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A meeting of the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee for the Town of Mahone Bay was held on Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, at 9:05 a.m. at the Mahone Bay Centre (45 School Street).

Present

Councillor Penny Carver

Councillor Kelly Wilson

Veryan Haysom

John Evarts

Gregg Little

Amanda Montgomery

Lauren Clark, Climate & Energy Program Manager (Secretary)

Absent:

Dylan Heide, CAO (with regrets)

Richard Wilson

1. Approval of Agenda

A motion by V. Haysom, seconded by G. Little, "THAT the agenda be approved"

Motion carried.

2. Approval of the Minutes

A motion by V. Haysom, seconded by G. Little, "THAT the minutes of April 10th, 2024 be approved as amended to add the word "decision" after the word "Council" in 3. c."

Motion carried.

3. Updates

3.a) MBARC document – April 9<sup>th</sup> Council meeting decision

It was reiterated that the MBARC public engagement plan had been approved and that communications to the community about the project should begin soon.

3.b) Communities in Bloom (CiB)

Councillor Carver and A. Montgomery (informal liaison for CiB) communicated various details about the program. Committee members discussed potential avenues for involvement with Communities in Bloom going forward.



### 3.c) Coastal Protection Act

A motion by V. Haysom, seconded by A. Montgomery

#### **“Whereas:**

1. On 26 February 2024 the Government of Nova Scotia announced a plan to protect people, homes and nature in a document titled *The Future of Our Coastline* (“the plan”);
2. The plan is intended, amongst other things, to support municipal leadership to adapt to the impacts of climate change in the belief that municipalities are best equipped to take critical action designing and building coastal communities that are safe and resilient to climate change;
3. The Town of Mahone Bay lacks jurisdictional control over the shoreline and near shore necessary to (i) take effective action for protection of the community, (ii) adapt to climate-driven changes to the ocean and the shoreline, and (iii) transition to a safe and resilient coastal community; and
4. The Town of Mahone Bay is not equipped to take the critical actions necessary to protect our community and coastline in the face of climate change, including sea-rise, storm surges, and increasing wave intensities and heights,

#### **Now, therefore, the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee recommends to Mahone Bay Town Council that:**

By way of responding to the letter sent on February 26, 2024, to all municipalities by The Hon. John A. Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and The Hon. Timothy Halman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, the Council formally request the Federation of Nova Scotia Municipalities to engage with the Government of Nova Scotia to ensure that all coastal communities are fully equipped to effectively protect and manage our coast and to adapt to climate change, including by:

1. enacting amendments to the *Municipal Government Act*:
  - (a) to grant coastal municipalities clear regulatory powers with respect to the control and management of all aspects of coastal protection and development; and

- (b) to extend the territorial jurisdiction of coastal municipalities to adjacent near shore areas that are
    - (i) solely under provincial jurisdiction; and
    - (ii) reasonably necessary for purposes of protecting the community from, and facilitating its adaptation to, the oceanic effects of climate change; and
  - (c) to exempt municipalities, their councilors and staff from any action or proceeding in respect of anything done or omitted to be done by any of them in the good faith exercise of a power or performance of any duty or function related to coastal protection and development including any errors or omissions in decisions, maps, plans and zoning designations or boundaries and any decision, action taken or structure installed or erected for purposes of protecting the community from sea-level rise, flooding, and other impacts attributable to climate change; and
2. establishing arrangements by which regular and adequate funding will be provided:
- (a) to equip Nova Scotia communities to be safe and resilient to climate change; and
  - (b) to enable coastal communities to provide programs, services and infrastructure related to coastal protection and management; and
  - (c) without limiting the generality of the foregoing, to ensure that municipal governments possess the capacities and resources necessary for climate change adaptation and resilience and for coastal protection and management including: staff; the data and technologies required for site-specific flood and erosion mapping; relocation and re-engineering of municipal infrastructure; development of community adaptation and resilience; enhancement and management of green infrastructure; nature-based solutions for coastal protection; and administration and enforcement of community coastal management and climate change adaptation regimes.”
- Motion carried.



#### 4. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

Committee members discussed the invasive species, hemlock woolly adelgid in the context of old growth hemlock trees in town, including in Jubilee Woods. There was a discussion of various preventative methods and treatments being applied by the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables, the Town of Bridgewater, and Atlantic Tree Solutions. There was some discussion around public engagement, economies of scale in terms of prevention and treatment, and the importance of hemlocks, particularly when it comes to water retention, as they grow in wetlands and how areas of Jubilee Park would be flooded if the hemlocks were to disappear.

#### 5. NSFM Low Carbon Leadership Conference

L. Clark relayed information to committee members about this upcoming event.

#### 6. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

TOWN OF MAHONE BAY

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Chair, Councillor Penny Carver

Climate and Energy Program Manager  
Lauren Clark (Acting Recording Secretary)