

Town of Amherst

Planning Advisory Committee

Minutes

Date of Meeting: Monday, May 13, 2019
Location: Council Chambers, Town Hall

Members Present: Councillor Terry Rhindress
Councillor Jason Blanch
Citizen Appointee Gordon Goodwin (Vice-Chair)
Citizen Appointee Larry Pardy

Members Absent: Citizen Appointee Ronald Wilson (Chair)
Deputy Mayor Sheila Christie

Staff Present: Deputy CAO, Jason MacDonald
Manager of Planning and Strategic Initiatives,
Andrew Fisher
Dangerous and Unsightly Administrator, Marc Buske
Municipal Clerk Kimberlee Jones
Administrative Assistant Emily Wainwright

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Goodwin called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.

1.1. Approval of Agenda

Moved By: Councillor Rhindress
Seconded By: Councillor Blanch
That the May 13, 2019 agenda be approved.

Motion Carried

1.2. Approval of Minutes

Moved By: Citizen Appointee Pardy
Seconded By: Councillor Blanch
That the minutes of the April 4, 2019 PAC meeting be approved.

Motion Carried

2. Amendments to the Land Use Bylaw – Offsite Signage

2.1 Staff Report

Mr. Fisher reviewed the staff report as included as part of the agenda package.

2.2 Public Participation Opportunity Summary

Mr. Fisher reviewed the summary of the Public Participation Opportunity that was held on May 1, 2019.

2.3 Recommendation

Moved By: Citizen Appointee Pardy

Seconded By: Councillor Blanch

That the Planning Advisory Committee recommend that Council not amend the Land Use Bylaw to allow non-electric off-site signage in the Downtown Core Area District.

**Motion Carried
(1) Opposed, Councillor Rhindress**

3. 23 Spring Street - Demolition

3.1. Staff Report

Mr. MacDonald then reviewed the staff report as included as part of the agenda package.

Mr. MacDonald read a letter sent to him from Mr. Jim O'Neill, lawyer for the property owner as distributed.

JIM O'NEIL
LAWYER

May 13, 2019

Municipality of the Town of Amherst
Victoria Street
Amherst, NS

Attn: Administrator of Unsightly Premises

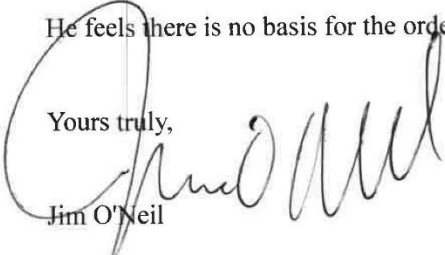
Re: Spring St. – Walter Wells

This is to advise that Walt Wells has not instructed me to attend in person today.

He has the flu so he's not going to be attending but he wanted me to file this letter with you objecting to the issuance of a demolition order.

He feels there is no basis for the order and that the issues in question can be repaired.

Yours truly,



Jim O'Neil

Cc Douglas Shatford, QC

Jim O'Neil – Trial Lawyer
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3.2 Committee Questions / Comments

Councillor Rhindress asked if this was to go ahead today, would the rodents inside be destroyed. Mr. MacDonald replied that if it gets to the point where the Town will do the demolition, a professional pest control company would take care of the rodents and animals prior to demolition.

Councillor Blanch asked if staff were aware of other routes that other communities take beyond doing nothing and demolition and are there other alternatives in those communities that we are not aware of or not choosing. Mr. MacDonald replied that he is not aware of what is happening in other communities that would order an owner to do something differently. He said he was approached by members of the community looking to salvage parts of the property, but it is ultimately up to the property owner. If the Town orders demolition and it is not done, the Town has to do it in the least expensive way, since the costs are then charged to the property owner. In regard to restoration, and to start using tax payers dollars to do so, where do you even start. It would cost hundreds of thousands and would cost more than what it is worth. It would be almost and impossible task to restore it. Councillor Blanch then asked if the home was unoccupied or occupied. Mr. MacDonald replied that the property is not occupied.

Vice-Chair Goodwin asked if the fire marshal has taken a look at this place and the chance of it catching fire, as there are buildings and residences very close. Mr. Buske replied that the fire marshal has not been contacted as they do not really get involved in uninhabited buildings, but that the Fire Chief is aware of the situation. On the day of the inspection, there was power to the building and heaters running.

3.3 Owner Questions / Comments

The owner was not in attendance.

4. Adjournment

Councillor Rhindress motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:11p.m.

Motion Carried

Kimberlee Jones, Municipal Clerk

Vice Chairman Gordon Goodwin