

**VILLAGE OF NEW MINAS**  
**RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**January 4, 2007**  
**7:00 p.m., Conference Room Civic Centre**

The regular monthly meeting of the Village of New Minas Recreation Advisory Committee was held in the Conference Room at the Civic Centre on January 4, 2007 at 7:00 p.m..

**In Attendance:**

Chair Dale Pineo  
Vice-Chair Maynard Stevens  
Dave Chaulk, Village Commission Chair  
Linda Lockhart, Village Commissioner  
Les Sequeria, Citizen Member  
Vince Forrestall, Recreation Director  
Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Pineo called the meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**It was moved by L. Lockhart, seconded by L. Sequeria, that the Agenda of the January 4, 2007 RAC regular meeting be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**It was moved by L. Lockhart, seconded by L. Sequeria, that the minutes of the November 7, 2006 RAC regular meeting be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

(a) Trail Development: Kieran Pathways Society Endorsement

V. Forrestall reported on the Kieran Pathways Society meeting he and L. Sequeria attended in November. He referred to a report submitted by L. Sequeria on this meeting (attached to original minutes). Vince stated that this Society is now looking for a letter of support and endorsement for the project in principle from the Village.

**It was moved by M. Stevens, seconded by L. Lockhart that it be recommended to the Village Commission of New Minas to forward a letter of support endorsing the trail development in principle, with emphasis on the fact that the trail should be for the use of non-motorized traffic only. MOTION CARRIED**

(b) Committee: Strategic Plan/Goals and Objectives

Discussion took place with regard to a Strategic Plan which submitted in 2002, as well as a planning session carried out in July 2006.

The Committee requested the Rec Director and Clerk Treasurer to do a report on the status of items listed in the report of the Planning Session of 2006.

(c) Thank you to County Fair Mall – Christmas Decorations

V. Forrestall and T. Silver advised that cards and letters were forwarded to the County Fair Mall for their kind donation of Christmas Decorations to the Village. T. Silver advised Ron Flewwelling, had contacted her and stated his appreciation for the kind words.

D. Chaulk noted that he read an article in the newspaper which referred to Vince Forrestall's contact with Mr. Bishop with regard to a community Christmas light up program. Dave stated that it is important and critical that this contact take place, and he commended Vince for taking this approach. Vince stated he had experience in Cornwall PEI with this type of program and was excited to be part of it here in New Minas. L. Lockhart stated that years ago there was a residential Christmas light up contest.

(d) \$2,000 Presentation to N.M.E.S.

V. Forrestall stated that he had spoken to Mr. Eric Trahan, Principal at NMES with regard to the Village Commission's approval to fund \$2,000 towards replacement of vandalized playground equipment. He stated there will be a fund-raising event at NMES in the next month or so, and the presentation will be made then.

(e) VRCDA Meeting

V. Forrestall reported that he had attended the annual VRCDA Meeting in Halifax. He stated it was a very good Conference and some of the items discussed are as follows:

- Youth Secretariat
- Recreation Nova Scotia
- Events Halifax
- Recreation Facilities of Nova Scotia
- NS Outdoor Leadership Development
- HRM Youth Strategy
- RNS Conference 2007
- NS Health Promotion and Protection Report
- Economic Analysis
- Sport Tourism Update
- NCCP Courses 2007
- Senior Fitness

Vince reported that he had voiced the concern of this Committee that the VRCDA annual meetings are being held in Halifax, which they feel is inappropriate given that it is a Valley Association. Vince stated that the meetings are always held at a facility which houses all the facilitators of the conference, and the majority of the expertise is located in this same facility. He stated he was advised that this annual conference has been scheduled for the valley region in years past, but a lot of the sessions were cancelled due to facility issues.

(f) Annual Christmas Tree Light Up

Vince reported that the annual Christmas Tree Light Up was, from all reports, a huge success, with the weather cooperating nicely, and the Fire Hall housing a record crowd. He said an added feature this year was the trimming of the Village's tree by the students of New Minas Elementary School (some 125), with Santa Claus in attendance. Evaluation forms have been sent out for input.

Chair Pineo stated that he has received numerous positive comments about both the Light Up and the Parade.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) Cyclo-Cross Race – Thank You Letter

The Committee members had the opportunity to view the letter from the Annapolis Valley Cycling Club extending thanks for the Village's support in the recent Cyclo-Cross Race. The letter commended staff for "such a good job" of promoting recreation within our park, and also praised the park as a facility.

