



## **Village of Alma – Regular Council Meeting** **April 19, 2021**

Prior to the regular council meeting, Guardian Ecology held an Alma knotweed eradication session at 6:00 p.m. for property owners.

The regular monthly Council meeting of the Alma Village Council was held on April 19, 2021, at 7:00 pm at the Alma Activity Centre. **Acting Mayor Casey, Councillor MacCallum, Councillor Bowron,** and **Kim Beers** (Assistant Clerk) were present.

**Acting Mayor Casey** called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone at 7:00 pm.

### **Motions**

It was moved by **Councillor Bowron** and Seconded by **Councillor MacCallum** to approve the agenda. **Motion Carried.**

It was moved by **Councillor Bowron** and Seconded by **Councillor MacCallum** to approve the Minutes from the regular council meeting on March 15, 2021. **Motion Carried.**

It was moved by **Councillor Bowron** and Seconded by **Councillor MacCallum** to approve the Minutes from the special council meeting on April 14, 2021. **Motion Carried.**

It was moved by **Councillor MacCallum** and Seconded by **Councillor Bowron** to accept the Financial Statements for March 2021 for both General Operating and Water & Sewer Accounts. **Motion Carried.**

### **RCMP Report**

No update.

### **Presentation**

Ann Elliott presented to give her views of the proposed re-zoning bylaw.

### **Committee Reports**

**Acting Mayor Casey** reported the following:

**Southeast Regional Service Commission:** **Acting Mayor Casey** attended a meeting with Minister Holder (Minister of Labour and Post Secondary Education). Minister Holder's presentation was on economic development in regards to being more inclusive. The model they are looking at is similar to what St. John's implemented where they have an enterprise network and destination marketing organization and more. They folded all their economic development organizations into one. This presentation was presented to see if this is something this region would be interested in and there was a lot of interest. This has a lot to do with the Local Government Reform.



**Local Government Reform:** **Acting Mayor Casey** announced that The Department of Local Government released the Green paper and there will be changes coming. However, the Village has not been informed of what these changes are. There are currently 340 municipalities including local service districts and the Department of Local Government would like to see approx. 60. When the white paper is released there will be more information.

**Vision Alma:** **Acting Mayor Casey** announced Say Cheese Photography will not be returning to the incubator space this season.

The new spa “By the Bay Esthetics & Spa” is now open and doing very well.

**Covid update:** In the past, municipalities were invited to meetings with the Province to receive Covid-19 updates and there has not been one over the past couple of months.

**Councillor Bowron** reported the following details:

**Fundy National Park:**

**2021 Season**

As we look ahead to the upcoming spring/summer operating season, visitors will have access to the following services and facilities (pending provincial health guidelines):

- Both Visitor Reception Centres will be open for the season, seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. during peak season.
- All campgrounds will be open and operating. Point Wolfe and Lakeview Campgrounds are scheduled to open on June 26. The new Lakeview Campground will include 5 Oasis units, 5 RV Sites, and 5 walk-in tent sites. All sites will have electrical service only
- Roofed accommodations will be open but will require a minimum 2-night stay. Closures on Mondays and Thursdays will remain in place until June 26, 2021.
- The swimming pool will be open under normal operating hours and pool entrance fees will be re-introduced this season. Once a fee structure is finalized, it will be shared and communicated with the local community and general public.
- The golf course will be open as per normal operations with the introduction of some new daily junior and family rates in addition to existing rates offered. Also, the golf course will see significant bridge repairs this spring, and some notable buildings will be getting new roofs put on them.
- Interpretive programs will be offered this season, while adhering to public health protocols.
- Backcountry camping will be offered with no minimum stay requirements. New backcountry wood shelters will be installed, which will better enable our provision of fire wood to backcountry campers and enhance our current backcountry camping offer. Rustic cabins are currently available for weekend use, and a decision is pending as to whether restrictions will be lifted to be operational all week long.
- New refrigerated and filtered water bottle filler stations will be added this year, including 5 at Fundy National Park and one at Carleton Martello Tower (CMT) National Historic Site, for staff and the public alike. This will help us reduce plastic water bottle use, help



promote selling/buying of reusable water bottles, and give us a digital measure of how many water bottles we avoided by using our new stations at both Visitor Reception Centres, the Administration building, the golf Pro Shop, and the Visitor Reception Centre at CMT.

- A New Vault toilet will be placed at Dickson Falls.
- New picnic tables will be added to all 265 sites at Chignecto Campground.
- MacLaren Pond Trail will be enhanced and improved this Fall.
- A new fully accessible kayak and canoe launch will be installed at Bennett Lake.
- 15 new redeemable containers for cans, plastic bottles, and glass bottles will be placed throughout the park to improve the recycling program in Fundy National Park.

