

March 18, 2019

The regular monthly Council meeting of the Alma Village Council was held on March 18, 2019, at 7:00 pm at the Alma Activity Centre. Mayor Shortt, Councillor Bowron, Councillor MacCallum and Brenda Hoar (Clerk/Treasurer) were present.

Absent: Councillor Casey

Mayor Shortt called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Motion

It was moved by Councillor MacCallum and **Seconded by Councillor Bowron to approve agenda.**

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Councillor MacCallum and **Seconded by Councillor Bowron to approve February 19, 2019 minutes.**

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Councillor Bowron and **Seconded by Councillor MacCallum to accept Financial Statements for February 2019.**

Motion Carried.

RCMP Report: No Report.

Committee Reports

Mayor Shortt – reported that she attended the Region 7 meeting, the main focus was on their new Visitor Economy Master Plan.

- Mayor Shortt invited everyone to the Molly Kool award ceremony on March 21, 2019, from 7:00-8:30 pm at Octopus's Garden.
- Mayor Shortt also attended a Community Health Assessment meeting.
- Announcement from ACOA was made on March 06, 2019.
- Region 7 is creating three more sub committees, one for Safety and Policing, one for Local Governance Taxation and the third will be for Water & Sewer.

Councillor Bowron - Updates from Fundy National Park for the Monthly Village of Alma Council Meetings

On March 9, 2019, a construction truck carrying large boulders overturned on Highway 114, within the boundaries of Fundy National Park. The Park team is grateful for the support of the Alma Fire Department. No significant injuries occurred.

Infrastructure Projects:

The new washroom for the Cannontown Campground - The new washroom facility at the Cannontown Campground is under construction and is expected to be fully completed by May 2019.

Demolition of the old kitchen shelters in Chignecto South - Demolition work on the kitchen shelters is completed. Final site clean-up to be completed by May 2019.

Goose River (former) Trail Decommissioning – Work will take place between May – October of this year to decommission the full 6.8 km of the old Goose River Trail (cart path) to a natural state. This project will serve to reduce the overall footprint of the park and is not expected to impact visitors. The new Goose River trail is now open.

Consolidated Maintenance & Trades Facility – Work is expected to start in May 2019 to begin replacing existing infrastructure in the compound area and is expected to be substantially complete by February 2020. The work will include consolidating the majority of the 15 various sized trades buildings and sheds; as well as the reconstruction of the Maintenance Garage that was destroyed in a fire in 2014.

Bennett Brook Culvert Repair - Repairs are required to the existing concrete culvert and wing walls. Construction work is expected to start in May 2019 and to be substantially complete by October 2019.

FNP Lakeview (formerly known as Wolfe Lake) Campground Campsites - Design and construction of a renewed campground at Wolfe Lake to include: 11 powered RV sites; 5 walk-in tent pads; 4 powered tent pads; and five powered Oasis sites (known formerly as the Goutte d'O). Archaeological assessment has been completed. Construction work is expected to start in May 2019 and to be substantially complete in September 2019.

FNP Pool Bathhouse Rehabilitation – Construction is expected to start in September 2019 and to be complete in March 2020.

Resource Conservation

Bat Workshop – FNP will be hosting a bat workshop on March 27th. Representatives from the other Atlantic national parks, university researchers, and NGOs will be attending and presenting to talk about monitoring bat populations after white-nose syndrome. A plan will be developed to

monitor the remaining bats in the park to learn how best to protect them, as well as discussing public outreach opportunities.

Spruce Budworm Workshop – A spruce budworm workshop was held at the Alma Activity Centre on Feb.27th with researchers from the Canadian Forestry Service, Provincial Department of Energy and Resource Development and Forest Protection Limited. The workshop focused on the status of the current spruce budworm outbreak in Northern NB and the management actions that have been taken to address it, as well as potential implications for the Fundy region as populations of this naturally occurring insect increase.

Staffing

The staffing processes for summer staff and seasonal workers is well underway. At present, the focus is on staffing for students, maintenance workers, resource conservation management officers, and interpreters which are all at various stages of the process.

Events

The Family Day weekend was by far the busiest weekend of the winter season; mostly a result of events produced by the Friends of Fundy including;

- The Dog Day of Winter event brought “dog sports” enthusiasts from across Atlantic Canada for a day of canine fun on February 17.
- The 2nd Annual Family Day Sliding Party held on February 18 brought hundreds of participants to the Park to enjoy family-friendly activities.

Season Highlights:

The 2019 winter visitor season at Fundy National Park continues to be successful with accommodations reservations up about 40% over 2018 volumes (year to date).

The Friends of Fundy, Outdoor Elements and Foods of the Fundy Valley (Fundy Fresh) hosted the Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Tourism, Official Languages and La Francophonie of Canada and MP Alaina Lockhart on March 13, 2019. The group participated in a guided fat-biking ride through the winter trails; enjoyed brunch featuring locally-sourced foods and met with local tourism business operators and groups to discuss shoulder season tourism opportunities in the Fundy Coast region.

Councillor MacCallum - The fire department statistics for January 1 to March 18, 2019, from the fire chief have been received. Ten individuals spent 200 hours in service during this period. The breakdown is as follows:

Fire/explosion (with dollar loss)-63 hours; miscellaneous rescue-12 hours; vehicle accidents-35 hours; fire department meetings-18 hours; and fire department maintenance-72 hours. The fire chief was on vacation until March 1st. Councillor MacCallum just returned from vacation, so has

not been able to arrange a fire hall visit.

There has not been a Board meeting of the Fundy Guild since the last council meeting, so there is no update possible at this time.

The Alma Celebration Days meeting scheduled for late February was postponed until early April due to inclement weather. An update on activities planned for Canada Day and Fleet Launch will be provided at the April Council meeting.

Water Report

The clerk reported that the well sensor was installed in well # 2 and is collecting data.

Old Business

Village Signage – Mayor Shortt reported that Council felt that they needed more time for collecting data concerning the village signs. For 2019 the village’s “Welcome to Alma “signs will be repaired. Council will continue working towards creating several different designs; once they have been created, the Council will bring them forth for the public to review and give their input.

Clerk Report – Env & Local Government made a mistake and overpaid the village by \$673.00 for 2018 fire services and would like to be refunded. Council decided that they will pay the amount back next year when it can be budgeted for.

The clerk reported that she received an email from the Alma Recreation Council saying they would be happy to have the parking signs directing people to their parking area. However, they would like to work out a partnership where the Village of Alma would be willing to repair the potholes in the parking lot as well as have the snow removed in the winter for the use of their parking lot.

To be tabled for next month. Did not have full council present and Councillor Bowron was in conflict of interest.

New Business

No new business

Correspondence

Communities in Bloom – Enhancing Green Spaces in Communities.

New Brunswick Canada- The Age-Friendly Community movement.

Tracey McDonald – No building permit report for the month of February.

Mr. Lee Warnock – retable for next month.

Paying of Bills

All bills paid

“In Camera Session”

No “In Camera Session”

Speaker – Jane Chrysostom

Q&A Session – Opportunity for community members to ask questions and receive answers. Council agreed to have a Q&A Session for this Council meeting and next month’s Council meeting.

Adjournment

Councillor MacCallum adjourned the meeting. Next meeting will be April 15, 2019.

Mayor

Clerk