



The regular meeting of the Cemetery Committee for the Town of Mahone Bay was held on Monday, March 18, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Present:

Councillor J. Bain (Chair)
Councillor J. Feeney
B. Morse
B. Veinotte
CAO, D. Heide
MoF, L. Wentzell
DOO, D. MacKenzie

Regrets: None

Gallery: 0

Agenda

A motion by Councillor J. Feeney, seconded by Mr. Morse, **“THAT the agenda be approved as presented.”**

Motion carried.

Minutes

A motion by Mr. Morse, seconded by Mr. Veinotte, **“THAT the minutes of the September 17, 2018 Cemetery Committee meeting be approved as circulated.”**

Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor J. Feeney, seconded by Mr. Morse, **“THAT the minutes of the November 29, 2018 Cemetery Committee meeting be approved as circulated.”**

Motion carried.

The CAO reported that the by-law revision recommended by the Committee at the November 29, 2018 meeting has now been completed.

Business Arising from the Minutes

A) Maintenance Report

The Committee received a report from the Director of Operations and discussed monuments, trees and roadwork in Park and Bayview cemeteries. Budget allocations for monuments and trees not spent in 2018-19 would be utilized in 2019-20 if possible.

A motion by Councillor J. Feeney, seconded by Mr. Veinotte, **“THAT the Committee advise staff to reflect considerations re monuments, trees and roadwork for Park and Bayview cemeteries in 2019-20 budget preparations for recommendation to Council.”**

Motion carried.

B) Cemetery Finance

Councillor J. Feeney initiated discussion concerning long-term cemetery financing. Members discussed what steps would be necessary to sufficiently fund the cemeteries’ perpetual care fund such that the revenue generated by investment of these funds would fully provide for ongoing cemetery costs.

A motion by Councillor J. Feeney, seconded by Mr. Morse, **“THAT the Committee recommend that Council direct staff to contribute one hundred percent of plot sales to perpetual care fund for 2019-20 and not to draw on the fund in 2019-20.”**

Motion carried

To further build up the perpetual care fund members discussed revenue generating opportunities such as pre-selling plots or installing one or more columbaria. Expansion of Park cemetery was also discussed and it was agreed that this would be placed on the Committee’s next meeting agenda.

A motion by Councillor J. Feeney, seconded by Mr. Veinotte, **“THAT the Committee recommend that Council direct staff to investigate establishing one or both cemeteries as stand-alone charities.”**

Motion carried.

C) Donations Policy

CAO D. Heide initiated discussion concerning recent requests concerning the donation of benches and trees in the cemeteries. Other municipalities have adopted policies governing donations of various sorts – including charitable financial donations – to parks and cemeteries. Members agreed that such a policy would benefit the Town and cemetery by accommodating requests from the public as well as by encouraging financial donations to the perpetual care fund, supporting the prior discussion of cemetery financing.

A motion by Councillor J. Feeney, seconded by Mr. Veinotte, **“THAT the Committee recommend that Council direct staff to investigate the development of a Town Donations Policy.”**

Motion carried.

It was further suggested that the Town could look into applying for a Conservation Advice Grant from the NS Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage (next deadline May 15, 2019).

New Business

Heritage Awards

Councillor J. Feeney acknowledged with gratitude the Town’s recognition at the upcoming Heritage Awards for the Bayview Cemetery Project; he specifically thanked the volunteers and Town/MODC staff for their efforts.

Monuments

Members confirmed that the committee would discuss 2019 monuments rehabilitation at the Committee’s June meeting, following adoption of the 2019-20 budget by Council.

Cemetery Rates

It was agreed that Members would review and discuss rates charged by comparable cemeteries for possible recommendation to Council at the Committee’s June meeting.

Next Meeting

3:30 PM on June 17, 2019

Meeting adjourned upon motion at 4:19 p.m.

Town of Mahone Bay

Town of Mahone Bay

Town Clerk, Maureen Hughes

Mayor, David Devenne