the long, brown grasses crackling and hissing,
I close my eyes and dram that everything greens up in an instant behind a flame that runs on
ahead setting things right. Behind the line of fire the wild ferns unfurl
Blossoms of lily of the valley burst their sheaths, and purple clover, buttercups
Daisies, brown-eyed-susans, timothy, yarrow, a glory of goldenrod come and go.
A heart can hold such beauty and turn it, and turn it, and turn it over and over.
The farmer walking with his shovel, the fire racing on ahead, burning the winter field.

Following the recital Ms. Doucette was presented with a gift and photos were taken. Acting
Mayor Cooper thanked Councillor Griffin for forwarding His Worship, Naheed Nenshi’s
challenge.

6. CARI REPORT

No Report.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

A list of all correspondence sent and received since the last Council meeting was included in
the meeting package.

8. MAYOR’S REPORT

Acting Mayor Cooper gave a verbal report noting that it was a ‘light’ month. He chaired the
monthly Finance and Technology meeting, and in Councillor Clow’s absence, he chaired the
March Infrastructure Committee meeting.

9. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Report is included in the package for Council to review. Robert gave a brief overview of his
report noting that the Town hosted a watershed forum last Friday with the watershed board of
directors. It was a great opportunity to share information to better protect our natural
resources and for all involved to gain a better understanding of their roles.

Robert welcomed Patrick Carroll, the Town's new Director of Planning, Development and Heritage. He also said good-bye to our community engagement coordinator Kim Dudley, as she follows a dream to become an RCMP officer. She is a great employee and she will be missed.

Acting Mayor Cooper echoed Robert's comments regarding Kim Dudley, and also welcomed Patrick Carroll as the Town's new Director of Planning.

10. INFRASTRUCTURE

Report is included in the package. Councillor Clow thanked Acting Mayor Cooper for filling in for him while he was away.

Councillor Clow reviewed the report noting that:

- *Wastewater Treatment Plant* – the screening device has arrived and has been installed, but has not yet been commissioned.
- *Blue Frogs* - the blue frogs were frozen in the ice and were not able to be pulled and cleaned – if they clog up with debris they could trip the panel, but this has not happened. We are currently renting a piece of equipment, but The Town is trying to purchase a piece of equipment that will lift the blue frogs out.
- *Business Park Sewer and Water* - the sewer and water servicing at the business park has been completed. The lots are essentially ready to be sold; however they haven't been subdivided yet.
- *The Toilet Rebate Program* – the toilet rebate program is still on-going, and to date we have rebated 46 residents.
- *Trails* - Doug Murray attended the meeting and gave the committee some background on his years working on the trails. Councillor Clow noted that we are very lucky to have Doug in our community.
- *Snowmobiles on the Trails* - Councillor Clow noted that snowmobiles on the trails was discussed at the meeting (snowmobiles are not allowed on the trails in Stratford) and Jeremy will be working with the Snowmobile Association to see if a solution can be found.
- *Snow Removal* - due to the large volume of snow this year, we had to rent a tractor, and hire a local farmer and his tractor, to gain access to some of our more remote stations.
- *Metering Study* – information was circulated at the meeting and we now feel we have enough information to plug into the rate model.
- *Contracts* – the grass cutting and cleaning contracts have been approved for the optional year.
- *Purchase of a used Truck* - An RFQ is being prepared for the purchase of a used half ton truck which was approved in the 2015 budget.

Councillor Clow noted that in addition to the above there was general maintenance in all buildings, as well as daily tasks and duties, including a great deal of shoveling. Acting Mayor Cooper stated that we have a very dedicated staff and they should be commended.