(b) Community Recreation Assistance Fund (CRAF)

Vince updated the Committee on the *CRAF*, stating the Municipality of Kings County has once again approved support for youth leisure programs in New Minas.

(c) Municipal Recreation Network for N.S.

This was distributed to the Committee for information purposes. This is a web-based system for municipal recreation staff to increase the sharing of knowledge, opportunities for exchange, and provide opportunities for sharing of best practices and policy information.

(d) Municipal Curling Challenge

Vince reported that the Municipal Curling Challenge is being held on February 17<sup>th</sup> in Digby, and that to date the Village has one team. Vince advised the proceeds from this Curling Bonspiel goes to the Valley Association Student Bursary Program.

## **DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT**

Vince Forrestall submitted his Monthly Report (copy attached to original minutes), and discussion took place on the items.

Vince wished to thank Lynn Spencer, Terry Silver, Gordon Silver, and Carolyn Forrestall for their tireless work in decorating the floats. Special thanks also to Public Works staff for their help with decorating.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### (a) "Take the Roof Off Winter" – Proclamation

**It was moved by L. Lockhart, seconded by M. Stevens, that it be recommended to the Village Commission, on behalf of the Village Commission and staff to celebrate and promote *TAKE THE ROOF OFF WINTER*. MOTION CARRIED**

### (b) Tax Incentives

V. Forrestall advised that the Village has been registered as a participant in the Healthy Living Tax Incentive Program, which in essence means any child registered with the Village's programs will be eligible for a \$500 Income Tax credit.

### (c) Winter Programs and Events 2007 – Grants

V. Forrestall brought the Committee's attention to the Winter Programs and Events list for 2007. This list is noted in the Director's Monthly Report attached to these minutes.

### (d) Community Events Sign – Recreation Department

The Committee viewed emails from two Sign suppliers outlining details and cost estimates for a community events sign.

**It was moved by L. Lockhart, seconded by L. Sequeria that it be recommended to the Village Commission to place capital funds into the 2007/2008 Budget for a Community Events Sign, per quotes. MOTION CARRIED**

### (e) "Light Up The Strip for Christmas" – Stephen Bishop

Vince Forrestall spoke on the "Light Up The Strip for Christmas" program, which was initiated by Mr. Stephen Bishop in the 2006 Christmas season. He noted that Mr. Bishop's goal is to make this a major event in the Valley in the coming years. He stated he had spoken with Mr. Bishop and will be meeting with him in January or February to discuss the 2007 event. The Committee members expressed a great interest in the Village

Commission taking part in this event. L. Lockhart stated that it should involve the residential areas as well.

(f) Facility Development – Grant (Feb 5/07), Prioritize

The Committee members viewed a “wish list” of parks/facilities projects as outlined by Vince and Peter Pothier after completing a facilities tour. Vince advised that he has an opportunity to submit a grant application for facilities development, which is due for submission by February 5<sup>th</sup>.

The Committee agreed that a priority list should be completed by staff and the Facility Development Grant applied for based on this list, and further that the list be submitted to the Commission for consideration in the 2007/2008 Budget.

(g) Valley Event And Sport Tourism

Lynn Spencer attended the Valley Event & Sport Tourism meeting held in late November. This group was set up as the result of the databases set up for the Valley bid for the 2011 Winter Games, and the realization from this that this area has an abundance of resources, information, groups and facilities available for utilization.

Vince will be attending the next meeting to be held in a couple of weeks, and will continue to report to this Committee.

(h) Signature Event (New Event for the area?) – Partner with Rotary?

Vince cited instances in the area where communities have “signature” events, and asked the Committee if they would like to consider a new event (apart from Celebration Days) for New Minas. This request sparked a good deal of discussion and the Committee felt that Celebration Days could be enhanced to become the Village of New Minas’ signature event, and attempts should be made to partner with community groups including the Rotary Club and the Lions Club.

(i) Summer Active Challenge – Fit Families

Vince spoke on the possibility of a summer active challenge for families. It was suggested that this could coincide with the Canada Day and Celebration Days events.

**It was moved by L. Sequeria, seconded by L. Lockhart, that Village staff continues to organize the Summer Active Challenge for Fit Families. MOTION CARRIED**

**OTHER**

L. Sequeria stated that he is very impressed to see a lot of things happening in the Recreation Department, and looks forward to continuation of this.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**On motion of L. Lockhart, the meeting adjourned.**

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**Dale Pineo, Chair**

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**Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer**