



**TOWN OF SAINT ANDREWS
EMERGENCY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

**November 23, 2020, 6:00 p.m.
Electronic Meeting**

A. RECORDING OF ATTENDANCE

An Emergency Meeting of the Town of Saint Andrews Council was held on 23, November 2020 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present:

Mayor Doug Naish, Deputy Mayor Brad Henderson, Councillor Edie Bishop, Kate Akagi, Andrew Harrison, and Guy Groulx.

Absent: Councillor Kurt Gumushel

Also Present: Chris Spear, CAO/Treasurer, Paul Nopper, Clerk - Senior Administrator

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Motion: 410 - 11/20

Moved by Councillor Bishop

Seconded by Councillor Akagi

That the Agenda be approved as presented.

5 – 0 Carried

C. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

NONE

D. PRESENTATIONS

NONE

E. INTRODUCTION, CONSIDERATION AND PASSING OF BY-LAWS AND MOTIONS

1. Emergency Meeting Discussion on COVID-19

Mayor Naish - highlighted agenda for COVID-19 update

CAO Spear - Presentation on COVID-19

- *Friday and Saturday Zone 1 and 2 went back to Orange Level.*
- *Communicate proposed changes to operations*
 - *For support from council and questions.*
 - *Answer any questions around suggestions.*
- *Key points*
 - *Masks are mandatory in all public spaces, parking lots, trails, etc.*
 - *Fines handed out in southern NB.*
 - *Single household bubble*
 - *Masks indoor and out.*

- *Arena can operate*
- *Had Q and A with Dr. Barker, even at council meetings in person, masks to be worn even with physical distancing.*
- *Arenas and businesses can stay open with plans*
- **Gatherings**
 - *Household limit to own bubble - allow 1 caretaker or immediate family member allowed but that's it.*
 - *Outdoor gatherings limited to 25 people. (organize events no more)*
 - *Indoor gatherings can still happen according to operations plans.*
 - *Restaurants, Pubs, Bars, only household bubbles can sit together.*
 - *maintain 2 metre distance between tables.*
 - *Do not go out with friends or family, not in your household.*
- **Recommended Changes to Saint Andrews (enforceable by the Town)**
- **Town Government**
 - *All meetings via video conferencing.*
 - *Entry only at the town hall in the vestibule.*
 - *Only staff within office space.*
 - *Public washrooms should be closed.*
- **Arena**
 - *Can operate with COVID plan.*
 - *Heather Curling Club pauses on the season until later*
 - *No games, only practices.*
 - *Only 1 adult per player*
 - *Suspend use of meeting rooms.*
 - *Some groups have stopped with this move to Orange.*
 - *Minimize the number of users to stop crossings.*
 - *Councillor Groulx - Can we have a team of 15 people bubbles? would it not be easier, suspend operations of the arena until we move back to yellow? Should we operate? To me in my mind, think we should reflect on this.*
 - *CAO Spear - We need Council's direction on this. Province still allowing if they follow COVID-19 operation plans.*
- **CAO Spear - Youth Centre**
 - *We can operate with fewer people allowed in the facility.*
 - *Should operate as the best place for some people to go. The facility provides meals to youth.*
- **Christmas Celebrations**
 - *Public tree lighting should wait until Yellow. Concerns on length of time. Could do it virtually.*
 - *Businesses can operate - Sparkle By-The-Sea can keep going and Gingerbread House contest. If the Council has concerns, we can pass them along. Struggle for what businesses can do.*
 - *Christmas Parade*

- *Drive-by was planned at NBCC. Floats would be set up in order and residents drive-by. We will talk with the Christmas Committee on reasonability. This question was asked during the call with Province, still waiting for input from them.*
- *No workplace gatherings until Yellow Level. Any businesses should avoid getting together in one large group until Yellow Lone.*

After the presentation by CAO Spear, Council spoke on the following:

W. C. O'Neill Arena Complex

Council debated the Arena and maintaining programs during the Orange Level. Staff provided an overview of the Operational Plan for the Arena highlighting physical distancing measures, limited personnel, and mask-wearing always. Council debated the inclusion of additional rules in instill over and above the Provincial regulations or to close down the facility for two weeks. Council also debated the pros and cons that closing the facility would have on user groups, mental health, and wellness. For Orange Level, bookings would be limited to Charlotte County residents only and all games are canceled. The Heather Curling Club noted they will be taking a 2-week hiatus and would reassess use after this timeline.

Housing Bubbles

Staff provided clarification on what a single house bubble means under the Provincial regulations. The household bubble concept highlights only associating with people within your household. If you are a single person, you can bubble with another single person from another household. Council spoke on the inconsistencies in the messaging coming from the Province and how to interpret the grey areas in the rules.

Trails and Mask Wearing

Council asked for clarification on the wearing of masks and when should residents be wearing them. Under the Provincial regulations for Orange Level, masks must be worn indoors and outdoors, including on trails. The goal is always to have a mask with you and to wear it within a minimum of 6 feet or 2 metres of distance away from others.

Town Hall Washrooms

Council had concerns regarding the closure of the washrooms at Town Hall. Staff provided an outlook of reasons for closing the washrooms due to cleaning, disinfecting, and costs. The Red Herring Pub offered to allow the public access to washrooms during their operating hours. The Red Herring Pub provided clean and disinfected washrooms on the hour and mandates contact tracing. Staff was directed to work with the owners of the Red Herring Pub on public washrooms and support for them.

Christmas Events

Council had consensus on delaying the Christmas Parade until further notice to reduce gatherings for those building floats. Council had a consensus on moving the Tree Lighting Ceremony virtually and to reach out to CHCO TV to make the event virtual.

Council Meetings

All Council Meetings scheduled for in-person will now be via Zoom. All meetings of Council will take place via Zoom until out of Orange Level and then Council will re-evaluate.

Community Youth Activity Centre

Staff informed Council with changes to the Operation Plan for the Youth Centre, we can still operate in the Orange Level. It is important to keep the facility open as it provides a safe space for youth and an opportunity for a meal. Council had a consensus to keep the facility open.

Volunteer Delivery Service

Councillor Groulx provided an update to the Council on the restart of the COVID-19 Grocery Delivery Service. Volunteers have been provided with an update that the program will restart, and messaging would be released shortly through mailout. Volunteers will be needed for deliveries and wellness checks with the public. Council supported the restart and directed staff to ensure the mailouts were completed.

Effluent Testing for COVID-19

Council discussed the concept of effluent testing for COVID-19. The concept is a proactive measure that can help to detect COVID-19 in wastewater and be used as an early warning detector for the community. Discussion by Council focused on where testing would need to occur, what do the results provide, how effective testing is, how do we determine if COVID-19 is in the community or brought by a visitor and if more information can be provided. Staff was directed to provide additional background on effluent testing for COVID-19 and report back to Council.

F. NEW BUSINESS

G. QUESTION PERIOD

1. *Can we extend the leaf bag program due to COVID-19 restrictions?*
2. *Is an outdoor activity deemed to be safest because it is an open-air activity?*
3. *What about the negative PR you may get from postponing events in the community?*

H. COUNCILLORS' AND DEPUTY MAYOR'S COMMENTS

I. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

J. CLOSED SESSION

K. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Motion: 411 - 11/20

Moved by Councillor Bishop

Seconded by Councillor Akagi

At 7:17 p.m. that the meeting be adjourned.

5 – 0 Carried


Doug Naish, Mayor


Paul Nopper, Clerk

