

Sawpit Wharf Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

Wednesday, May 17, 2023 – 6:30pm
St. John's Anglican Church Hall, Lunenburg

In Attendance: William (Bill), Doug, Ian, Richard, Chasidy, Bub, Tina, David, Trudy, Sandra

Regrets: Peggy

- **Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Bill; seconded by Bub. Motion carried.

- **Approval of March 8, 2023 Minutes**

Motion by Bub; seconded by Ian. Motion carried.

- **Business Arising from the Minutes**

Old Pole and Electricity

The pole and all associated equipment have now been removed, ready for direction from the future Community Plan.

Floating Dock Permit

Trudy has now received an official permit from NSDNRR, approving the existing floating dock layout, and the proposed new section. The permit allows for some future growth. The permit is valid for a year and will automatically renew. The new section is expected to be delivered on May 29th, with the hope to coordinate installation with existing with Gerhardt's. When the new section is installed, it should be possible to accommodate all applicants, with a few spare spaces.

Cleats on Slipway

It was reported the wooden slipway was slippery. Engineering had assessed slipway, with a \$40,000 cost for removal and \$80,000 for replacement. It was agreed to install cleats on the slipway to mitigate problems. The cleats should be installed this week.

- **Action:** Trudy to reconfirm with Maria that cleats are going on wooden slipway.

Boat Ramp Pressure-Washed & Painted

Trudy reported the boat ramp will be pressure-washed before this long weekend, and then it will be ready to paint by the volunteers on the Committee.

Campers in Park - Enforcement

Trudy advised that Council are being given a presentation on bylaw enforcement. One of the options is to hire a bylaw enforcement officer. If Council selects this route, a bylaw would need to be created that would allow penalties. It is unknown at this time how Council will want to proceed, but the reality is, that if approved, the position and bylaw would not be effective until the 2024 season. It was discussed that Town of Lunenburg employees were recommending campers to use Sawpit Wharf if Blockhouse Hill is closed/full. Trudy was asked to remind the Town and the Board of Trade that there is no overnight camping. RCMP had advised that if signage were in place to say “no overnight camping” they would be able to move people on, without a bylaw in place. It was unclear if the new wayfinding “Park Beacon” signs had yet been installed, these signs included park rule symbols.

- **Action:** Trudy to remind Town of Lunenburg and the Board to Trade there is no overnight camping at Sawpit Wharf.
- **Action:** Trudy to check signage installed/intended for park.

Minutes

All are posted on the website. Advised folder for 2015 is empty, Sandra would investigate.

- **Action** – Sandra to look for missing year’s minutes.

Jersey Barrier – Engineering had considered the Committee’s request to remove the jersey barrier but had concerns over possible weight on the wharf and moisture. It was asked if the jersey barrier could be resighted now that the power pole has gone and if a barrier could be placed in front of the wooden ramp with about 5 feet between barrier and ramp.

- **Action:** Trudy to ask Engineering about installing barrier in front of wooden ramp.

• Other Business

Wharf Assessment

Trudy advised that WSP had been asked for a quote to complete a wharf assessment this fiscal. The wharf has to be assessed every five years, the last was carried out in 2019. Trudy has the RFP completed for the Community Plan it is hoped that the community consultation process would begin in September/October 2023.

Dock Spot Draw Results

Trudy advised that no members of the public had attended the draw. There were 22 applications for 20 spots (on the current floating dock), 15 of these applicants were MODL taxpayers so as per the dock spot criteria were automatically allocated a spot. A draw was carried out for the 7 applications from non-MODL taxpayers which resulted on two people being put on a waitlist. They have been informed and also told of the hope that the new section will be in place for this season so they would be able to dock.

One Committee member, not present when the preference given to MODL taxpayers clause was approved by the Committee, expressed his dissatisfaction with the clause and felt it was discriminatory. It was noted that the permit fees collected do not cover the full expenses of the park, and this shortfall is paid for by taxpayers of MODL.

It was noted that no negative feedback had been received or heard around this new clause, and perhaps the additional requirement of paying up front had contributed to the reduced numbers of applicants (30 in 2022).

Dock Spot – assigning spots

Richard & Douglas agreed to work on the assignments following the meeting.

International Telecom using Sawpit Wharf on Monday July 17th

Trudy advised the International Telecom, working on behalf of NS Power to run cables to Heckmans Island, had been given approval by the CAO to use the park on July 17th to launch and load their barge. It had been decided to close the park on this date and all floating dock users would be advised of this. There was discussion around another possible location, First Peninsula public launch, and also concerns raised over where the barge would be moored until it was removed, and also when it would be removed.

- **Action:** Trudy to bring Committee's concerns/questions to CAO.

By-law Review

The by-law had been circulated in advance on the meeting and Trudy advised the process necessary if amendments were felt necessary. The only discussion point was regarding commercial use. The bylaw suggested that the wharf was not available to commercial fishers from 2006 and Section 9.1 required commercial users to apply for a vendors permit. It was believed there was someone using the wharf commercially and he had been given permission from NSDNRR.

- **Action:** Trudy to check with NSDNRR regarding possible recent commercial approvals.

• New Business

Switchback Trail

It was reported the trail is in need of some attention.

- **Action:** Trudy to ask Engineering to look at making improvements to trail.

Park Land

It was requested that the area near the porta potty be levelled/evened out like it was last year.

- **Action:** Trudy to ask Engineering to look at levelling area.

Public Works Thank You

Trudy had sent Thank You notes to Public Works for their efforts with plowing and had been thanked for the Committee's kind words which would be passed on the relevant staff.

Rock Wall –

It was requested if some remedial work could be carried out on the rock wall.

- **Action:** Trudy to ask Engineering to look remediation of rock wall.

Committee positions –

Trudy advised there were three committee positions that expired in March 2023. It is possible for members to reapply, and the vacancies would also be advertised.

- **Action:** Trudy to circulate membership list showing expiration dates.
- **Next Meeting –** September 20th, 2023. July 19th, 2023 was also tentatively arranged, if deemed necessary. Trudy would update committee on action items by email as appropriate.

- **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.