



TOWN OF
Mahone Bay

**Events Permitting
Public Information Meeting**



WHY

The current guidelines on Festival planning are out of date as Special Events in Mahone Bay have grown beyond three major festivals in a year

Issues that have been identified include:

- Need to streamline process for event organizers
- Need for clarity in regulations
- Need for timely planning communication
- Need for better coordination within the Town

This is what we see:

- Event Planning is hectic for both Event Organizers and Town Staff
- Not all events involve temporary vending and not all vending is related to events.
- Events bring increased vehicular and pedestrian traffic to Town which can result in crowding and parking issues, especially where road or sidewalk use or closure is anticipated.
- Crowding can create concerns for Emergency Services and Emergency Access
- Signage can clutter busy streets and sidewalks
- Large crowds are a strain on public services and local businesses
- Overlapping events increase all of the above factors

Our proposal:

An events permitting structure that is separate from vending

Our request:

Your input, suggestions, comments, observations, and thoughts about Events in Mahone Bay to help us develop what this could look like.

What do you think about...

Traffic – parking, sidewalk and street closures, marshals and routes, etc.

Event and Regulatory Signage

Town services

Location/Scheduling of Events

Solid Waste Management

Permit applications and Fees

Annual/Recurring Events

What Happens Next

- A draft by-law will be brought to Council for review
- Council will review the draft by-law and either ask staff for amendments or pass a motion to give first reading
- A Public Hearing to receive comments from the public would be scheduled before Council considered the By-law for 2nd and final reading
- The new by-law will be communicated to the public, posted on the Town website, and communicated to planners of current events
- The procedure for events permit applications will be clearly outlined on the Town website for those who want to plan an event in Mahone Bay or learn more about how to do so.



THANK YOU



www.townofmahonebay.ca

Public Information Meeting – Events Planning

April 29, 2020

Online

Attendees

Council: 4

Staff: 2

Public: 5

Topics Discussed

- Washroom/Hygiene Facilities need to be adequate for attendees
- Traffic Congestion is and the “impossibility of movement” is a problem and needs to be taken into consideration when planning an event
 - o Parking and Emergency vehicles are the most critical
 - Consider designated parking
 - Consider paid parking with money going toward improved visitor infrastructure
 - o Marshalls for guidance with parking, etc
- Signage – needs to be coordinated
 - o Need to be aware of lines of sight
 - o Need to preserve attractive/uncluttered appearance
 - o Need to avoid blocking streets/sidewalks/walking paths
- Garbage clearance needs to be a part of the plan
- Basic Hygiene/bathrooms must be a part of the planning to accommodate crowds
- Limit concurrent events to prevent overwhelming the town’s infrastructure
 - o Events that we have are concentrated in a few days
 - o Work with emergency services providers to identify what is a manageable level of attendees
 - o Over-planning overwhelms the Town without benefit to businesses and causes disturbance to residence
- Are event planners properly insured for the possibilities i.e. intoxication
- Increased “policing” of “the rules” during planned events
 - o Partnership between Town and event-organized staff
- Vendors should apply to event organizers before a set deadline so that there is time to prepare for what to expect and to coordinate and communicate amongst organizers, residents, businesses, Town staff, and other community groups
- Improved communication is essential