

**Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Amherst Town Council
Held in Council Chambers
Monday, November 30, 2009 at 7:00 PM**

PRESENT: Mayor Rob Small
Deputy Mayor Terry Rhindress
Councillor Robert Angel
Councillor George Baker
Councillor Robert Bird
Councillor Dale Fawthrop
Councillor David March
Greg Herrett, CAO

ATTENDING: Kim Jones, Executive Assistant
Rebecca Purdy, Executive Assistant
Vince Arbing, Treasurer
Jason MacDonald, Director of Planning and Engineering

Prior to the singing of the national anthem, Mayor Small asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Bettie Rolfe, long-time employee of the Cumberland Regional Library Board, who passed away suddenly last week.

1. O CANADA

Mayor Small welcomed Shannon MacDonald from Nova Scotia Community College.

2. HEARINGS / PETITIONS / PRESENTATIONS

2.1 Public Hearing – Development Agreement – 155 Victoria Street East

The Mayor introduced the topic and requested a background report from Jason MacDonald, Director of Planning and Engineering Services. The hearing is a part of the development agreement process as required under the ***Municipal Government Act***. Council approved 1st reading of the proposed development agreement to allow a 32 unit residential development on the property at its October 26, 2009 regular meeting. The applicant had been approved by Council in 2007, but the timelines had expired; the applicant has applied for the same development agreement, the only change being extended timelines. Mayor Small invited the public to speak on the issue; there was no response. He asked the CAO if there were any written submissions; there were none. This concluded the public hearing.

3. CALL TO ORDER

3.1 Additions to Agenda

3.2 Approval of Agenda **M-0911-01
Moved by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor March to approve the agenda as circulated.**

MOTION CARRIED

3.3 Approval of Minutes **M-0911-02
Moved by Councillor Bird, seconded by Deputy Mayor Rhindress to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2009 regular meeting as circulated.**

MOTION CARRIED

4. REQUESTS FOR DECISION

4.1 By-Law at 1st Reading: Deed Transfer Tax, RFD#2009100 **M-0911-03
Moved by Councillor March, seconded by Councillor Fawthrop that Council approve 1st Reading of a revised Deed Transfer Tax By-Law, B-2, which repeals and replaces the existing by-law as enacted in 1989 and amended in 2009.**

MOTION CARRIED

**Town of Amherst
Deed Transfer Tax By-law**

1. This By-law shall be known as the Deed Transfer Tax By-law.
2. A deed transfer tax shall apply to the Town of Amherst.
3. The amount of the deed transfer tax shall be the sum of one and one-quarter percent (1.25%) of the sale price or value of the property effective August 1, 2009.
4. Part V, "Deed Transfers" and Section 3 (Interpretations) of **Municipal Government Act**, Stats. N.S. 1998, chapter 18, shall apply to deed transfers.

5. For the purposes of this By-law, "persons married to one another" shall include those persons who have entered into a domestic partnership declaration and have registered such declaration in accordance with Part II of the Vital Statistics Act R.S.N.S., Chapter 494.
6. The Registrar of Deeds shall be the agent and collector of the deed transfer tax for the Town of Amherst.
7. Attached is **Schedule A Deed Transfer – Affidavit of Value** which will form a part of this by-law.
8. The Municipal Deed Transfer Tax By-law as amended passed by the Town Council of the Town of Amherst on the 20th day of March 1989: Amended May 28, 2009, is hereby repealed in its entirety.

**4.2 Development Agreement at 2nd Reading: 155 Victoria St E, RFD#2009097 M-0911-04
Moved by Councillor Bird, seconded by Councillor Angel that Council approve second reading of a Development Agreement with Les Carrie, President, 3227967 Nova Scotia Limited, for a 32 unit residential development on property located at 155 Victoria Street East.**

MOTION CARRIED

Case No. DA-2009-04

This Agreement made this _____ Day of _____ 2009.

