

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Monday, March 25, 2013
Location: Council Chambers, Town Hall
Members Present: Mayor Robert Small
 Deputy Mayor George Baker
 Councillor Frank Balcom
 Councillor Robert Bird
 Councillor Lisa Emery
 Councillor David March
 Councillor Terry Rhindress
Staff Present: Greg Herrett, CAO
 Vince Arbing, Treasurer
 Roger MacIsaac, Director CED
 Jason MacDonald, Director of Planning
 Ben Pitman, Director TPW
 Bill Crossman, Fire Chief
 Ian Naylor, Acting Police Chief
 Rebecca Purdy, Executive Assistant
 Kim Jones, Policy and HR

1. HEARINGS / PRESENTATIONS / PETITIONS

1.1. Public Hearing - Development Agreement, 80 West Victoria Street

Mayor Small called the Public Hearing to order and explained that the purpose of this public hearing is to consider a Development Agreement to permit the construction of four unit townhouse on the property located at 80 Victoria Street West. This Development Agreement was recommended to Council for adoption by the Planning Advisory Committee.

Jason MacDonald reviewed the issue and explained why a DA is required. He said the application and proposed use fulfill all requirements of the MPS. Staff and PAC recommended approval and Council gave first reading last month.

Jason clarified some points of the proposed DA and said there are sufficient sewer services on the property - the main line on Victoria Street can handle the increased capacity.

Pamela Downey, 84 West Victoria Street said the proposed townhouse is being built behind her home and will impact her property. She issues with drainage; the developer raised the drive a couple of feet and this has increased drainage onto her property. The Developer has been agreeable and helpful, but she wants to make sure her issue is noted. Jason MacDonald read the section of the DA that addresses drainage. Once the DA is adopted, the Town can have the developer address these issues under section 4.7 in schedule A. The developer said they are putting in French drains that will address excess water in accordance with the agreement.

No written submissions have been received.

Mayor Small stated that the adoption of this development agreement is on the agenda of the Council meeting about to commence for consideration.

The Public Hearing concluded at 6:55 PM.

2. O'CANADA

3. CALL TO ORDER

3.1. Amendments to the Agenda

3.2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved By: Deputy Mayor George Baker
Seconded By: Councillor David March
That the agenda be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried

3.3. Approval of Minutes

Moved By: Councillor Terry Rhindress
Seconded By: Councillor Lisa Emery
To approve the minutes of the February 25, 2013 regular meeting, the March 1, 2013 special meeting, and the March 18, 2013 special meeting as circulated.

Motion Carried

4. REQUESTS FOR DECISION

4.1. PAC Recommendation - DA 80 Victoria Street West

Moved By: Councillor David March
Seconded By: Councillor Terry Rhindress
That Council approve second reading of the development agreement for 80 Victoria Street West, to permit a second four-unit townhouse for a total of eight units on the property.

Motion Carried

Case No: DA-2013-03

This Agreement made this _____ Day of _____ 2013.

Between:

Brian Hargreaves and Doris Dee Francis Rafter (owners of property located at 80 West Victoria Street [PID 25361494], hereinafter called the "Owner"), of the one part, and

The Town of Amherst (a body corporate in the Province of Nova Scotia, hereinafter called the "Town"), of the other part.

WHEREAS the Owner wishes to obtain permission pursuant to Policy RP-9 of the Municipal Planning Strategy of the Town of Amherst, to construct a second 4-unit townhouse dwelling in addition to the existing 4-unit dwelling, for a total of eight (8) dwelling units, on the property located at 80 West Victoria Street (PID# 25361494).

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 ____th Day of _____ 2013, approved the said development Agreement subject to the registered Owner of the land described herein entering into this Agreement;

AND WHEREAS the following Schedules shall be attached to and form part of this Agreement:

- (a) Schedule 'A' - Terms and Conditions
- (b) Schedule 'B' - Property Location Map
- (c) Schedule 'C' – Site Plan
- (d) Schedule 'D' – Building Elevation

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 Lands 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.

