



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

**October 6, 2021, 6:30 p.m.
Electronic Meeting**

A. RECORDING OF ATTENDANCE

A Special Meeting of the Town of Saint Andrews Council was held on Wednesday, October 6, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present:

Mayor Brad Henderson, Deputy Mayor Kate Akagi, Councillor Marc Blanchard, Kurt Gumushel, Lee Heenan, Jamie Hirtle, Steve Neil.

Staff: Chris Spear, CAO/Treasurer, Paul Nopper, Clerk - Senior Administrator, Terry Acton, Asset/Operations Manager

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Motion: 378 - 10/21

Moved by Councillor Heenan

Seconded by Councillor Gumushel

That the Agenda be approved as presented.

6 – 0

Carried

C. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

D. PRESENTATIONS

**1. David Johnson, Saint Andrews Outdoor Recreation and Trails Inc. -
Presentation on Trails for Saint Andrews**

With David Johnson is Roger McNabb presenting on behalf of SORTI. Provided an overview of the trail system as it currently is set up on the SORTI Map. A description of the Van Horne Trail and the route around Saint Andrews. SORTI is currently most interested in a trail from Katy's Cove Car Park to Cemetary Road and up through to Rose Lane. The goal would be to create this connection between Katy's Cove to the rest of the current trail. The trail maintains a slope of 5% or less meeting accessibility standards. Our hope is to make this trail fully accessible. Provided was a LIDAR map of the landscape with contours and a design concept for a new trail. Agreements would need to be made for the development of the trails on private lands including the Algonquin Hotel. Over 12% of New Brunswickers have accessibility issues and it is important to develop trails for families and to reduce barriers to participation in recreation. With the development of this trail, it would go beside Heather Mallory Sportsfield and would make it accessible. SORTI is requesting 3 recommendations:

1. The causeway at Katy's Cove, funding fencing and safety fencing around this area due. Additionally, there are sections along Kingsbrae with drop-offs near culverts. It would be good to install safety fencing to this. SORTI and the Town are willing to walk the trails and identify areas of safety concerns.

2. Request for the Town to consider taking over the maintenance of the trail system and consider keeping the trail open during the winter between Water Street and Prince of Wales.

3. SORTI be involved in the overall planning and concepts of the trail. We would also like to be provided updates of the trail work and making sure it is meeting the plan.

Council thanked David Johnson for the presentation on trails and the concepts moving forward for SORTI. Council discussed the safety along the trails as mentioned by Mr. Johnson on culvert protection and areas of concern. Staff noted that they have had a discussion with SORTI on this and will continue the review process on the trails. Staff noted that contact will be made with funding partners to see if funding can be allocated to safety work on the trails and not just a new build. Council will be looking at options of how the Town can take over the maintenance of the trails. Winter trail maintenance was discussed with staff noting that the trail will need lots of salting and maintenance to keep liability down. Staff also had concerns about taking heavy equipment across the trail and the long-term damage this might cause. Council asked staff to review signage options for use at their own risk for winter trail usage. Staff will work with SORTI to determine the best signage for trails. Council inquired about creating an accessible path along the parking lot of Katy's Cove and if this is being considered? Mr. Johnson noted that they are not sure about the future plans for the Katy's Cove parking lot as the focus has been on making the trail accessible from the parking lot to the ballfields and dealing with accessible slopes for the trail. Council asked for staff and SORTI to look at options for trail linkages into the new subdivision area from the ballfields as this could be an alternative route. SORTI noted that one of the next phases of focuses would be Bar Road and Brandy Cove Road to help complete the loop of the trail in town.

2. Cherie Stewart and Lara Cooper, Coastal Link Trail Presentation for Saint Andrews

Lara Cooper Director for Coastal Link Trail and Cherie Stewart Southwest New Brunswick Service Commission presented on behalf of Coastal Link Trail. This is our first opportunity to present to Council and informing them on the Coastal Link Trail as a whole, mandate, update, and where we hope to see the trail advance with Saint Andrews. Coastal Link Trail is region-wide connecting the East Coast Greenway to the Trans Canada Trail. The goal is to have from St. Stephen to Saint John and link up to the Trans Canada Trail. The Province has recognized this as one of 12 key trails and is Nationally recognized. This opens the door for promotion and grants. The trail passes through 4 municipalities with 191 km of trail with 141 km on-road. We have completed the St. Stephen section and the planning and design of Spruce Lake. We have planned out and are shovel-ready for St. George. The Coastal Link Board has focused on the municipalities as the Province does not have an Active Transportation Policy but we have been working with them on it. We are on a working group for the Province to facilitate the on-road connections, widening roads, and proper signage. The Board sees the importance of organized implementation for successful implementation and market-ready product for the Province. The projects break down into segments that help for budgeting and project development. Saint Andrews is the connection point from St. Stephen 127 connection into Town with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure. Brandy Cove Road is part of the discussions and establishing a priority for it. On behalf of the Board, ideally, we would like to see Brandy Cove Road be a priority for development in phase 2 so we can advance and register this section of the trail for Provincial and National recognition and the development of wayfinding. We would also like to explore a park and ride with the Huntsman Aquarium and help to alleviate parking pressures in the middle of town.