11. RECREATION CULTURE AND EVENTS

a) Report included in the package for Council to review. Councillor MacDonald gave an overview of her report noting that:

- recreational programs at the Town Centre will continue to operate at full speed, while most of the programs operating at Glen Stewart School have ended for the season.
- federal and provincial grant applications have been pursued.
- the youth centre held a day camp during the March break and registrations were very good. However, due to the weather three of the days had to be cancelled.
- the recreation department will once again offer a summer day camp program.
- the fitness area carpet was replaced with rubberized flooring and a four wheel walker was purchased for residents who need some assistance.
- a skateboard park committee was approved by the Committee of the Whole and they will start meeting sometime in April.
- the community gardens group held a meeting on March 24 and overall attendance was very good, and a committee has been formed.
- the youth centre hosted two family events in March.
- the learn to crochet classes finished on March 14, and a request was made to have the Crochet Café continue for the month of April and early May.
- The dog park will be closed to the public from mid-April to the second week in May for seeding and fertilizing.

b) Resolution RC001 – 2015 Skatepark Steering Committee

Moved by Councillor Gail MacDonald

Seconded by Councillor Diane Griffin

WHEREAS the youth in the community has been asking for a skatepark to be built and \$150,000 has been included in the 2015 capital budget towards the cost of such a facility; and

WHEREAS it is desirable to establish a Steering Committee to engage the community and assist the Recreation, Culture and Events Committee and Council in the design, siting and funding of the skatepark.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Stratford Skatepark Steering Committee be hereby established in accordance with the attached Terms of Reference and that the following persons be appointed to the committee:

- Jody MacLeod
- Pam Forrester
- Adam Ramsay
- Monty Gautreau
- Alex Stokes
- Daniel Larter
- RCMP representative –to be determined
- Heather Brown
- John Cummings
- Kim Mooney
- Duane Pineau

Discussion: Councillor MacDonald noted that she is leaving out two names at this time as she hasn't received final confirmation from them. They will be brought forward next month.

Question: **CARRIED**

Councillor Clow noted that he read an article in the Eastern Graphic that eastern PEI is going through a similar process. He suggested that it might be helpful for this new committee to touch base with the committee in eastern PEI.

12. FINANCE AND TECHNOLOGY

a) Report

Included in the package for review. Acting Mayor Cooper stated that the committee held a meeting on March 24 and reviewed various items. He noted that we are now waiting for the auditors to come back with their final report.

Acting Mayor Cooper noted that we had a guest (Charlene Morrison) attend the meeting to see if she would like to become a member of the committee. She has agreed to become a member and further in the agenda there will be a resolution to appoint her to the committee.

b) Finance Statements

Included in the package for Council to review.

Acting Mayor Cooper noted that snow removal is up all over the Island and that includes Stratford. We had \$38,800 in our budget this year for sidewalk maintenance. The allocation for budget year to date is \$24,000 and we have already spent \$60,000 of our sidewalk budget. One thing that we are really focused on in the Town is that we are an active living community and we want to provide the best modes of active transportation. We had some great comments from residents on how the contractors were out as soon as possible clearing the snow away.

Acting Mayor Cooper noted that our grant money has not yet been received for the first quarter, and we need it to put us back on track.

13. PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND HERITAGE

a) No Report

The committee did not hold a meeting in March. Councillor Griffin took a moment to welcome Patrick Carroll, the Town's new Director of Planning, Development and Heritage. She noted that she is looking forward to getting to know him and having him work with us.

Councillor Griffin stated that there has not been a lot of development activity in the Town. She noted that compared to the same time last year (\$780,000), we have had only \$100,000 worth of permits issued. However, considering the winter we have had it is probably not out of line and we are hoping it will soon start to get busy.

Councillor Griffin noted that an application has been submitted to the Canadian Heritage Foundation World War I Commemoration Community Fund for \$5,000 to help publish the Stratford Heroes. This is a book about Stratford service people who served in the First World War. It would really help with the project if we could get this funding.

b) Permit Summary

The permit summary is included in the package. Councillor Griffin gave a brief overview of the summary.

c) Resolution PH003-2015 – Public Meeting – Special Permitted Use – Apartment in PURD Zone Southside Greens – Kinlock Road

**Moved by Councillor Diane Griffin
Seconded by Councillor Steve Ogden**

WHEREAS an application has been received from Southside Greens Inc. (formerly known as Greenway Realty project) to change the use of Lot 6 within a concept plan that was approved by the Town of Stratford on Sept 11, 2013, from a 48 unit Community Care Facility to 2-24 Unit Apartment Buildings; and

WHEREAS Lot 6 is accessed directly from the Kinlock Road and the Town felt this could be seen as a potential traffic issue; and

WHEREAS the developer has been proactive in engaging the services of a traffic engineer to study the proposed development and the conclusion states that the traffic impacts resulting from the proposed apartment buildings will be negligible, and the project may proceed as planned; and

WHEREAS Section 12 of the Town's Development Bylaw classifies Apartments as Special Permit Use and Council shall hold a public meeting on the proposal with neighboring property owners and residents and acquire their inputs before making a decision.