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- 2) That the Owner may construct a maximum of eight (8) dwellings units on the said Lands, subject to Schedules A, B, C, and D attached, subject to the Building Code.
- 3) Nothing in this Agreement shall exempt or be taken to exempt the Owner or any other person from complying with the requirements of any Bylaw of the Town applicable to the Property (other than the Land Use Bylaw to the extent varied by this Agreement) or any statute or regulation of the Province of Nova Scotia.
- 5) 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.
- 6) 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.
- 7) The Town shall issue the necessary Development Permit for the development upon expiration of the appeal period specified for Development Agreements under Section 249 of the *Municipal Government Act*, as the same may be amended from time to time, or upon the withdrawal or dismissal of any appeal which may be taken.
- 8) The Agreement shall be binding upon the parties hereto and their heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns, and shall run with the land which is the subject of this Agreement until such time as it is discharged by the Town in accordance with Section 229 of the *Municipal Government Act*.

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED

Schedule A 80 West Victoria Street - Development Agreement

Terms and Conditions:

1.0 USE OF LAND AND BUILDINGS

- 1.1 The use of the property shall be limited to a maximum of eight (8) dwelling units in two (2) townhouse dwellings in the general location illustrated on Schedule C.
- 1.2 The second structure shall have approximately the same footprint, roof pitch, and architectural features as the existing structure, as shown on Schedule D.

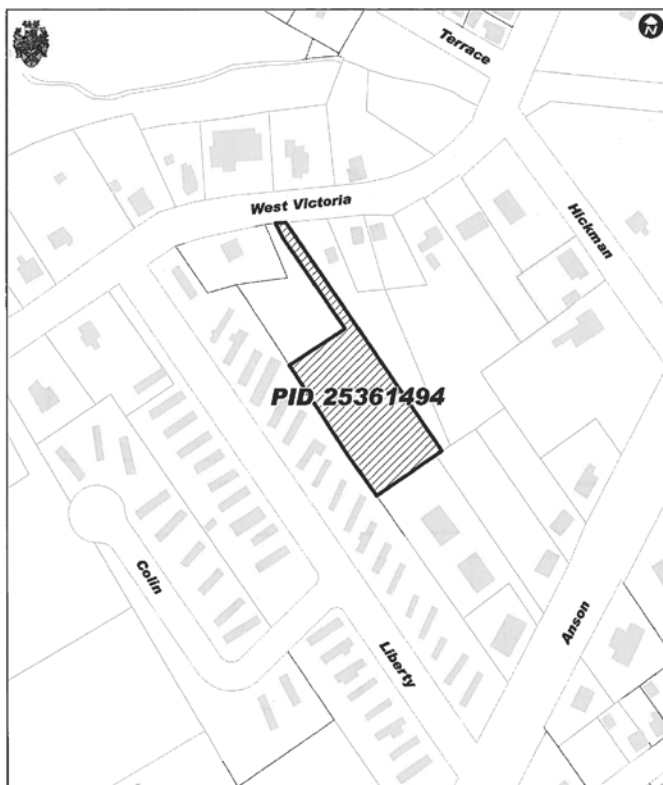
3.0 BUILDING LOCATION AND DESIGN

- 3.1 All structures on the Lands shall be subject to the *Nova Scotia Building Code Regulations*, to the satisfaction of the Building Inspector.
- 3.2 All dwelling designs shall be in general conformance with the designs illustrated on Schedule 'D'. Minor variations to the architectural details may be permitted, to the satisfaction of the Development Officer.
- 3.4 For each dwelling unit, a minimum of one (1) parking space shall be provided.

