

Kingsclear Local Service District (KLSD)

Advisory Committee (AC) Meeting Minutes



February 23, 2016, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Upper Kingsclear Fire Department Station #3 Boardroom

Island View, NB

Present:

Roger Cyr, Acting Chairperson

Roger Cyr, Secretary

Geoffrey Alder

Andrew Chamberlain

Absent with regrets:

Debby Peck, Family emergency

Murray Crouse, Jr, Fire emergency

Invited Guest:

Mike Chamberlain

Mr. Chamberlain was invited to brief the Advisory Committee (AC) on his review of Department of the Environment and Local Government (DELG)'s encouraging Districts to look at rural planning. Mr. Chamberlain started seeing this initiative by DELG around three years ago and it has steadily increased in momentum. The main issue is derived from

how DELG set up local communities along parish lines. Currently, DELG wants to dramatically reduce the number of local service districts. It appears that DELG is endeavouring to amalgamate several LSDs into communities of interest while at the same time, incorporating weaker LSDs into more financially stable LSDs. Some of these amalgamations may well be made in spite of community interest or wishes of local residents.

Another option is to create Rural Communities of community interest with the LSDs. This would potentially give more control to the community if something negative was to arise, for example, an issue with a mine as was the case in one area.

If a LSD was to consider this, a feasibility study would be provided by DELG to estimate potential tax increases, or whether or not it would work. Currently it is believed that DELG is not interested in larger LSDs doing this alone. Before a rural community is considered, local government will want to ensure that larger LSDs are taking in smaller neighboring LSDs as well. This could create issues based on pure economics, but also liabilities neighboring LSDs would bring.

The main advantage to a Rural Community vs. our current model is that it would give a Rural Community more ability to have input into issues in our community. It is believed that we would have more power to be proactive for our community in a Rural Community model. The flip side of this, however, is that we would require more details on the possible negative issues that can arise from a Rural Community vs. where we are now. There would be a requirement for community staffing in a Rural Community.

Following Mr. Chamberlain's departure the Committee discussed Mr. Chamberlain's comments and determined that overall, this seems to be an important concern since DELG is moving ahead with restructuring. It will be important to get information proactively to the community. There could come a time where decisions will be made without proper consultation with the community if we are not proactive in informing the residents of our LSD. Accordingly, we discussed monitoring closely relevant developments, reaching out proactively for input from our members, and working closely with other LSDs in our area.

- 1) Meeting was called to order by the Acting Chair at 8:00 pm.
- 2) Agenda was approved with deferrals made on items requiring input from Debby Peck and Murray Crouse, who were unable to attend the meeting. Moved by Geoff Alders, seconded by Andrew Chamberlain.
- 3) Approval of Minutes of November 24, 2015. Minutes of meeting were previously approved by email by the members of the AC.
- 4) Matters Arising from the last two meetings:

- i. Deferred
- ii. Upon further discussion, it was determined that Alders, Cyr and Crouse did not have the time or resources to organize such an event and that Emergency Management Services should be the lead on this event.

5) Update on Activities that have taken place since the last meeting:

- i) Deferred
- ii) Alders reported that enough community members have volunteered to create a Recreational Committee and that work could start anytime. There is currently adequate funds budgeted to accommodate this work. Motion: Recommend approval of up to \$10,000 for completion of an open-air ice rink, maintenance and upgrade of recreational park area, and any security or safety needs or upgrades required to complete this work. Moved by Chamberlain, Seconded by Alders. Approved.
- iii) Volunteers have been sourced and a submission will be made to Budget Officer at DELG.
- iv) Deferred
- v) The meeting was attended by Peck and Cyr and four Keswick Ridge LSD AC members. The meeting was productive and everyone concurred that with the current initiative being promoted by DELG as it concerns merging/reducing the number of LSDs, both AC should work closely together to ensure the boundaries are in keeping with the wishes of the residents of the communities.
- vi) Deferred
- vii) Deferred
- viii) Murray Crouse had briefly appeared to advise that estimates had been obtained for the Upper Kingsclear Community Centre upgrades and a 20' x 30' addition for storage space would likely commence as soon as weather permitted.
- ix) A presentation on Domestic/ Intimate partner violence was made. A private affair but a key note to take away is "Life trumps privacy".

Across Canada and in particular NB, the research shows "Who is committing these offences" to be adults who as youth had nothing to do with their spare time. No involvement. They ended up being repeat & chronic offenders.

The fall break and enter spree mostly reported from New Maryland had 185 reports. All

of these files were the same: Vehicles were not locked. A key note to take away. Lock your vehicles. ATV concerns continue on public roads and walking trails. Patrols will continue to monitor situation.

ix) Comments from the Feb 2 Regional Services Meeting

Tim Yerxa, Executive with The Playhouse, made a presentation to RSC 11 Board members on a funding model for the future building. The Playhouse is currently looking to relocate and is seeking financing. Mr. Yerxa presented a proposed formula for Municipalities and LSDs to participate in possible funding. The matter was moved for review by RSC's Financial Committee to review the formula and provide a recommendation at a future meeting. If the formula is approved, the Playhouse team could then meet with LSDs to request funding for A) the construction and B) 10 years of operating a new building.

x) Deferred

xi) Deferred

6) New Business

AC member Alders suggested that the "Georgetown PEI Conference for 2016" should be put on our next meeting agenda.

7) There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.