BE IT RESOLVED that approval be granted to hold a public meeting on **April 22, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.** in order to provide an opportunity for the developer to present the proposed development to residents and obtain their input regarding the Special Permitted Use of “Apartments” on the subject property.

Discussion: This resolution bears the recommendation of the Planning, Development and Heritage Committee via an email poll.

Kevin Reynolds explained the request with the aid of the overhead. Acting Mayor Cooper noted that residents were notified in the past and should be notified again. Kevin purposed that the same list be used, but that it be updated to include any new property owners in the area.

Question: **CARRIED**

14. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

a) Resolution CW005-2015 Provincial Infrastructure Fund Projects

Moved by Councillor Gary Clow

Seconded by Councillor Gail MacDonald

WHEREAS the Province has established the Provincial Infrastructure Fund (PIF) to help offset the impact of the imposition of the HST on municipalities; and

WHEREAS \$150,000 was allocated to the Town of Stratford for 2015/16; and

WHEREAS Council has identified the development of a new skatepark in Stratford as its priority for the 2015/16 allocation from the PIF.

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2015/16 PIF allocation of \$150,000 be allocated to the skatepark.

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

Question: **CARRIED**

b) Resolution CW006-2015 – Gas Tax Capital Investment Plans

Moved by Councillor Gary Clow

Seconded by Councillor Keith MacLean

WHEREAS the Town of Stratford receives an annual allocation funds from the federal Gas Tax program as follows:

Stratford	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Total
Allocation	\$767,006	\$767,006	\$816,580	\$816,580	\$866,155	\$4,033,327

AND WHEREAS capital investment plans are required to be submitted to indicate what the Gas Tax funds will be used for, and have been submitted for the 2014/15 allocation of funds in 2014; and

WHEREAS the Town spent approximately \$374,000 of our 2014/15 allocation so we included the unspent amount of approximately \$393,000, plus an estimated \$22,000 in interest to be earned, in the present applications.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Gas Tax money be allocated to the following projects in accordance with the attached Capital Investment Plans, and that the Town understands that it is responsible for its share of the funding where indicated, and for the ongoing operation and maintenance cost of the infrastructure that is funded under this program:

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Totals
Splash Park			\$100,000			\$100,000
Sidewalk/Bike Path Construction	\$224,215	\$400,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$1,374,215
Trail Construction		\$100,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$250,000
Core Area Capital Projects		\$0		\$200,000		\$200,000
Gateway/Waterfront Project		\$135,000	\$250,000	\$150,000	\$250,000	\$785,000
Fullerton's Creek Conservation Park		\$200,000	\$195,000	\$95,000	\$115,000	\$605,000
Town Centre Generator		\$260,000				\$260,000
Totals	\$224,215	\$1,095,000	\$845,000	\$745,000	\$665,000	\$3,574,215

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

Question: **CARRIED**

c) Resolution CW007-2015 Committee Member Appointment

Moved by Councillor Keith MacLean

Seconded by Councillor Gary Clow

WHEREAS Council has established Special Committees and sub-committees to those Special Committees in Bylaw #33, the Stratford Committee Bylaw, to advise and assist Council in its deliberations; and

WHEREAS the Bylaw provides for the appointment of residents by Council to provide public input to Council in its deliberations; and

WHEREAS the Finance and Technology Committee is in need of one more member for their committee.

BE IT RESOLVED that Charlene Morrison be appointed to the Finance and Technology Committee for the remainder of the two year term ending November 30, 2016.