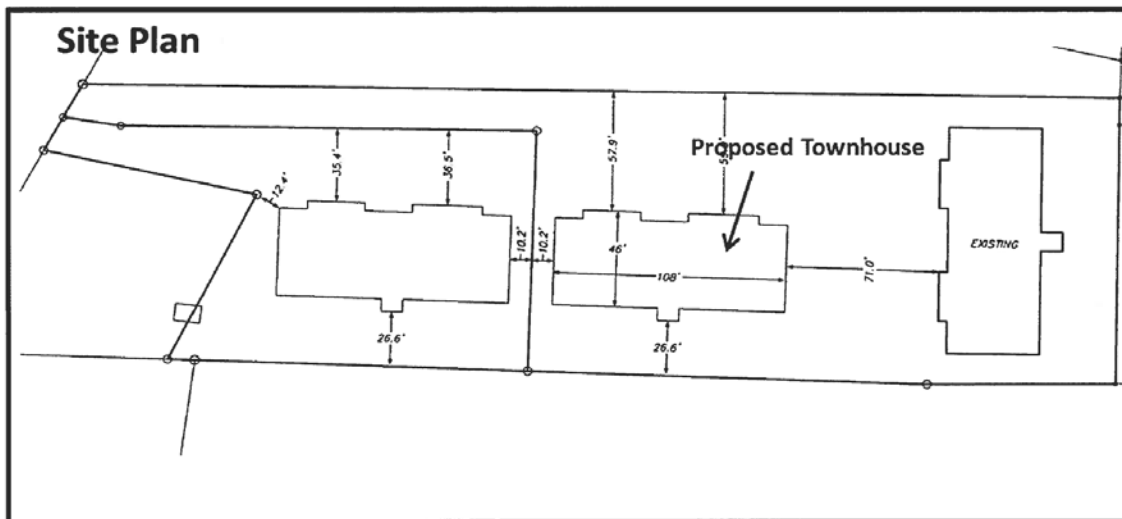
4.0 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1 The Owner shall keep the Lands and buildings and any portion thereof clean and in good repair. All elements of the development on the Lands shall be regularly maintained and kept in a tidy state and free from unkept materials of any kind.
- 4.2 Signage on the property shall conform to the Town of Amherst *Land Use Bylaw*.
- 4.3 All areas not used for buildings, parking or driveways shall be Landscaped with grass or other such vegetation.
- 4.4 Exterior lighting shall be carefully designed to not shine directly onto adjacent properties, including lighting along the access road.
- 4.5 The Owner shall be responsible for installation of a stop sign at the end of the proposed street access, the exact location of which shall be to the satisfaction of the Town Engineer.
- 4.6 Solid waste management shall be in conformance with the Town *Solid Waste Bylaw*.
- 4.7 The Owner shall be responsible for storm water management during and after construction, and shall not increase surface flows onto adjacent properties. It is the Owner's responsibility to direct storm water to Town services at West Victoria.
- 4.8 The Owner shall plant and maintain juvenile trees along the eastern property boundary across from the new building every 5 m, to the satisfaction of the Development Officer.

SCHEDULE A



SCHEDULE B



SCHEDULE C



4.2. Amend Tax Exemption By-law

Moved By: Councillor Lisa Emery

Seconded By: Deputy Mayor George Baker

That Council approve first reading of a by-law to amend the Tax Exemption By-law, which includes a housekeeping item and adds two properties to Schedule C, Cumberland Columbia Club 01076573 and Cumberland Columbia Club 03256952.

Motion Carried

BY-LAW TO AMEND THE TAX EXEMPTION BY-LAW (B-1)

The Town of Amherst Tax Exemption By-law (B-1) approved by Council on the 23rd day of April 2001, with amendments on March 27, 2006, September 24, 2007, June 22, 2009, October 26, 2009, and June 25, 2012 is hereby amended as follows:

1. SCHEDULE "C"

Changing the name for property located at 4-6 Robie Street, Assessment Account Number 1030906 owned by Cumberland Columbia Club from "Vacant Land" to "Parking Lot".

Adding the following two properties:

Parking Lot 5 Robie Street	Cumberland Columbia Club 01076573	The Whole	100%
Parking Lot 7 Robie Street	Cumberland Columbia Club 03256952	The Whole	100%

4.3. General Borrowing Resolution

Moved By: Deputy Mayor George Baker

Seconded By: Councillor David March

That Council approve a general borrowing resolution to authorize the borrowing of certain moneys from the Royal Bank of Canada to meet the current expenditures of the Town for the year ending March 31, 2014.

Motion Carried

**TOWN OF AMHERST
GENERAL BORROWING RESOLUTION**

To authorize the borrowing of certain moneys from the Royal Bank of Canada to meet the current expenditure of the Corporation of the Town of Amherst (hereinafter called "the Corporation") for the year ending March 31, 2014.

WHEREAS it is necessary to borrow the sum of \$2,000,000 (two million dollars) from the **Royal Bank of Canada** to meet the new current expenditures of the Corporation until such time as the taxes to be levied therefore can be collected;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Municipal Council of the Corporation as follows:

