



SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF SMITHS FALLS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 25, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

Town Hall, Council Chambers, 77 Beckwith Street North, Smiths Falls

Chairperson: Councillor J Miller

Members Present: Mayor S Pankow, Councillors J Brennan, C McGuire, S
Robinson, D Quinn, J Miller

Members Absent: P McKenna

Staff Present: M Morris, Chief Administrative Officer, S Clark, Director of
Community Services, J Crowder, Manager of Economic
Development & Tourism, K Grenke, Senior Planner, K Costello,
Clerk

1. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

On, September 25, 2023 we acknowledge that this sacred land on which Smiths Falls is now located has been a site of human activity for over 10,000 years and is rich in Indigenous history. This land is the ancestral and unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe Nation. We are grateful to the Algonquin ancestors who cared for the land and water in order that we might meet here today. We are also grateful to the Algonquin People for their contribution in the making of the Rideau Canal which runs thru Smiths Falls. We are mindful of broken covenants and the need to reconcile with all our relations. Together, may we care for this land and each other, drawing on the strength of our mutual history of nation building through peace and friendship being mindful of generations to come.

2. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by: S Robinson

Seconded by: C McGuire

THAT the September 25, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

4. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND/OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None noted.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by: C McGuire

Seconded by: S Robinson

The Minutes of the September 11, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved as circulated.

6. DELEGATIONS

None scheduled.

7. CAO/DIRECTORS VERBAL REPORTS

J Crowder, Manger of Economic Development & Tourism

Bark in the Park will take place this weekend to mark the 10th anniversary of Gleeson Dog Park.

The annual Truth and Reconciliation Event will take place this Saturday evening at Centennial Park.

The Annual Fall Fest will take place at the Heritage House Museum on October 1, 2023. Wagon rides, pumpkin carving contest, treats, etc..... Admission by donation. Children under 4 free.

M Morris, Chief Administrative Officer

There was an electricity disruption at the Community Centre today. The ice plant was inoperable, so activities are cancelled for this evening. Facility will be up and running tomorrow.

Staff are still waiting for the insurance company to quantify the extent of our claim. A full report will be brought forward as soon as possible.

Senior Manager Grenke will be assuming the Manager of Development Services commencing October 2, 2023.

8. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE CONSENT REPORTS: None included.

9. IN CAMERA/CLOSED SESSION

10. PRIORITY ISSUES/REPORT

10.1 Official Plan Update- Themes and Directions Report 2023-116 (K Grenke)

K Grenke requested Council's direction as it relates to defining the scope of the Official Plan update project. Staff are seeking Council's concurrence on the identified themes as well as Council's direction on several other decisions that affect the scope of the Official Plan update. Staff recommend that five theme specific workshops be scheduled in the coming months to assess and explore policy approaches and solutions to five broad themes that have been identified in public and department consultation.

- Downtown Revitalization
- Housing
- Sustainability
- Community Spaces
- Transportation and Connections

Staff have identified several Opportunity Areas that are within the current Town limits and may be suitable to accommodate significant new development.

- Opportunity Area 1 - Ferrara and Ferguson area
- Opportunity Area 2 - Cornelia and Mazie corridor
- Opportunity Area 3 - Lorne Street Extension lands
- Opportunity Area 4

S Pankow supports the five themes presented but would like to see something about the Town having as much housing as needed. Concern about the timeframe – does not want to see this dragged out for a couple years.

C McGuire questioned how natural features integrate into this. Council needs to keep an environmental lens on this item.

ACTION: Council directs staff to develop a Request for Proposal for qualified consultants to undertake the update to the Town's Official Plan that includes the following elements:

- Hosting five theme-specific workshops relating to Downtown Revitalization, Housing, Sustainability, Community Spaces and Transportation;
- Incorporates Transportation Master Planning, Commercial Sector Analysis, Housing Needs Study and Natural Heritage provisions into the scope of this project;
- Plans for a 25-year growth horizon as envisioned in the Land Needs Study.

Council further directed staff that the Request for Proposal identify the four Opportunity Areas outlined in Report 2023-116 for further and specific investigation as part of the scope of work of the project, with Opportunity Area 1-Ferrara and Ferguson taking priority.

10.2 Old Home Week Task Force Report 2023-115 (J Crowder)

J Crowder reviewed Report 2023-115. 2025 will be the 100th anniversary of this festival. No funding in this current budget - would have to form part of the 2024 budget.

Donna Dales was permitted to speak and noted her disappointment that there is no money in 2023. Thought they would have control over their funds, but the presented Terms of Reference does not speak to that.

Majority of Council approved trying to find some funding in the 2023 budget.

S Pankow sees merit in the Task Force as it leverages municipal resources. Accountability and Transparency is important in the municipal environment.

S Robinson voiced his agreement with S Pankow and noted that if the group wants to be a Task Force and will work with Town there are terms that they have to work under.

J Miller noted that this is an important event. There is a structure with municipal government and Council must work within their confines. If the group is willing to work under the Town than she will support.

S Pankow reminded that the Town can issue charitable receipts as well.

ACTION: That a bylaw to establish an Old Home Week Task Force and adopt the Terms of Reference as presented and contained in Report 2023-115 be brought forward to the next meeting of Council. The Treasurer was directed to set up the appropriate framework to add the Old Home Week Task Force to the Town's municipal budget and the staff was directed to allocate \$1500 immediately from the Economic Development operational budget for the Old Home Week Task Force.

10.3 Heritage House Museum Strategic Plan 2023-2027 Report 2023-114 (J Crowder)

Report 2023-114 was reviewed. C McGuire complimented staff on the document and advised that he liked how survey was done and that the plan had solid goals. Accessibility upgrades are important and the museum could be available to more people in the community.

J Miller noted that strategic plans are great but needs to be put into place operationally. Next step is to budget accordingly in 2024.

ACTION: Council to endorse the Smiths Falls Heritage House Museum Strategic Plan 2023-2027 via resolution at the next meeting of Council.

11 COMMITTEE, BOARD AND EXTERNAL ORGANIZATION UPDATES

12 INFORMATION LISTING/CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS

12.1 Undated Email from the Ministry of Transportation, 2024/24 Connecting Links Program

ACTION: Director McMunn to bring forward a report to a future Committee of the Whole meeting.

12.2 August 22, 2023, Letter from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing, Building Faster Fund

ACTION: Information only at this time. More information forthcoming.

13 NOTICE OF MOTIONS

14 ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: S Robinson

Seconded by: D Quinn

THAT the Committee adjourn its proceedings at 6:01 p.m. and stand so adjourned until the next duly called Committee meeting.