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

Question: **CARRIED**

d) **Resolution CW010-2015 – Mike and Leslie Hill – Purchase of Parcel B – Brookside Drive Clearview Estates**

Moved by Councillor Diane Griffin

Seconded by Councillor Keith MacLean

WHEREAS the Town of Stratford approved a subdivision of Clearview Estates Phase 2 on February 7, 2014; and

WHEREAS this subdivision included the creation of 6 single family dwelling lots, the extension of Brookside Drive and Parcel B (a portion of land between Brookside Drive and the Hill property identified as parcel number 1068345); and

WHEREAS Mike and Leslie Hill have expressed interest in obtaining Parcel B, identified as parcel number 1068345, from the Town of Stratford in order for their existing lot to border the newly extended public road; and

WHEREAS the Town of Stratford have reviewed this requested and determined Parcel B is of no significant use to the Town; and

WHEREAS Parcel B has an assessed value of \$600.00 based on the Provincial Taxation Department.

BE IT RESOLVED that approval be granted to Mike and Leslie Hill for the purchase of Parcel B, formally known as parcel number 1068345, from the Town of Stratford for the value of \$600.00 plus the legal expenses associated with the transaction.

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

Question: **CARRIED**

15. **SAFETY SERVICES**

a) **Report**

Included in the package for Council to review. Councillor Ogden noted that the last committee meeting was held on March 9 and there were a number of issues discussed and following are a few of the highlights:

- The street lighting on Saints Crescent is a long standing issue and the outcome of the discussion was to set up a meeting with the developer to see if a solution can be reached. It is an issue that needs to be resolved as soon as possible because it is a safety issue.
- There was also a discussion about a request for street lighting around Radcliffe and Shore Drive. There was a letter sent to residents in the area to see how many wanted additional street lighting. The majority of residents on Radcliffe were okay with having lighting installed; however, the majority of residents on Shore Drive did not want more lighting. Because of this, the committee decided to

install only half the number of lights requested. The number of lights installed met the minimum requirements, and hopefully they will not cause anyone any problems.

- There was some discussion about a loitering problem in an area of the Town and the committee discussed the need for surveillance cameras. It does have budget implications, so it was agreed that the CAO Robert Hughes and the director of infrastructure Jeremy Crosby will contact other communities, notably Charlottetown and Cornwall, to find out what they are doing and make recommendations that we could consider for the next budget year. However, in the short term the RCMP will be asked to do additional patrols of the area. Citizens on Patrol are also keeping an eye on the area.
- There was some discussion regarding the litter problem in the Town and the need for additional garbage cans – particularly at bus stops and major intersections. Staff will be making recommendations at the next meeting and hopefully a recommendation will be made to Council. Councillor Ogden noted that one of the main issues is that they need to be emptied on a regular basis, and some of the garbage cans that are in place such as Kinlock Beach are not being emptied on a regular basis and we need to determine why that is. Joanne Weir noted that a check list used for the different parks. However, what we have been finding the past few years is that residents are going in and dumping their own garbage in our cans. She added that we don't have a solution yet to stop people from doing this. Councillor Clow stated that other areas have had a similar problem and what they did was have their bylaw officer go through the garbage to see if they are able to identify who put it there. They will then contact the person and advise them that it is not allowed.
- There has been a long standing request for a crosswalk on Bunbury Road at No Frills, but the Department of Highways did a survey and determined that there was not enough pedestrian traffic to warrant a crosswalk. However, it is a safety issue and the committee is asking that a letter be sent to the province and ask for a crosswalk – even though it doesn't meet the policy because we need a solution before someone gets hurt.
- Kinlock Park was also discussed and it was noted that there is a lot of congestion when games are taking place. One of the committee members lives in the area and suggested that in the short term that parking restrictions be put in place and changes be made to the baseball and soccer schedule - limiting the number of games to minimize the congestion.

b) Street Light Report

Nil

c) RCMP Report

Included in the agenda package for Council to review.

d) Humane Society Report

Included in the package.

e) Transit Report

Included in the agenda package for Council to review. Our numbers are staying strong – near the same level as March of 2014.

Robert noted that there was a Capital Area Coordinating Committee meeting recently and the transit operator presented his statistics on ridership and he also made some requests in terms of routes that he feels would be an improvement to the system. The operator did say he would be interested in purchasing some mini busses as they are easier to get around in the winter.

f) Fire Company Report

Identified as a major issue this year was the clearing of snow from propane furnace vents. We need to minimize the danger because there were a number of ‘near misses’ this year. Homeowners need to be made aware of the fact that vents in the new propane furnace systems have to be kept clear.