1. **THAT** the Mayor and the Treasurer of the Corporation be, and they are hereby authorized under the seal of the Corporation to borrow from the **Royal Bank of Canada** up to the sum of **\$2,000,000 (two million dollars)** as the same may be required from time to time to meet the now current expenditures of the Corporation which said expenditures has been duly authorized by Council; and
2. **THAT** the said Mayor with the Treasurer aforesaid, be, and they are hereby authorized to pay or allow to the said bank, interest on the sum of **\$2,000,000 (two million dollars)** at a rate of Royal Bank Prime minus ¼% per annum, which may be paid or allowed in advance by way of discount or otherwise howsoever as they may deem best; and
3. **THAT** the said sum of **\$2,000,000 (two million dollars)** so to be borrowed shall be made payable on or before the 31st day of March, 2014, and the promissory note or notes of the Corporation, if any, given therefore, if made payable before the said 31st day of March, 2014, may be renewed by the said Mayor and Treasurer from time to time, but no renewal thereof shall fall due later than the said 31st day of March, 2014; and
4. **THAT** the said promissory note or notes of the Corporation, sealed with the corporate seal and signed by the Mayor and Treasurer of the Corporation be given from time to time as required, in security for the amounts borrowed from time to time under the provisions of this resolution; and
5. **THAT** giving of such renewal note or notes, as aforesaid, shall not be deemed satisfaction to the said bank of the said advance or interest, but as evidence only in indebtedness.

Given under the hands of the Mayor and Treasurer of the Town this _____ day of March, 2013

4.4. Insurance Services

Mayor Small declared a conflict and excused himself from the council table and the deputy mayor chaired the meeting in his absence.

Moved By: Councillor Terry Rhindress

Seconded By: Councillor Robert Bird

That Council accept the renewal proposal from Archway Insurance as recommended by the Treasurer, based on satisfactory performance and service, for the renewal period from April 1, 2013 to April 1, 2014 at the total premium of \$180,564.

Motion Carried

4.5. Lease Agreement - Electric Street Parking Spaces

Moved By: Councillor Lisa Emery

Seconded By: Councillor Frank Balcom

That Council enter into the lease agreement for ten parking spaces within the parking lot located at the corner of Electric and Maple Streets with the owner of the property located at 31-37 Victoria Street.

Motion Carried

THIS LEASE made this ___ day of _____, 2013 effective as of _____

BETWEEN: TOWN OF AMHERST, a body corporate, (herein called the "Lessor") OF THE ONE PART

- and – **Alex Fillemon of _____**, Province of Nova Scotia (herein after called the "Lessee") OF THE OTHER PART

WITNESSETH THAT:

1. In this Lease,
 - (a) The "Lessor's Lands" means the lands of the Lessor situate at 12 Electric Street, Amherst, Cumberland County, Province of Nova Scotia;
 - (b) "Demised Premises" means the 10 parking spaces forming part of the Lessor's lands, 12 Electric Street, Amherst, County of Cumberland, Nova Scotia, and more particularly shown in Schedule "A" to this Lease;
 - (c) "Lessor" means Town of Amherst, a body corporate;
 - (d) "Lessee" means Alex Fillemon, owner of 31 – 37 Victoria Street, successors, assigns, servants, agents, licensees, workmen, contractors and guests;

DEMISE

2. In consideration of the rents hereby reserved and the covenants herein contained, the Lessor hereby leases to the Lessee the Demised Premises, for a term of five (5) years beginning September 1, 2013 and ending September 31, 2018 and upon agreement of both parties renewable for three five-year terms thereafter, for the following purposes:
 - (a) Parking of up to ten (10) passenger motor vehicles (cars and light trucks) for the tenants of the building to be constructed at 31 – 37 Victoria Street.

RENT

3. The Lessee shall pay to the Lessor as rent the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1000) per year together with the Harmonized Sales Tax, payable yearly in advance from the date upon which the lease term commences.

The rent for any additional five year term shall be adjusted upward (but not downward) in an amount proportionate to the increase, if any, in the value of the Demised Premises as established by the "Consumer Price Index" published by Statistics Canada and compounded annually as appropriate.

LESSOR'S COVENANTS

4. The Lessor covenants with the Lessee as follows:
 - (a) The Lessor has good and marketable title to the Demised Premises and full and absolute right to lease the Demised Premises and so long as the Lessee is not in default of any of the terms of this Lease, the Lessee shall have the right to utilize the Demised Premises for tenant parking for the building located at 12 Electric Street;

- (b) The Lessee may terminate this Agreement upon three (3) months' written notice given by the Lessee to the Lessor, provided however any rent paid in advance to the Lessor shall not be refundable to the Lessee;
- (c) The Lessee may not sub-lease any portion of the land or sign to another party without written consent of the Lessor. Such consent may cause a change in the amount of rent paid by the Lessee to the Lessor.
- (d) The Lessee may install a "Tenant Parking Only" sign at the front of each parking space leased by the Lessee.
- (e) The Lessee will be responsible for the enforcement of the Tenant Parking on the lot.