Between: 3227967 Nova Scotia Limited, Owners of property located at 155 East Victoria Street (PID 25034091), hereinafter called the Owner, Of the one part

- and-

The Town of Amherst, a body corporate hereinafter called the Town Of the other part

WHEREAS the Owner wishes to obtain permission pursuant to Policy RP-8 of the Municipal Planning Strategy of the Town of Amherst, to construct a 32 condominium type development on property located at 155 East Victoria Street.

AND WHEREAS a condition of the granting of approval of Council is that the Owner enter into an agreement with the Town;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Town, at its meeting on the _____ Day of _____ 2009, approved the said development agreement subject to the registered owner of the land described herein entering into this agreement;

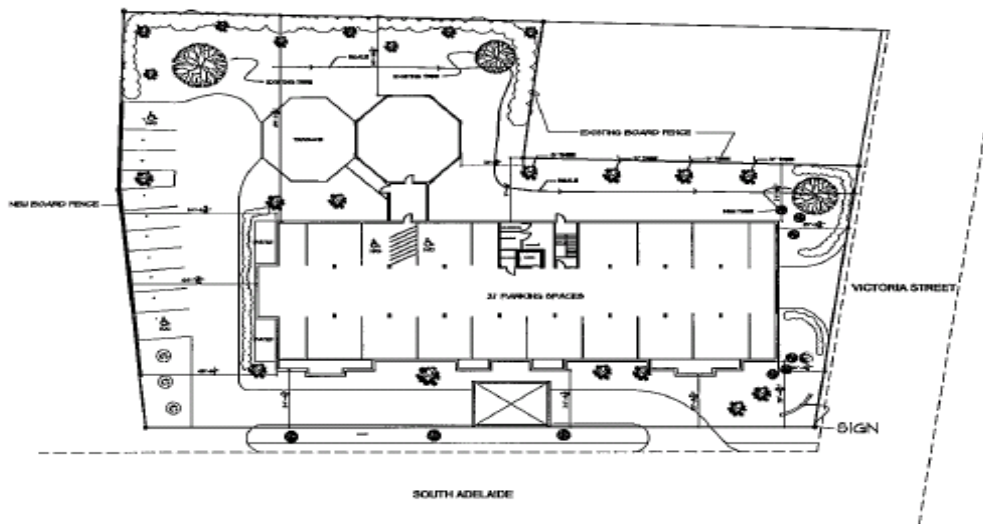
NOW THEREFORE THIS AGREEMENT WITNESSETH THAT in consideration of the granting by the Town of the development agreement requested by the Owner, the Owner agrees as follows:

- 1) That the Owner is the registered owner of the aforesaid lands in the Town of Amherst, hereinafter called the lands. The aforesaid lots are the only lands in the Town of Amherst to which this agreement applies, and the lands are illustrated in the plan shown on Schedule B attached hereto and forming part of this agreement.
- 2) That the owner may construct a multi-family residential development up to a maximum of 32 units on the said lands, subject to the following Schedules A, B and C attached.
- 3) Any failure of the Town to insist upon strict enforcement of any requirements or conditions contained in this agreement shall not be deemed a waiver of any rights or remedies that the Town may have and shall not be deemed a waiver of any subsequent breach or default in the conditions or requirements contained in this agreement.
- 4) Should the owner fail to act in accordance with any aspect of this agreement, the Town shall retain the right to discharge the agreement upon 30 days notification and / or enter the property and conduct the required work. The cost of the said work will become a lien on the property tax bill.
- 5) The Town shall issue the necessary permit for the development upon the expiration of the appeal period specified for development agreements in the Municipal Government Act, Section 249, as the same may be amended from time to time, or upon the withdrawal or dismissal of any appeal which may be taken.
- 6) Timing
 - a) The applicant shall apply for the necessary building and development permits within two years of Council's approval of this Agreement.
 - b) Construction shall commence within one year of the applicant having obtained the necessary permits.

Schedule A 155 East Victoria Street - Development Agreement (Terms & Conditions)

1. The use of the property be limited to a multi-family residential development with a maximum of 32 units;
2. The building be limited to a maximum of 4 floors and 12 metres in height;
3. The location of the buildings be generally in accordance with Schedule B;
4. Street access to be substantially in accordance with the attached Schedule B, and to the satisfaction of the Development Officer;
5. A minimum of 32 underground parking spaces be provided for residents as well as 10 surface parking spaces for visitors, generally in accordance with Schedule B;
6. The exterior design of the buildings shall be generally in accordance with Schedule C;
7. The first floor exterior cladding of the main building shall be sandstone type block and the upper floors shall be horizontal cement composite boards (Hardy Board) and generally in accordance with Schedule C;
8. All driveway and parking areas be maintained with asphalt and kept clear of snow and otherwise be unobstructed at all times so as to be passable by emergency vehicles;
9. Water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer services be provided in accordance with the Town of Amherst Subdivision Bylaw & Development Standards and the National Building Code;
10. A stormwater management plan be prepared by a qualified professional and submitted prior to the issuance of a building permit, such plan shall ensure that storm water on the site is channeled so as to not impact adjacent properties and so as not to flow directly onto adjacent public streets and sidewalks;
11. Signage on the property be limited to one free standing sign a maximum of 1.6 square metres in size and one fascia wall sign with a maximum height of 0.6 metres. Such signage are not to be internally illuminated;
12. Usual residential outdoor recreation apparatus shall be permitted on the property, subject to the applicable Town Bylaws and Regulations;
13. Garbage pickup will be private, and the responsibility of the owner;
14. Landscaping will be provided in accordance with the following:
 - a. A one metre high evergreen buffer be planted along the entire length of any property line adjacent to at grade surface parking;
 - b. A minimum of three deciduous trees be planted at approximately equal intervals along the East Victoria Street frontage of the property, such trees to be a minimum of 1.5 metres in height at the time of planting;
 - c. A minimum of eight shrubs or tress be planted along South Adelaide frontage of the property, to two "flower gardens" be planted in the front yard;
 - d. Grass or other suitable landscaping material be maintained in all areas of the property not utilized for buildings, parking or walkways;
 - e. Such planting is to take place within one growing season of the construction of the said unit;
 - f. Existing trees on the property which are maintained after the development may be used to offset the number of trees/shrubs require above.

Schedule B 155 East Victoria Street - Development Agreement



Schedule C 155 East Victoria Street - Development Agreement

The Terrace
155 VICTORIA STREET EAST



- 4.3 **Policy: Adopt-a-Garden #31600-18, RFD#2009093** **M-0911-05**
Moved by Councillor Angel, seconded by Councillor Baker that Council approve a new Adopt a Garden Policy, #64000-04 that will encourage residents and businesses to participate in planning and maintaining specific gardens in the Town of Amherst.

MOTION CARRIED

TOWN OF AMHERST POLICY #31600-18 “ADOPT-A-GARDEN

Policy

The Town of Amherst recognizes that an Adopt-A-Garden program in the community would be an opportunity for the community to become involved in the planning, development and maintenance of existing garden areas in Amherst's open spaces and community parks. This gardening program will be a valuable recreational activity that contributes to health and well-being, positive social interaction, community development, environmental education and the enhancement and beautification of Town properties.

Purpose

The Adopt-A-Garden program is designed to bring together residents who want to volunteer a few hours of their time to help maintain a specific garden area in our community.

The Adopt a Garden program would include:

- Beacon Street
- Curry Park
- Along the Church Street Cemetery
- Two beds in front of the Air force Club
- YMCA
- Two beds on Lawrence Street
- Highlander Mural Garden at the corner of Havelock and Ratchford Streets

This beautification program will accept applications to participate from individuals, businesses, organizations and groups who are interested in adopting a garden in the Town of Amherst. Responsibilities for garden adoption include:

- Garden planning
- Planting and development
- Maintenance, general clean-up and beautification of existing gardens
- Weed control
- Annual and perennial planting
- Enhancement and landscaping of existing garden areas
- Ongoing monitoring of gardens

Appointments and Responsibilities

- Advertisements will be posted in December each year in local media and the web site requesting expressions of interest from groups and individuals as needed.
- Council will appoint any new participants and re-appoint participants who wish to continue in the program in February of each year.
- Participants in the program will be rewarded with signage recognizing the volunteer commitment to maintain and or create a garden area.
- The Town of Amherst will be responsible to provide supplies including plants, soil, fertilizer, etc., for the gardens.

All participants in the Adopt-A-Garden Program will be responsible to complete an annual planting plan, address planting activities, complete regular maintenance, address litter removal and prepare the garden for winter at the end of the season.

- 4.4 **Water Rates, RFD#2009099** **M-0911-06**

The Town of Amherst Water Utility engaged the services of W. H. Gates and Associates to conduct a water rate study. The objective of this study was to determine the appropriate water rate so that the Utility can continue to deliver high quality water, and improve our infrastructure. The study has been completed and was presented to Committee of the Whole on November 23. The study proposes a rate increase of 5.9%, 5.5% and 4.3% for most residential consumers, phased in over the next three years commencing on April 1, 2010.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Rhindress, seconded by Councillor March that the Town of Amherst Water Utility apply to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board for changes in its rates for water and water service, fire protection to the Town of Amherst and changes to its Rules and Regulations for customers served by the Utility, as set out in the Water Rate Study prepared by W. H. Gates Utility consultants Ltd. in association with G. A. Isenor Consulting Limited.

MOTION CARRIED

- 4.5 Canine Control Vehicle, RFD#2009101 M-0911-07
 Moved by Councillor Fawthrop, seconded by Councillor Angel that Council approve funding of \$22,500 for the purchase of a new ¼ ton truck for the purpose of Canine Control, with the \$8,550 insurance claim being directed toward this purchase, and the balance of \$13,950 being redirected from operating to capital for this purchase.
 MOTION CARRIED
- 4.6 Sale of Lands Behind E. B. Chandler School, RFD#2009102 M-0911-08
 Moved by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor Fawthrop that Council accept the high tender bid of \$321,000 submitted by C. E. Harrison and Sons for the sale of the property located south of E B Chandler Junior High School, PID #2002122, and that the Mayor and CAO be authorized to sign an appropriate agreement of purchase and sale.
 MOTION CARRIED
- 4.7 Land Trade Agreement with David & Marsha Allen, RFD#2009103 M-0911-09
 Moved by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor Angel that Council approve entering into a purchase and sale agreement with David and Marsha Allen which will trade a portion of Franklyn Street Extension for property along the north-east side of the Allen's adjacent property (identified in the attached map), such land to be used as a trail and future sewer line, and that the Mayor and CAO be authorized to sign on behalf of the Town.
 MOTION CARRIED



- 4.8 YMCA – Memorandum of Understanding M-0911-10
 Moved by Councillor Fawthrop, seconded by Councillor Baker that Council delegate the authority to make withdrawals from the Community Pool Reserve to the Chief Administrative Officer subject to the limits in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Amherst and the Cumberland YMCA, dated June 23, 2009.

MOTION CARRIED

4.9 December Meeting Dates M-0911-11

Moved by Councillor March, seconded by Councillor Bird that the December Committee of the Whole meeting be scheduled for 12 noon on Monday, December 21, and that the regular Council meeting be rescheduled to Monday, December 21 at 3:00 pm.

