

**Present**

Mayor Laurie Boucher Deputy Mayor Willie Cormier Councillor Mary Farrell Councillor Diane Roberts Councillor Andrew Murray Councillor Donnie MacInnis	Warden Owen McCarron Deputy Warden Hughie Stewart Councillor Mary MacLellan Councillor Vaughan Chisholm Councillor Gary Mattie Councillor Bill MacFarlane Councillor John Dunbar Councillor Remi Deveau Councillor Donnie MacDonald
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**Regrets**

Councillor Jack MacPherson

**Also Present**

Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk Treasurer, Municipality of the County of Antigonish  
 Steve Scannell, Special Projects Coordinator, Town of Antigonish  
 Tricia Cameron, Recreation Director, Town of Antigonish  
 Tara Hassin  
 Annie Sirois, StFX Students Union President  
 Patrick Panet-Raymond, StFX Students Union VP Academic  
 Rebecca Mesay, StFX Students Union VP Residence Affairs  
 William Gatchell, StFX Students Union VP Finance  
 Zakariya Chatur, StFX Students Union VP External Affairs  
 Jerome Tanner, NS 55+ Games  
 Regina Tate, NS 55+ Games, Antigonish Area Board Member

**1) Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Warden McCarron. Warden McCarron asked for a moment of silence in honour of former-Warden Russell Boucher, who passed away suddenly on May 22, 2017. After the moment of silence Mayor Boucher expressed condolences on behalf of the Town of Antigonish.

**2) Approval of Agenda**

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda.

**Deletions:**

5c) Presentation by Damian MacInnis, Managing Partner, Keltic Air Services

**Additions:**

5c) Discussion of a Skate Park in Antigonish  
 5f) Update on the Antigonish Arena Commission

*Moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor MacLellan that the agenda be approved as amended. Motion Carried.*

### **3) Approval of Minutes**

*Moved by Councillor MacFarlane and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the minutes of the April 25, 2017, Joint Council Meeting be approved as presented. Motion Carried.*

### **4) Business Arising from the Minutes**

Councillor MacInnis expressed appreciation that the SRSB voted to maintain status-quo for Antigonish schools. Councillor MacLellan thanked councillors for their support.

### **Round Table Introductions**

At the request of Warden McCarron, round-table introductions of Town and County Councillors, StFX Students Union executive members and guests were made.

### **5a) Introduction of 2017/18 StFX Students Union President & Executive Team**

Ms. Sirois provided opening remarks and an overview of priorities for the year. The Union hopes to put in place, new programs and offerings around Homecoming and wants to work with the Town and County in a cooperative and collaborative manner. Ms. Sirois also spoke to increasing transparency and equity representation within the Students Union.

Executive members provided brief remarks to their individual priorities, which included:

- Improving accessibility of learning;
- Advocating on behalf of student issues;
- Alcohol, drug and sexual violence awareness and education;
- Ending the stigma around mental illness.

Mayor Boucher asked if there was an interest in reinstating the Town & Gown Committee. Ms. Sirois stated yes, and that it should be started earlier in the summer and was a good forum for collaboration and communication. It was agreed that it would be good to get dates confirmed early; Ms. Sirois will follow up with Mr. Horne & Mr. Lawrence.

Warden McCarron thanked the executive team for their presentation.

### **5b) Presentation concerning the 2019 Nova Scotia 55+ Games**

Jerome Tanner presented an opportunity for Antigonish Town & County to bid on the 2019 games (Please see the attached presentation).

Questions followed the presentation:

- No discussions have been had with the local organization yet, though a rep from the local organization sits on the Board.
- Games are normally held in August or September.
- Financial contribution from municipalities is typically around \$5000
- The Town and County applied unsuccessfully in 2015 – a great deal of work is done already if we proceed with a bid.
- An economic impact assessment estimated that there is a \$1500 impact to host community per participant.
- Three days of activities: Thursday – Saturday.
- A bid is due at the end of June.

Ms. Cameron shared with the Committee that StFX University has been approached as the main venue for games and accommodations. A letter of intent is expected shortly.

The consensus of the Committee was, pending a response from StFX re: availability, to prepare a bid for consideration of the 55+ games.

### **5c) Discussion of a Skate / All-Wheels Park in Antigonish**

Mayor Boucher provided opening remarks on the discussion and apologized for the mix-up in communication that resulted in representatives from the Skate Park community not being able to formally present tonight.