16. SUSTAINABILITY

- a) The committee did not hold a meeting in March. Acting Mayor Cooper noted that Pesticide Free PEI will be holding a public event on Saturday afternoon (April 11) at the Stratford Town Centre at 1:00 p.m. He added that the Town will continue its process of due diligence in regards to the pesticide issues.

Acting Mayor Cooper noted that on Saturday, March 21, the Town of Stratford hosted a Multicultural Fashion Show at the Stratford Town Centre in recognition of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

First established in 1966, and proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on March 21. As a member of CCMARD, Stratford commemorates the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to support our commitment to create a welcoming, diverse and inclusive community that is free from any forms of discrimination. March 21 also reminds us to raise our voices against discrimination by strengthening racial harmony and celebrating cultural diversity.

During the Multicultural Fashion Show, ethno-cultural groups, including Chinese, Sri Lankan, Scottish, Philipino and many many more share a part of their heritage and ethnic traditions through the display of traditional costumes. The event was enjoyed by many families, as well as new and long term residents.

Councillor MacLean took a moment to thank Kim Dudley for overseeing the fantastic Multicultural Fashion Show.

Thilak Tennekone Nominate as Finalist for Top 25 Immigrant Awards

Acting Mayor Cooper stated that the Town of Stratford is pleased to congratulate Thilak Tennekone for being selected as one of the 75 finalists for the 7th annual RBC Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Awards.

Thilak Tennekone moved from Sri Lanka to PEI several decades ago and has been instrumental in making PEI a more inclusive and welcoming province. He achieves this through his work in his current position as diversity consultant for the Public Commission, and as chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Sub-committee for the Town of Stratford. Thilak has always shown his belief in working together for a more inclusive community, frequently suggesting partnerships or cooperation between various organizations for the good of the Whole. One such event includes the Town of Stratford's Canada Day celebrations where he helps organize a multicultural showcase within the popular event.

The Canadian Immigrant Magazine has officially started the online voting stage for the RBC Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Awards for 2015. These awards are known as a People's Choice Award, so voting is an important part of the process to narrow down the shortlist to the final 25.

We invite all residents to go to www.canadianimmigrant.ca/rbctop25 between now and May 11, 2015, to vote for Thilak. The top 25 winners will then be announced online on June 23, 2015 and will be featured in the July print edition of Canadian Immigrant.

The Town of Stratford is committed to creating a welcoming and inclusive community and is very proud to have residents like Thilak who are essential for our success in building the best community possible.

17. ACCOUNTABILITY AND ENGAGEMENT

- a) Report included in the package for Council to review. Councillor MacLean noted that so far the on-line survey is up about 25% over last year. He noted that the paper copies should be going out in the next few days and we hope to have the same great response as the online survey.

It was noted that we will start the traffic safety program again in the spring by installing the large signs at the entrance of the communities.

Councillor MacLean stated that the next meeting of the committee will be a strategic planning meeting on 'buy local.' We also plan to review the work that was done by the former buy local committee.

Councillor Griffin stated that it is wonderful to see such a great response again on our survey.

18. HUMAN RESOURCES

No report

19. OTHER COMMITTEES

a) Stratford Seniors Complex

Report is included in the package. Councillor MacDonald gave a brief summary of the report noting that new signage will be posted regarding the no smoking policy. The signs will be posted at all exit doors – inside and out. She noted that both vacancies in the complex have been filled as of today.

There will be a fire drill at the complex near the end of May and two staff members who volunteer with the fire department will help with the drill.

Councillor MacDonald noted that Kevin Reynolds did the snow removal at the complex over the winter, and he did an excellent job.

20. PROCLAMATIONS

Nil

21. OTHER BUSINESS

It was noted that our summer meetings from June to September will start at 4:30 p.m. Our June meeting date will have to change because many councillors will be attending the FCM conference during the regular meeting date. A formal resolution will be brought to the May Council meeting on both of these items.

22. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Randy Cooper, Acting Mayor

Robert Hughes, CAO