MOTION CARRIED

4.10 Committee Appointments M-0911-12 & M-0911-13

Moved by Deputy Mayor Rhindress, seconded by Councillor March that Council approve the following Committee appointments for terms ending November 30, 2010:

Mayor Small

- Airport committee (as Ex-Officio)
- Planning Advisory Committee (as Ex-Officio)
- Heritage Advisory Committee (as Ex-Officio)
- Police Commission
- Tyndal Wellfield Advisory Committee
- Tree Advisory Committee
- Amherst / Cumberland Cooperation Committee

Councillor Angel

- Fundy Shore Tourism Destination Area Committee
- Planning Advisory Committee
- Tyndal Wellfield Advisory Committee
- Cumberland Regional Library Board
- Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Committee

Councillor Baker

- Downtown Amherst Revitalization Committee
- Cumberland Joint Services Management Authority
- Northern Region Waste Resource Committee
- VON Board of Directors

Councillor Bird

- Planning Advisory Committee
- Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Committee
- Amherst / Cumberland Cooperation Committee
- Heritage Advisory Committee

Councillor Fawthrop

- Police Commission
- Cumberland Regional Economic Development Association
- Tyndal Wellfield Advisory Committee
- Tree Advisory Committee
- Cumberland YMCA Board of Directors

Councillor March

- Planning Advisory Committee
- Heritage Advisory Committee
- Amherst / Cumberland Cooperation Committee

Deputy Mayor Rhindress

- Airport Committee
- Cumberland Joint Services Management Authority
- Tyndal Wellfield Advisory Committee
- Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Committee

AND FURTHER, that all members of Council be appointed to the Committee of the Whole of Amherst Town Council, and to the Town of Amherst Audit Committee for terms ending November 30, 2010.

MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Deputy Mayor Rhindress, seconded by Councillor March the following Council Departmental Liaisons be re-appointed for one year terms ending November 30, 2010:

• Community & Economic Development	Councillor Angel
• Planning & Engineering Services	Councillor Baker
• Fire Services	Councillor Bird
• Police Services	Councillor Fawthrop
• Corporate Services	Councillor March
• Transportation & Public Works	Deputy Mayor Rhindress

MOTION CARRIED

5. INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- 6.1 Dickey Park Redevelopment – Status Report **M-0911-14**
Moved by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor Fawthrop that Council accept the following Project Status Report on Dickey Park Redevelopment:**

MOTION CARRIED

All activities are currently on schedule and being completed within the approved capital budget of \$123,600.00 for the current year. Work under this year's budget includes construction of the walking track, purchase of and installation of the lighting around the walking track including trenching, wiring and bases, and construction of a building for washrooms, change rooms and utilities.

Work on the building housing the washrooms and change rooms is progressing well with the exterior almost fully completed, and work on the interior of the building underway. While weather delayed use briefly, the light poles have all been installed and lights are currently being installed with the wiring being extended to the electrical room.

- 6.2 Arts Culture & Heritage – Project Status Report **M-0911-15**
Moved by Councillor Fawthrop seconded by Deputy Mayor Rhindress that Council accept the following status report on the Arts Culture and Heritage strategic priority:**

MOTION CARRIED

The Arts, Culture, & Heritage Strategy is mid-way through Phase Three of the four-phase project. A final draft strategy will be submitted on January 15, 2010 with a presentation to Council and the public in February. The consultants have submitted a Technical Background Report that includes information on socio-economic indicators, arts and culture trends and best practices, comparable community case studies, and existing local conditions. The present condition of the Amherst arts, culture and heritage sector was developed through local stakeholder interviews, surveys, workshops, and public surveys. With this important groundwork complete, the second half of the project will be focused on strategy, the development of a vision, goals, policies and actions that will promote and support this sector.

A strategy workshop, to be held on December 3 with Council, staff and the consultant, will provide an overview of the information gathered, followed by a visioning and goal setting exercise. This information will be used as the basis for developing the strategic recommendations of the plan. On December 8, a public meeting will be held to provide an overview background report, discuss the strategic directions developed with Council and staff, and provide an opportunity for feedback from the public.