LESSEE'S COVENANTS

5. The Lessee covenants with the Lessor as follows:
- (a) The Lessee shall indemnify and save harmless the Lessor from and against all or any actions, claims or demands that may be lawfully brought against the Lessor by reason of anything done by the Lessee, its agents or contractors or anything placed on the Demised Premises by the Lessee its agents or contractors;
 - (b) The Lessee will promptly discharge any Mechanics Liens filed against the Demised Premises with respect to work done for the benefit of or at the request of the Lessee, provided that the Lessee may in good faith contest any lien in a court or tribunal having jurisdiction and, further provided that the entry into this Lease by the Lessor shall not constitute a consent by the Lessor under the *Builders' Lien Act*, R.S.N.S., 1989, c. 277 in respect of Section 8(2) of the *Act*.
 - (c) The Lessee will, in its occupancy of the Demised Premises, comply with all laws, regulations and rulings of any government or governmental organization having lawful jurisdiction.
 - (d) The Lessee shall not have exclusive rights over the Demised Premises and for further clarity; members of the public may utilize the remaining parking spaces within the lot not leased to the Lessee.
 - (e) The Lessee shall not install any obstruction, fence, barrier or other device which will obstruct the full utilization of the parking lot.
 - (f) The Lessor may terminate this Agreement upon three (3) months' written notice given by the Lessor to the Lessee.

FOREFEITURE AND RE-ENTRY

6. If the Lessee should be in default of any of the terms of this Lease and if the Lessee should fail to cure such default within thirty (30) days after the Lessor gives the Lessee written notice of such default or if the Lessee shall become bankrupt or make a general assignment for the benefit of its creditors, then the Lessor may enter upon the Demised Premises and every part thereof and thence forth this Lease shall be void; provided, however, if the default by the Lessee can only be cured by the performance of labour or the furnishing of materials and if such labour cannot easily be completed or such materials reasonably obtained and utilized within thirty (30) days, such default shall not be deemed to continue if the Lessee proceeds promptly with such work as may be necessary to cure the default and continues diligently to complete the same. The Lessee shall thereupon remove all its fixtures in accordance with Article 5 of this Lease.

ARBITRATION

7. Any unresolved disputes between the parties arising out of this Lease shall be resolved by arbitration between the parties by reference to a single arbitrator subject to the provisions of the *Commercial Arbitration Act* of Nova Scotia.

NOTICES

8. Any notice in writing which either party may give to the other with regard to any matter or thing in this Lease may be validly given by mailing the same by prepaid registered post addressed, if intended for the Lessor, to:

Town of Amherst
98 Victoria Street
PO Box 516
Amherst NS B4H 4A1

Attention: Gregory D. Herrett, CA, Chief Administrative Officer

And, for the Lessee, to:

Alex Fillemon
Cornwallis Developments Ltd.
325 Main St. Kentville, NS B4N1K5

SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS

9. This Lease shall endure to the benefit of and be binding upon the Lessor, their heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns, the owners from time to time of the Lessor's Lands and upon the Lessee and its successors and assigns, the holders from time to time of the Lessee's leasehold interest in the Demised Premises.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Parties have duly executed these presents the day and year first above mentioned.

4.6. April Meeting Dates

Moved By: Councillor Frank Balcom

Seconded By: Councillor Lisa Emery

That the regular Committee of the Whole and Council meetings for the month of April be changed to April 22 for Committee of the Whole and April 29 for Council.

Motion Carried

4.7. Funding Request - Amherst Powerlifting Club

Moved By: Councillor Robert Bird

Seconded By: Councillor Terry Rhindress

That Council approve funding in the amount of \$250 under the Town's Festivals & Events Policy in support of Amherst Powerlifting Club's competition being held in Amherst on April 20th.

Motion Carried

4.8. Funding Request - Cumberland Y Service Club

Moved By: Councillor Robert Bird

Seconded By: Councillor Frank Balcom

That Council approve funding in the amount of \$1,000 under the Town's Festivals & Events Policy in support of the Cumberland Y Service Club's Cross Border Point Series Races occurring throughout the year.

Motion Carried

4.9. 85 Church Street

Moved By: Councillor David March

Seconded By: Councillor Lisa Emery

That Council declare surplus the property located at 85 Church Street and direct staff to seek proposals for the sale of the property by issuing a Request for Proposals.

