



Waterfront Baddeck Committee Meeting Minutes

Sept 29, 2023

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM (Public Q&A 11:10 AM – 11:30 AM)
Victoria County / Baddeck Court House – 495 Chebucto Street

ATTENDEES:

Sean Baldwin
Roman Braun-Huettner
Gary Crowder
Steven Goldthwaite
Rhonda Kay
Terry Kelly
John Langley
Jen Macdonald
Bill Marchant
Henry Muggah
Denise Mulley

Regrets:

John Baldwin, Dan MacNeil, Steve Ross

AGENDA REVIEW AND DISCUSSION:

Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming the public in attendance and Jen Macdonald as the newly appointed Chair of the village Commission. Steven then gave an overview of the year in review with digital images highlighting the many projects worked upon by Waterfront Baddeck during 2023 and planning for 2024. In doing so he emphasized that the focus of these efforts was to create a waterfront that was 'for the people' – with public access and welcoming to all. He noted that for the majority of these projects were completely funded by monies raised through the Baddeck wharf.

Governance:

The minutes of the board meeting of July 21, 2023 were approved as distributed. It was noted that Baddeck now has a new village Commission and that going forward Waterfront Baddeck would continue to act as an advisory committee to the village under new Waterfront Baddeck 'terms of reference' rather than previously proposed changes to Waterfront Baddeck by-laws.



Public Wharf:

Terry gave a detailed presentation of financials associated with the wharf for 2023 which showed a tripling of wharf revenues since 2020. To date monies raised or committed to projects undertaken by WB total approximately \$1,850,000.00, all fully funded other than about 7 per cent which has been provided by the village. The 'Gateway Project' was the only major undertaking of WB in the current year. Presently there is a balance in the wharf account of \$78,000.00. Denise in presenting her report as wharf manager noted that despite a challenging start, we have had a successful boating season with revenues at or possibly exceeding budgeted projections. She recommended further investment in floating docks for the end of the wharf as a means of freeing up space for recreational boats and generating further wharf revenue. Comments from board members included suggestions for increased marketing as well as making the wharf as open and available to local boaters as possible. In her concluding comments Denise noted that in future reporting to the village on wharf management would be improved with regular bi-weekly reports and a summary report at the end of the boating season.

Gateway Project:

Kudos were extended to board member Steve Ross who led this initiative and in whose absence the chairman gave a report on this now-completed project. Digital imagery was used to compliment Steve's verbal account of 'where we were and where we now are' with a most attractive and welcoming entry to our public wharf. He stressed the importance of good planning and cooperation amongst the many individuals and groups which came together to make this happen.

Boardwalk:

This will be the focus of WB's during the course of the next eighteen months. Rhonda reported that our application by the Baddeck Improvement Association for a grant from the Sustainable Community's Fund had been approved and that we should soon be in receipt of approximately \$280,000.00 in grant monies. Inherent in the approval is a commitment to undertake a 'living shoreline' component in the reconstruction of the boardwalk. We will look into the hiring of a shoreline designer, obtain permits and work with the community in planning and design with this work to be completed by December 31, 2024. In response to a question about when to approach the NS Transportation and Infrastructure (which owns the road surfaces in the village) about improvements to Water Street associated with the boardwalk project, Jen noted that the process would be for the committee to make its recommendations to the village commission which would then approach TIR with an action plan. Steven also noted that it is anticipated that we may still need another \$800,000.00 or so to complete the boardwalk project over and above what has been committed to date.

**Kidston Island:**

John reported that in keeping with long term planning for Baddeck's iconic lighthouse, that a maintenance plan was deemed necessary for the Kidston Island lighthouse. To that end tenders were recently sought for consulting services; two were received, one from Harbourside (which has previously given consulting advice on the boardwalk) being substantially lower than a second submission from CBCL was awarded at a cost of \$2,995.00 with an onsite visit scheduled for October 7th, and a written report to follow. Rhonda reported on developments over the summer with sediment transport with Steven emphasizing that protection of Kidston Island is core work of our committee and that we have learned a great deal and benefited greatly from the advice of others about this phenomenon (sediment transport) over the last two years with monitoring ongoing.

Museum Conference Volunteers:

Rhonda gave an update on plans on October 16th for a group of about twenty museums personnel from around the province to visit Baddeck with an offer of community service for the day during which they will share their expertise with a focus on the boardwalk project, using Steve's boathouse for a base during the course of their visit.

Q&A Session:

Following the formal meeting members of the public present were invited to ask questions or comment on proceedings. One suggestion was made on the importance of keeping wharf revenues to support the operation and maintenance of the wharf; another suggestion was for the placement of a defibrillator on the wharf.

UPON MOTION the meeting adjourned was at 11:30 am

Next Meeting date: October 27, 2023

John G. Langley
Secretary
Waterfront Baddeck