- 6.3 Downtown Revitalization – Project Status Report **M-0911-16**
Moved Councillor March, seconded by Councillor Baker that Council accept the following project status report on the Downtown Action Strategy:**

MOTION CARRIED

The public consultation phase of the Downtown Strategy has now been completed. The online survey had over 140 responses. A presentation was given on the status of the project by the Director, Jason MacDonald and myself to the Rotary Club. This presentation was very well received.

Jason MacDonald and Andrew Fisher met with the consultants in Dartmouth on the 25th of November. All aspects of the project were reviewed prior to the consultant 'putting the details to paper'. I am happy to report everything seems to be on the right track.

A draft report will be presented to the steering Committee the first week of January, with the final report presented to Council at their Committee of the Whole meeting in January. A public presentation is scheduled for the night of Council's regular January meeting.

6.4 Youth Initiatives – Project Status Report M-0911-17

Mayor Small asked the Deputy Mayor to chair the meeting while he presented his report and motion.

The Youth Advisory Council (YAC) held their first meeting Wednesday, November 25th, at 4:00 PM in Council Chambers. This was an informal meeting, with five out of the seven applicants in attendance. This initial meeting allowed everyone the opportunity to meet and interact. Objectives for the year were discussed. Youth brainstormed ideas of specific events they could potentially hold throughout the year that would engage youth with each other, and further, making them active participants in their community. The next meeting is scheduled for December 15th at 4:00 PM. Youth will be going on a tour of Town Hall, and gaining insight into organizational structure.

Moved by Mayor Small, seconded by Councillor Fawthrop that Council formalize the committee by approving the appointments of the following individuals to the Youth Advisory Council:

- Chelsey Brown – grade 7
- Hannah Melanson – grade 7
- Chris Baxter, grade 9
- James Gaudet – grade 9
- Daniel Ripley – grade 9
- Zac Black – grade 10
- Alex Stathakis- grade 12

AND FURTHER that a special Committee of the Whole meeting be held on January 6, 2010 to welcome Youth Advisory Council members, provide them with information as to the functions of each department within the Town, and provide an opportunity for discussions with Council regarding issues and opportunities for youth in the Town of Amherst.

MOTION CARRIED

6.7 Town Beautification – Project Status Report M-0911-18

Moved by Councillor Rhindress, seconded by Councillor Fawthrop that Council accept the following Town Beautification Project Status Report:

MOTION CARRIED

Given the time of year the Town Beautification projects are starting to wind down. The Community and Economic Development department has presented an Adopt – a- Garden policy for Council's consideration this month. Tenders for the new Town entrances signs on South Albion and West Victoria Street have been issued.

7. INTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**7.1 Planning Advisory Committee**

Councillor Bird presented the following Planning Advisory Committee Report:

The Planning Advisory Committee met on November 3, 2009 to discuss an application to amend the Land Use By-law to remove the maximum size for advertising signage permitted on the wall of a building. A public participation session for the above application has been scheduled for December 9th at 5:30 pm in Council Chambers, Town Hall.

7.2 Amherst Board of Police Commissioners

Councillor Fawthrop presented the following report on behalf of the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners:

Old Business

A draft of an Operations/Policy Manual has been received and is under consideration by the Board. The committee dealing with succession planning is expected to file its report early in the new year. The Board received a preliminary report on the effectiveness of increased foot patrols in various areas of Town. Still in its infancy, the program will continue to be monitored and where appropriate, revised to reflect the staff's and public's suggestions and comments. Other recommendations from the recent public consultation sessions have been considered, and the Board has requested that the Chief comment on the potential benefits and impact on staff as well as budget implications, after which the Board will finalize its discussion and recommendations.

Human Resources

Messrs. Norman Bourque and Derek Hebert were successful in the latest staffing competition. Both had completed their on the job training with the department last year and we are pleased to welcome them back as full time constables.