Motion Carried

4.10. Tender - Welding Services

Moved By: Councillor Frank Balcom

Seconded By: Councillor David March

That Council award the tender for Welding Services to the lowest compliant bidder, BJ's Custom Welding for the 2013-14 fiscal year, with an option for a second year.

Motion Carried

4.11. PAC Recommendation - Amend LUB re Government Offices

Moved By: Councillor David March

Seconded By: Councillor Terry Rhindress

That Council approve first reading of a by-law to amend the Land Use By-law to limit government office uses to the Downtown Zone.

Motion Carried

Bylaw to Amend the Land Use By-Law, P-2

1. The purpose of this by-law is to amend the Land Use By-law of the Town of Amherst to restrict government offices to the Downtown Zone.
2. The Land Use By-law of the Town of Amherst is hereby amended as follows:

AMENDMENT A

Add the following definition to section **1.0 DEFINITIONS**.

- 41) **Government Offices** means a building or portion thereof used for non-retail purposes by the public sector including federal, provincial or municipal governments, crown corporations, and publicly funded agencies to conduct public administration or services.

AMENDMENT B

Delete the following from section **8.2.1 Zone Uses Permitted**:

Institutional Uses (schools, government offices, churches, police stations, similar uses.)

5. INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1. Earth Day - April 22, 2013

Councillor Emery presented a report on Earth Day 2013. There was discussion on collection of garbage bags by Public Works. CJSMA will waive tipping fees for this as a part of the Clean Across Nova Scotia initiative

6. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

7. INTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1. Planning Advisory Committee

Councillor March presented the following report on behalf of the Planning Advisory Committee:

The Planning Advisory Committee met on March 19, 2013. The Planner reported that no variances had been issued since the previous reporting period. The Committee heard presentations from staff on the following issues:

Land Use By-law Amendment – Government Offices. The Mayor and CAO had asked the Committee to look into amending the Land Use By-law to require government offices to remain in the downtown. The Planner presented a proposed amendment which defines **Government Office** and specifies that they only be permitted in the downtown commercial zone. This was the subject of a Public Participation Opportunity with no members of the public in attendance. A recommendation to not consider the amendment was submitted by the Committee to Council.

Land Use By-law and Municipal Planning Strategy Amendments re Implementation of Downtown Design Standards. The Planner presented a report recommending that the core districts occupy a more focused area around actual commercial uses than those proposed in the previous model. The new amendment breaks up the design guidelines and inserts them in the appropriate sections of the Land Use By-law, as opposed to attaching them as a Schedule. The Committee will give the new version consideration at its next meeting, scheduled for April 8.

The next meeting will be see the Committee operating with a full complement of members, as Council recently appointed Dale Fawthrop and Cathy LeBlanc, effective April 1, 2013.

7.2. Amherst Board of Police Commissioners

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

We now have three new citizen appointees on the police commission. We had our first meeting together on Tuesday, March-19-13. They will be an asset to the town and to the commission.

NSAPB/NSACP CONFERENCE: This year Amherst has been chosen to host the annual provincial police boards and chiefs of police conference. Attached is the conference schedule to date.

CISNS: After several letters from our commission with no response the writing is on the wall regarding CISNS. Besides sending letters on behalf of the commission chair Emery has spoken to and requested letters be sent to the government from the following parties; Terry Farrell, Judi Giroux, Scott Armstrong, Jamie Baillie, Stephen MacNeill, Warden Hunter, Mayor Small, Mayor Snow and Mayor Stewart, Councillor Welton, Councillor Ernie Gilbert who is chair of the RCMP Advisory board, Chief Ruddick of Springhill and CAO Don Tabor. All have corresponded with the province regarding their displeasure of losing the CISNS office. Attached is my last letter along with the letter from the Premier to Mayor Small

The CAO added that the new appointees to the Commission are Sharon Bristol, William Hiltz and Harold Miller.

7.3. Amherst Youth Town Council

Councillor Bird presented the following report on behalf of the Amherst Youth Town Council:

AYTC members met on March 4 in the Amherst Stadium heated room. Members were joined by Chantelle Taylor, the Youth Coordinator from Cumberland Public Libraries. Chantelle provided an overview of youth services and programs offered by the Library. She also reviewed the March Break programs and the need for volunteers for this program, should any AYTC members wish to offer assistance.

In preparation for their Relay for Life team, AYTC members discussed potential fundraising initiatives. Due to the success of AYTC's Youth Amazing Race, CED staff Jenn Borne has been in contact with the events committee chair for the Relay for Life for assistance in planning a mini Amazing Race during the Relay for Life in June. AYTC members have offered to partner with the Relay for Life organizers to coordinate this race.

