

Highland Park AGM
January 25, 2015
Tantallon Library 2:00pm

- Welcome and opening remarks: Kelly Bush
- Kelly calls meeting to order, introduces executive. Kelly explains why we host the meeting and that residents are welcome to bring issues forward.
- Minutes accepted
first - Stephanie Adams
second – Kelly Bush
- Agenda accepted
first – Pamela Craig
second – Stephanie Adams
- Update from Matt Whitman, HRM Councillor

Updates -

- Zoning -
Public information meeting for Highland Park, last meeting was not well attended but not well communicated either. Next meeting about zoning will be in March, and will be well publicised. Everyone encouraged to come to learn more on the issue.
- Hammonds Plains Road and Capital Works -
Road widening 2015 will be Pockwock Road to Northwood Road. 2016 will be Lucasville Road to Kingswood Drive.
Second Exit/entrance by Grant Line Road must be built at developer's expense and currently no plans.
- Transit – bus service (additional stops or round trips for Metro X)
Transit study being done. Meeting Feb 26 at Sunnyside mall.
- Property tax increase 1.8%
Has not gone through, looking at 0 or 1.8. The last 2 years have had zero increases. Trying to keep taxes where they are.
- Street Lights -
311 needs to be notified for lights to be fixed in an expected 3 day turn around – bring the reference number to Matt Whitman if the lights do not get fixed after 2 weeks.
- Park and Playground upgrades – Advice for our committee -
Southwood park, Resident inquired on rotten wood on play structures.
Some parks may be due for upgrade which would come out of Highland Park budget.
Looking for a group of people to organize and start an audit with the city and develop a plan for the park.
Email / FB call to go out

A resident inquired on salting brine vs sand– Matt answered that brine has a higher concentration of salt than sand mixture but less is used, so safe for roads, wells and septic.

A resident inquired regarding painting highway lines. Be careful and watch for your neighbours. The possibility of paving a rumble strip on Hammonds Plains Road's new paved section for 2015 will be checked into by Matt.

- Update from Ben Jessome, MLA introduces himself.
 - Wallace Hills Entertainment Centre-
not a casino, and will never be, as it is only limited to VLT machines. Further development being fostered with no alcohol license involved.

- Shubenacadie First Nations' Band Plans for the future
 - How can we create a win-win situation with our neighbours, what revenue streams would we support? Ben has had positive experiences with the band involving discussion of value from the community perspective.
Question – Put forward a survey for the community of what business or venture would the community support? Ben will discuss this with the band committee.

- Provincial Funding
 - Is there any available to assist with capital works (ie Can the old Grant Line Road turned into a trail) Department of Health and Wellness Application process for the Recreation Facility Development Grant is required. Package considers who owns the land. Work with counsellor regarding park development throughout Highland Park.

- MLA Office

Teresa is Ben's new office manager His office is at 2120 Hammonds Plains Road next to Hammonds Plains Family and Walk-in Clinic.
Office hours Monday – Thursday, 8:30-4:30. Call ahead and they can make flexible appointments.
Starting outreach program for business profiles– every business community will have an offering on Ben's webpage for advertising. Working with public service on coming up with a youth strategy, working to create front end positions for recent or new graduates. Will be launched mid March.

 - Property Assessments are going up what is the revenue used for?
Cap will remain intact, Union of Nova Scotia Municipality requested to remove cap, but the Minister is not prepared to move it. Ben will be keeping an eye but as of now the cap is intact.
 - Hammonds Plains Community Centre will get an upgrade for a wheelchair ramp.
 - Volunteer firefighter tax credit will not be taken away and has been taken off the table.
 - This Wednesday the Minister of Education set aside time to talk about where the education system is moving. Ben hosted a group of people in December; report will be submitted and will be online by the end of the week. The response will come out over the next couple of weeks.
 - 'Please don't speed signs' for personal property available if interested contact Ben's office.
 - Ingranport Exit on Highway 103 between exits 5 and 6 will be completed in 2016. Province has made twinning of the stretch between exits 5 and 6 a priority but does not have finances without help of the feds. Will cost \$2-3 million per km over the 21km stretch.
 - Question inquiring Highway 101 and Margeson drive extension? No answer, project approved just working on developments - Ben will follow up.
 - A resident raised a concern about growing population and lack of medical facilities.

- Budget (Actual and Plan) - Pamela and Kelly
 - Pamela went through budget, see budget and financial reports posted to the website.
 - 3 year plan was presented with spacing out projects.
residents inquired on submitting proposals for projects. Parks, culvert.
 - Risk losing funding without spending the budget so going forward with the culvert was decided.
Pamela will take photos of the green spaces allotted to the neighbourhood for residents to see spaces available for community use. Will be added to map currently available on the website
 - Budget Vote
Motion to approve - Jerry Samson
 - Second - Marie Muise
 - Budget Passed

- Highland Park Year in Review
 - Community Yard Sale – Stephanie
 - Dates for 2015 , advertising will be on signs and Kijiji, tentative date will be June 13 and 14.
 - Neighbourhood clean-up – Stephanie
Neighbourhood clean-up will coincide with Clean NS weekend. Great turn out in 2014, cleaned out public areas and fanned out to clean as a community.
 - May 9 is the date for the Great NS Pick Me Up. Reminders will be posted on website and social media.

- Community Activity – Jenny
 - Good turnout for Family Fun Day in 2014 on June 21st. Fun day had bouncy castles, tattoos and face painting as well as snacks. Will do the fun day again this year.
 - Date for Highland Park Fun Day 2015... June 20th will advertise on mailboxes, signs, webpage, email and social media.

- Timberlane Terrace Development – Kelly

We currently have park land allotted in our neighbourhood. There is 4 acres of land on Timberlane given to develop. Not much new development going forward, HRM needs to tender the project. Working with Matt Whitman on plan of action and start with getting our culvert in. Ben offered his help as well.

- New Community Sign – Kelly

third portable sign is finished so all three entrances will have one available for events, meetings, etc

- Speeding in the Park – Stephanie

Encouraged to call RCMP. Enough calls and RCMP will usually monitor the area. Citizens on Patrol have a speed radar donated by Matt Whitman for use. Inquiry on cleaning the brush around the stop signs to see the Hammonds Plains Road, as well as at Pinetree and Northwood stop signs. Kelly to follow up.
- Area Rate Discussion – Stephanie

Residents in attendance agreed that our rate is extremely low and agreed in starting the process of investigating the process to consider an increase.
- A resident inquired on putting HRM signs out for directions to ball diamond. Will contact Matt.

- Nominations and Vote for Executive Positions
 - Secretary – Jenny Lipton

Nomination received and acclaimed into position

- Meeting Closure