Council thanked Lara Cooper and Cherie Stewart for their presentation on Coastal Link Trails. Council asked what Coastal Link thought the next phase of trail development should be? Mr.s Stewart responded that Brandy Cove Road should be the next phase as this would connect Saint Andrews to the

127 trail and continue the link with the Coastal Link Trail. Staff noted that they are working with Coastal Link on unified signage for the trail system. Once this is finalized, anticipated installation in the spring and summer as part of phase 2. Council also inquired if there is an option to rebuild the Digdeguash bridge to help create an alternative avenue for the trail to follow. At this time the focus is on connecting the trails to the communities and this would be something to review in the future. Council noted that it is ideal to complete the connections to the Coastal Link in the community as this will be the first impression when it comes to the community. Joe's Point Road was also discussed and highlighted this would be a share the road trail and not an independent trail due to minimal expansion space. It was noted that there would be limited property owner discussions with the Bar Road and Brandy Cove Road options for trails for phase 2 as there are few property owners along these sections.

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

1. Trail Discussion and Background Documentation, RCS211003

Staff acknowledged the support and collaborative work processes between the Town, SORTI, and Coastal Link Trail Board. It was noted that Phase 1 of the project will be to complete the Cemetery Road trail from Katy's Cove. Council reaffirmed their goal for the trails is to make them as accessible as possible. Council had a consensus on moving forward with the Phase 1 development and to come back with the final designs and discussions on the trail.

Staff noted that there is a recreational easement from the end of the Katy's Cove Tressel around the Quoddy Shores development that could be an option for an additional trail but have some concerns on paving and accessibility due to slope. Council discussed this option for a trail and was in support of the concept. Further discussion would need to occur with property owners and for bringing equipment down to access the trail. Additionally, staff indicated that they would work with CBCL Ltd. on a review of the potential costs/long-term costs, stormwater management, erosion, and for the development of the trail for Council to review.

The current trail from Katy's Cove is estimated at \$260,000 and Brandy Cove was significantly higher in cost to redevelop. Bar Road will also have some complications regarding private land ownership and the development of a separate trail versus sharing the road. Staff understands the traffic flows in this area and a separate trail would be preferred. Council also discussed the option of having another connecting point from the Heather Mallory Sports Field to the subdivision and connect to Rose Lane and potentially another trail. This discussion revolved around the slope and contours of the land and how to make an accessible grade of the land from Cemetery Road to Rose Lane.

Council asked if the \$1.5 million in grant funding can be used for maintenance of trails already developed or if this is strictly for new trails. Staff indicated they will contact the funding partners for clarification on this but the majority of funding is supposed to be earmarked for new developments and will provide clarification to Council on this.

Staff sought direction from Council on the consultation processes with the public and how much consultation Council would like to accomplish. Council directed staff to release information on the Phase 1 trail once it was ready. It was noted that there were extensive consultations completed by the last Council on trails and this was one of the highlighted sections to complete. Council noted that further discussions with landowners along Quoddy Shores, Bar Road, and Brandy Cove Road would need to occur for Phase 2.

Council discussed for Phase 2 about closing the Town loop and completing Brandy Cove Road and Bar Road. This would tie into the Coastal Link Trail with options to put a park and ride near Marine Science Drive and potentially near Bar Road or a section along highway 127. Marine Science Drive would be developed first as a park and ride as the majority of traffic coming to Saint Andrew's flows from this direction but not opposed to the development of one on the other side of the 127 highway.

F. NEW BUSINESS

G. QUESTION PERIOD

H. COUNCILLORS' AND DEPUTY MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Councillor Hirtle - Curious about the Council Package and the loop around the point?

Mayor Henderson - We can discuss this but should look at this as phases 3 and 4. Council we should look at connections to the community first. Council consensus. We will find out what these phases cost and see what our next steps are with funding remaining.

Councillor Blanchard - Just on what was presented for the one-way loop, it is part of the trail system and yet not. The trails we have been discussing have been different, but the section for Prince of Wales is not really part of the trail system but is part of the one-way loop discussion. I think it would be a good conversation to have and beyond the one-way loop and one-way streets, the Town is set up for this. I am not convinced the entire loop proposed is the way to do it but I think this warrants further discussion.

Mayor Henderson - This would have to be its own agenda item and with lots of factors. I think we are getting ahead of ourselves but need to have this conversation. Let's chip away at these phases and then have further discussions. This would require a lot of public consultation and several sessions on this, business, homeowners, visitors, etc. It comes to is it a trail, shared, does it have to go to the downtown, etc. There are a lot of conversations about this.

CAO Spear - I would highly recommend discussing this. SORTI has taken this off the table as it was not the main priority but these are questions that need to be asked. On the Point, we are going to have to rebuild and protect the point. It is a bigger discussion with climate change.

Mayor Henderson - No question we will plan consultations on this and having these discussions with the community.

Concillor Heenan - The Charlotte County Hospital Radiothon is happening at 7:30 a.m. and Mr. Spear and Ms. Noddin have volunteered for shifts tomorrow.

Mayor Henderson - Did we get a grant request?

CAO Spear - Yes and we have matched last year's donation.

Mayor Henderson - We will make sure the donation is provided tomorrow.

Councillor Gumushel - With Dr. Johnson on the call and there was a conversation with Caraquet and their trail route. Can you speak to this briefly?

David Johnson - I got their feedback, and have a lot of strong strides for economic dollars for cycle tourism. Trails bring in a substantial amount of funding to communities. We are talking millions of dollars and can provide them to Council.

Councillor Gumushel - Other communities have seen investments and economic stimulus and Saint Andrews is now going to be part of this. Our trail work will help to create economic spinoffs for Charlotte County and the health and happiness of its community members. We are building the community and building our economy.

I. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

J. CLOSED SESSION

K. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Motion: 379 - 10/21

Moved by Deputy Mayor Akagi

Seconded by Councillor Neil

At 8:03 p.m. that the meeting be adjourned.

6 – 0

Carried



Brad Henderson, Mayor



Paul Nopper, Clerk – Senior
Administrator