AYTC members are once again focused on the 24 Hour Physical Activity Day that is rescheduled for April 6 after being cancelled February 9 due to inclement weather. This date will allow for more participation in the Youth Amazing Race as the weather will hopefully be warmer. AYTC members are in the process of recruiting peers to sign up for the race as well as promoting the entire event with their peers.

The next monthly meeting will be held Monday, April 1 at 3:30 PM in the Amherst Stadium heated room.

7.4. Community Arts Council Committee

Councillor March presented the following report on behalf of the Community Arts Council Committee:

The Community Arts Council Committee met on Wednesday, March 6th at 6pm in Council Chambers, Amherst Town Hall. A short presentation was made by Bob Janes about the Susan Taylor Theatre at ARHS. The presentation was followed by questions from CAC members to try and obtain some information about the history of the theatre as well as the process to obtain representation on both the boards/committees that are involved in the theatre.

Other topics of discussion included Amherst 250 and an art display at Susan Taylor Theatre during the Showcase Theatre Productions presentation of "My Fair Lady" in April. The committee was given information about a planned art show at Cumberland County Museum and Archives for local artists during the summer months. The meeting was attended by around 40 members of the public which was very encouraging.

7.5. Downtown Business Advisory Committee

Deputy Mayor Baker presented the following report on behalf of the Downtown Business Advisory Committee:

The Downtown Business Advisory Committee has met once since the last report, on March 5th.

During the last meeting, members of the Amherst Chamber of Commerce were invited to attend and present on the Chamber's goals and objectives over the next year. They also spoke about how membership works and the advantages of being a member of the Chamber. President David Mosely presented for the Chamber but also brought full time staff member Patti Colson and Treasurer/Secretary Susan MacIsaac. The presentation was followed by a question and answer period which DBAC members found very helpful and informative.

Short reports were given by both the Marketing and Events Committees on their current projects. The Marketing Committee is moving forward with the development of a downtown brochure and website. It is expected to be ready for launch by May 1st, 2013. This initiative is being funded fully by all participating downtown businesses. The Events Committee is deep into planning for the resurgence of the Blueberry Harvest Festival. Dates chosen for this festival are August 16-18th, 2013. A tentative schedule is currently being developed along with funding sources and entertainment options.

A request was made by the Committee to look into a Town of Amherst presence in the Doers and Dreamers guide for the 2014 Tourist Season. It was also requested that the contact information for the Doers and Dreamers Guide be sent to all downtown businesses, should they wish to inquire on their own.

The next meeting for the Downtown Business Advisory Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9th

8. EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1. Cumberland Public Libraries

Councillor Balcom presented the following report on behalf of Cumberland Public Libraries:

Volunteers Needed

The Four Fathers Library is looking for volunteers to help us provide free Community Classes. For more information about Community Classes see our website or ask at the library. Once we have volunteers in place we'll advertise the classes to the public. Classes will run for five weeks starting on April 22nd.

March Break

We had a huge turnout for library March Break programs this year. Over 300 kids & teens were in the library during the week for programs that involved everything from messy science fun to scavenger hunts to storytimes and puppet shows. Pictures of March Break fun can be found on the library's Facebook site.

Upcoming Events

We have so many things going on each month that the best way to keep up to date is look at our Calendar of Events on the library's website (www.cumberlandpubliclibraries.ca). But here are a few events happening at the Four Fathers Library in April:

- April 2nd - Classic Movie Night, this month's movie is Dr. Strangelove
- April 10th – Twisted Stitchers, a drop in stitchery group
- April 17th – Will & Estate Planning Seminar presented by Bill Fairbanks and sponsored by the Cumberland Barristers Association.

All of our programs are offered FREE but donations are cheerfully accepted.

Did You Know?

Almost 50% of Amherst residents have a library card and have used it within the last three years.

8.2. Cumberland YMCA

Councillor Bird presented the following report on behalf of the Cumberland YMCA:

Phase 3 renovations are set to begin March 25th with the pool deck replacement. The pool is expected to be closed for three weeks. Over the next three to four months the HVAC system for the pool and central core of the building will be replaced with a more efficient system that will take the hot air from the pool deck and re-use it to heat the lobby and community room. In addition all three locker rooms will be upgraded, the remainder of the pool deck lighting will be changed to LED lights, the hot water tank will be replaced with four smaller tanks, the lobby and office spaces will be renovated and the pool mechanics will be upgraded to run more efficiently. Flat roof replacement has now been completed.