### Resource Conservation

- Restoration work in the Chignecto Recreation Area will convert abandoned sections of the road back to the forest, improving the ecological integrity of the area and improving visitor navigation and experience.
- Last summer, visitors and staff reported an increase in bat observations around the headquarters area. Considering bats have been in severe decline for years, this is great news! Based on those observations, resource conservation will be conducting bat monitoring in the park this season to learn more about how these populations are using the park.
- FNP will continue to survey brook trout populations this fall in lakes that have public fishing and also in those that do not.
- Preliminary evidence is showing that releasing a portion of adult salmon early (in September) improves their ability to spawn and also return the following year. Resource Conservation will again release small groups of adult salmon weekly, into Fundy National Park rivers throughout September.

**Councillor MacCallum** reported the following details:

#### **Alma Volunteer Fire Department**

The fire chief reports that everything has been quiet in Alma.

#### **Friends of Fundy (FOF):**

A Board meeting was held on March 25<sup>th</sup> via Zoom.

Items of note included:

- Concern about the location of the Molly Kool Centre in terms of rising sea levels and the prohibitively expensive cost of installing washrooms at that location; and
- The FOF strategic planning committee is moving forward to develop a framework for the implementation of their strategic plan.

Last week it was brought to Councillor MacCallum's attention that members of the Executive Committee were concerned that there could be a perceived conflict of interest regarding being privy to FOF financial statements and budget documents as FOF liaison while negotiating a rental agreement for FOF with the Village of Alma. Councillor MacCallum resigned



immediately as Village of Alma-FOF liaison and hopes that another council member will take on this role after the election.

### **Climate Leadership Course for Elected Officials:**

Councillor MacCallum continues to take part in various Zoom meetings conducted by the Climate Caucus (a small non-profit based in Calgary) as her schedule permits. Of particular interest are the meetings with other small and rural communities who, like us, are trying to tackle major issues with limited financial and human resources.

### **Water Report**

No update.

### **Old Business**

**Water Exploration:** *Acting Mayor Casey* announced the drilling wrapped up Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The village is waiting for an update from Crandall.

**Noise By-law 63A:** *Acting Mayor Casey* reported that Maritime Enforcement Services has the original By-law and the re-written version of the Noise By-law 63A. Maritime Enforcement Services is comparing this By-law to other municipalities.

**Code of Conduct By-law:** *Acting Mayor Casey* reported the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> readings were done at a special meeting on April 14, 2021. The third reading will be done after the election.

**Clerk Report:** Kim Beers reported the following

- There were no building permit reports for March.
- Maritime Enforcement update:

The village of Alma has the following 3 files in progress:

2021-0053 – Dog Control Complaint – Notice Sent to Dog Owner.

2021-0054 & 2021-0055 – Unsightly Premises Complaints received from members of the public.

To Date Maritime Enforcement completed the Alma Traffic By-Law, it is under review by their legal counsel before submitting to Council for Approval. They are also nearing the end of Drafting the following By-Laws, which will also be reviewed by Legal Counsel before sending.

- Health, Safety, and welfare of people and property
- Public Order
- Tall Grass
- Excessive Noise
- Animal Control
- Peddlers, Transient Traders & Food Trucks
- Recreational Fires



- Illegal Dumping

To date, they have expelled a total of 6 of 52 days as per the Contract.

**Acting Mayor Casey** reminded the public to call the office before calling Maritime Enforcement Services to ensure we are not opening two files at once.

- Village of Alma \$100.00 Bursary is now posted at the High School and Facebook
- Received confirmation that the Village was approved for a summer student through the Canada Summer Jobs program.
- Summer student job posting for maintenance helper is almost complete. Kim hopes to have this posted later this week or early next week.

### **New Business**

**Terms and conditions of committee membership:** Councillor MacCallum drafted the terms and conditions of committee membership document. This special committee will be known as the “Alma! Committee”.

Reporting to the Council, it is the responsibility of the Alma! Committee to consider and make recommendations to Council on the following matters:

- Village beautification
- Investigation of funding opportunities
- Village festivals and events

This committee will be formed after the municipal election.

### **Correspondence**

Kim Beers advised the following correspondence was received:

Email received from Hanna Downey April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 on behalf of the parents and guardians of the Class of 2021, requesting a donation for the prom. It was moved by **Councillor MacCallum** to donate \$100.00 to the Class of 2021 seconded by **Councillor Bowron**. **Motion Carried**.

Disability awareness week is quickly approaching (May 30-June 5). **Acting Mayor Casey** read the proclamation.

National organ and tissue donation awareness week (April 18-April 24). NOTDAW provides Canadians the opportunity to have important conversations with their friends and loved ones to ensure their organ and tissue donation wishes and decisions are understood. **Acting Mayor Casey** read the proclamation.



Mental health week (May 3-9, 2021). The Canadian Mental Health Association invites Council to proclaim May 3-9, 2021 as CMHA of NB Mental Health Week. **Acting Mayor Casey** read the proclamation.

### **Paying of Bills**

Kim Beers advised that all bills have been paid.

### **Questions and Answers**

Opportunity for community members to ask questions to members of Council.

### **Adjournment**

*Councillor MacCallum* adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

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Acting Mayor Andrew Casey

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Kim Beers, Assistant Clerk/Treasurer