Other

We were very pleased with the Minister's announcement to establish an independent Board to deal with complaints against police officers. This decision mirrors the Board's resolution requesting the Minister to consider such action to improve transparency and increase public confidence in the review process.

7.3 Dangerous or Unightly Premises Committee

Councillor Bird presented the following report on behalf of the Dangerous and Unightly Premises Committee:

The Dangerous and Unightly Premises Committee met on November 10. To date this year we have had 41 complaints; 34 of which have been brought into compliance. We are happy to report that most property owners continue to work with the Committee to bring their properties into compliance.

Of note at the November meeting was the presentation of a report by Giffin Engineering on the structural integrity of the old Bank of Montreal Building on the corner of Victoria and Lawrence. The report indicated that while the building is basically structurally sound, the roof is in need of repair and there is a danger of pieces of the lintel and parapet falling to the ground. The property owner has been ordered to remedy this situation. The Committee is scheduled to meet again on December 9th 2009.

7.4 Tyndal Well Field Advisory Committee – Nil Report**7.5 Tree Advisory Committee – Nil Report****7.6 Heritage Advisory Committee - Nil Report****7.7 Audit Committee - Nil Report****7.8 Committee of the Whole - Nil Report****8. EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS****8.1 Cumberland Regional Library Board**

Councillor Angel presented the following Cumberland Regional Library Board report:

Food for Fines

The Cumberland Regional Library will once again be holding its annual Food for Fines campaign in December. Patrons with fines can bring in non-perishable food items as payment. These food items are donated to the food banks in the community in which they are donated. Last year we collected almost 900 non-perishable food items for food banks in our communities.

Library Programs

The Amherst branch of the Cumberland Regional Library was lucky enough to host one of 200 simulcasts in North America by children's author Mo Willems, of "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus" fame. Willems gave a tour of his studio (he both writes and illustrates his work) and read from two new books; "Pigs Make Me Sneeze" and "Big Frog Can't Fit In".

Donations

The Springhill branch received an autographed copy of Anne Murray's biography "All of Me".

Fundraiser

The Friends of the Pugwash Library will be holding "An Evening of Words and Music" as a fundraiser on November 12th. The special guests will be author and broadcaster Bruce Graham and musician Mark MacMillan. Proceeds will go to a new building for the Pugwash branch. To date the Friends of the Pugwash Library have raised over \$20,000 in hopes of getting a new library.

Statistics

The libraries in Cumberland County have lent over 65,000 books since January, at an average of just over 7,200 books a month, through our seven branch libraries and Books by Mail service.

8.2 CREDA

Councillor Fawthrop presented the following Cumberland Regional Economic Development Association report:

On November 25, CREDA made its mid-year activity report to the Province. From Amherst, Councillor Robert Bird and staff member Roger MacIsaac were in attendance. In their work with Amherst, the Centre First Study, The Arts, Culture and Heritage Study and our Youth Involvement Project were highlighted. CREDA has assisted the Town of Amherst in securing funding and in arranging stakeholder and public events in connection with those strategic objectives. CREDA continues to be an outstanding RDA in Nova Scotia. Last year CREDA was one of six RDAs who received extra funding based on their high level of performance.

8.3 DARS

Councillor Baker presented the following Downtown Amherst Revitalization Report:

The last of a dozen murals, which were part of an ongoing downtown Amherst beautification process that was started in 1996, has now been completed. DARS believes the mural project has been a key component in meeting its objectives of enhancing the image of the downtown core and fostering civic pride.

The 2nd annual Nova Scotia Fibre Arts Festival – a five day celebration of all things fibre – was held in mid-October. It is deemed to have been a resounding success, with the numbers of events, displays and participants having doubled over last year. Well over 2000 visitors from all over North America and as far away as California participated in workshops, exhibits and hands-on demonstrations. Next year's festival will be held from October 12 to 16 at various venues throughout Amherst.