The Municipalities have been approached to consider moving forward with an All-Wheels Park. These facilities exist all across the province and country and would be a good fit in our community – addressing an existing gap. While there have been a number of false starts concerning this type of facility, there is a sense that we can move forward now.

Councillor Cormier added additional comments, specifically that these parks are becoming the norm in many communities.

Tara Hassin was invited by the Chair to add comments and also stated that many other communities has such a facility.

Councillors who have been part of similar discussions in the past noted that efforts fell on considerations of location and ownership (liability). A number of locations have been discussed, including the Antigonish Arena, Antigonish Market Square and Columbus Field. A preference for the Antigonish Arena property was reiterated.

A 2015 survey of grade 5 – 8 students indicated that up to 80% would use an All-Wheels Park. Safety was highlighted as a prime concern, particularly for younger users. Parks in other areas have shown they can be very beautiful and provide a creative outlet for youth.

There was a great deal of discussion and debate on potential locations, approaches to moving the initiative forward and potential next steps. Discussion also centred on building relationships and trust within the community around this project.

As a means to determining next steps, the Committee decided to move to Item 5f) and then circle back to this item.

### **5f) Update on the Antigonish Arena Commission**

Mr. Horne provided an update on the governance review of the Antigonish Arena Commission. The Department of Municipal Affairs was solicited to provide support for this analysis – a report from DMA is now in hand. Overall, we were disappointed with the generality of the report – particularly given the specifics provided on our situation and the sense received from Municipal Affairs that this was to be more specific to our circumstances.

That said, there is sufficient analysis here to build our own report to the Joint Council Committee. Mr. Scannell is working on a report specific to the Antigonish Arena for review by this Committee. We have also requested an opinion from the Municipal Solicitor re: questions of incorporation raised in this report.

Mayor Boucher spoke to the benefit of having stakeholders on the Commission. Other Councillors echoed this point.

Mr. Horne spoke to the report that is being prepared, which will provide the Committee with a suite of options for consideration, including having stakeholders represented on the Commission.

Circling back to the discussion of the Skate Park, a consensus was provided that Warden McCarron, Mayor Boucher, Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Horne work with the Skate Park group to develop a specific proposal for the Committee's consideration at its next meeting.

#### **5d) Discussion regarding Highway 7 (Lochaber Road / West Street) and old Highway 104 Intersection**

Councillor MacFarlane provided an overview and history of the challenges at this intersection. The Municipality has been advocating for a redesign of the intersection to facilitate traffic flow for many years. The intersection is at the end of its useful life. In the long term it is desirable to see a round-about constructed; in the short term accommodation to assist traffic flow with the existing lights.

A consensus was provided for the Mayor and Warden to meet with Antigonish MLA, Randy Delorey, Guysborough – Eastern Shore Tracadie MLA, Lloyd Hines and StFX University President Kent MacDonald to move this issue forward.

#### **5e) Review of Antigonish Regional Emergency Management Organization Inter-Municipal Agreement**

Mr. Scannell presented this review (see attached PowerPoint).

Discussion and questions centred on the fact that our organization is prepared with input from stakeholders and an emphasis on training for municipal employees. However, the Advisory Committee has been dormant for some time and should be reinstated to provide required oversight.

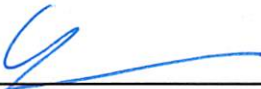
Questions were also raised about the participation of StFX University; StFX is an important partner in emergency management and is integrated at many levels, including the Planning Committee, a secondary agreement concerning the use of facilities, and is often the topic of conversation among the senior administrators of each organization.

As recommended in the report, *Moved by Councillor MacFarlane, seconded by Councillor Stewart, that:*

- *As the formal governing body of REMO, it is recommended that the Regional Emergency Measures Advisory Committee be activated to provide essential guidance for the direction and management of REMO.*
- *In order to activate the Committee, officials from the Town and County must be formally appointed by their respective Councils to serve, and a meeting schedule must be established. Motion Carried.*


**Motion to Adjourn**

*At 9:05 PM it was Moved by Councillor Murry, Seconded by Councillor Mattie that the Joint Council Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.*




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Mayor Laurie Boucher



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Warden Owen McCarron



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Jeff Lawrence, CAO, Town of Antigonish



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Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer  
County of Antigonish