Current membership of the Y is 953.

Strong Kids Campaign is wrapping up for this fiscal year. Although the Capital Campaign once again impacted our Strong Kids donations we have worked very hard with our events and by reaching out to potential new donors to try to reach our goal. Our Strong Kids "Dare to Care" event for Board, staff and community members will be April 4th from 5-6 pm in the Y lobby. Come join the fun and watch the Dares! Cupid will be on hand, as well as the Easter bunny, and there will be eggs, oh will there be eggs!

Budget figures for the end of February show us a bit ahead of budget. Currently we are anticipating a \$40,000 surplus, up from the \$17,000 originally budgeted. Although this past year has shown challenges within the Childcare program revenue our membership revenue is currently \$52,000 higher than anticipated which is one of the major contributing factors to this result.

8.3. Cumberland Joint Services Management Authority

Councillor Rhindress presented the following report on behalf of the CJSMA:

The Cumberland Joint Services Management Authority (CJSMA) meeting was held on January 24, 2013 at the Oxford Area Lions Community Center. Members attending from Amherst were Councilors Frank Balcom and Terry Rhindress. Items discussed at the meeting were as follows:

Financial Reports for year to date December 31, 2012 and draft 2013/14 budgets were presented.

A motion was passed to modify the Construction and Demolition Tipping fees for the demolition of residential buildings that are being demolished pursuant to an order under the Dangerous and Unightly Premises provisions of the *Municipal Government Act*. The fee has been modified to for this specific item to a \$1,000.00 flat fee.

It was reported that all five municipalities have now passed a motion which permits the Chair to be a voting member of the Board.

A motion was passed to waive the tipping fees for materials delivered to the Cumberland Central Landfill from the Clean Across NS Event on April 19 and 20, 2013. The amount of materials delivered is reported to be minor in nature.

8.4. Northern Region Solid Waste Committee

Councillor Balcom presented the following report on behalf of the Northern Region Solid Waste Committee:

The Northern Region Waste –Resource Committee met on February 1, 2013 at the Municipality of Colchester, Council Chambers in Truro, NS.

Election of officers took place with Councillor John Kelligrew from the Municipality of Cumberland filling the position of Chair and Deputy Mayor George Baker of Amherst filling the position of Vice Chair.

Reports were received on the following:

- Regional Sponsorship Funding Update
- Regional Enforcement Funding Update
- Regional Partners Update

A provincial initiative was implemented to have medical waste dealt with by the Provincial Medical Authority. All participating municipalities were asked to send a letter to the appropriate medical authority to have the disposal of medical wastes addressed.

In Other Business it was decided to send a thank you letter to the former chair of the Committee, John Patterson.

8.5. L. A. Animal Shelter

Councillor Balcom presented the following report on behalf of the L. A. Animal Shelter:

The L. A. Animal Shelter held its annual general meeting earlier this month with the selection of a new Board of Directors and Officers.

In June, the Shelter will celebrate its 26th anniversary of excellent, committed service to hundreds of beautiful but sadly, helpless local dogs and cats in desperate need of shelter and care due to neglect, abuse, abandonment or surrender.

Each year the Shelter operates without any provincial funding, relying solely on minimal contributions from the Municipality of Cumberland, the town of Amherst and the Town of Springhill, but the majority of funds come from kind and generous donations from local businesses and individuals.

Beginning this year, June will also be declared “Animal Awareness Month” by the Shelter, with various activities and events being planned. More information regarding this will be available soon.

Contact the Shelter at www.laanimalshelter.ca or by phone, 902-661-PAWS.

Mayor Small asked to have the terms of the Town's agreement with the Shelter clarified, with respect to the 'minimal contributions' comment in the report; Councillor Balcom explained that, while the Town of Amherst's annual contribution of \$10,000 is significant, all municipal contributions amount to only 25% of the operating costs of the Shelter.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Small reported that Nova Scotia Mayors and Wardens met with the Province regarding the province's economy last week. The one message they left with was that they are going to get a list of things that need to be done - pick the top six and get them done, don't let them sit. The Mayor congratulated to all those who received athletic achievement awards last week. He said he and the CAO are going to Halifax tomorrow to learn more about the proposed RENS.

On motion by Councillor Rhindress, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Gregory D. Herrett,CA
Town Clerk and CAO

Robert Small
Mayor