The 7th Annual Victorian Christmas celebration kicked off last weekend with a Victorian Tea and Luncheon, the Light Up and Carol Sing-along and Parade. The Victorian Christmas committee has 25 Christmas trees for distribution to downtown businesses for outdoor decorations. The trees will be arriving this week. They can be attached to power poles or light standards outside your respective business. This is an opportunity to have downtown businesses participate in the spirit of the festive season by decorating an outdoor tree and adding to the beautification of our downtown for Victorian Christmas 2009.

8.4 CJSMA – Nil Report

8.5 Northern Region Waste Resource Committee

Councillor Baker presented the following Northern Region Waste Resource Committee report:

The Northern Region Solid Waste Committee met on November 12, 2009. The Committee reviewed the updated Northern Region Solid Waste Agreement which will be discussed again at the January meeting of the Committee after review by the municipal partners.

A change on how the Municipal Approved Programming funding was also discussed. Municipal units are to report back to the Committee with comments on the changes and potential programs to be funded shortly.

8.6 Cooperation Committee - Nil Report

8.7 Airport Committee - Nil Report

8.8 Amherst and Area Chamber of Commerce

Deputy Mayor Angel presented the following Amherst and Area Chamber of Commerce report:

Victorian Christmas Light Up, Carol Singalong and Parade.

The Victorian Christmas Celebrations were once again a tremendous success with an estimated turn out for the light up and singalong of about 1,000 citizens. The parade on Saturday drew one of the largest crowds in the history of the parade. Thanks is extended to the Y's Men for their contribution in planning and organizing the Parade. The Town public works staff are to be thanked for the excellent work done on decorating the Town for this event. Each year their work load increases as the light up process gets bigger and better. Thanks is also extended to the music teachers, the school and church choirs and the staff and volunteers of the First Baptist Church for their participation in the event.

Wine & Cheese Party - December 10th, 2009 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM

New Chamber member, AMA Communications & Bell Aliant are hosting a wine & cheese party at the Wandlyn for our business community with a special presentation on the new Blackberry devices and how they work, also the new I-Phone, the new smart phones and Turbo sticks which are the new mobile high speed internet connection that Bell is offering. Bell will have all their reps on hand to answer any questions. Join us for a chance to celebrate a great year, toast with your business associates, and learn about how the new high speed mobile service and smart phones can do better business for you.

8.9 VON

Councillor Baker updated Council with a verbal report on activities of the Victorian Order of Nurses, including statistical data on some of their programs, including Visiting Nursing, Home Support, Foot Care and Community Support. The VON has been very busy with the H1N1 pandemic. Councillor Baker thanked nurses and volunteer board for the work they do in the community.

9. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Small took a few moments to advise the public about the change in solid waste pick up times; due to a change in personnel, pick ups have been earlier than what people got used to. He reminded people to have their residuals and recyclables at curbside by 7:30 am.

He also advised the residents in the area of the East Pleasant Street Reconstruction Project that the job is not yet complete, and that street improvements will continue in 2010 when the construction season resumes.

Other highlights of the Mayor's comments included:

- Having completed its first year, the current council has done a lot, and has an exciting year coming in 2010.

- CUPE workers were given kudos for having the new flag poles in place in time for the Olympic Torch Run last weekend. There will be a special rededication ceremony with the Lions Club in the near future.
- This year's new capital equipment has been purchased and is now in place, providing staff with decent equipment to do their jobs.
- Amherst foodbank needs your help – so many needing food – they are struggling and appreciate any help citizens can provide.

10. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Councillor Rhindress the meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

APPROVED BY:

Gregory D. Herrett, CA
Town Clerk and Chief Administrative Officer

Robert Small
Mayor

AGENDA

1.	O'CANADA			
	Welcome to Shannon Macdonald, NSCC student			
2.	HEARINGS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/PETITIONS			
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