

**Minutes of the CCCL Meeting
May 4, 2015**

Present: Lyne Larade (Tourism/President of CCCL); Paul Gallant (Education/Vice-President); Marcel Aucoin (Health); Stefan Songe (Environment); Alcida Landry (Seniors); Lynn Deveau (Cooperatives); Michèle Pothier (Business); Leonard Leblanc (Fishers); Alfred Arthur Poirier (Councillor, District 1); Gloria Leblanc (Councillor, District 2.)

Absent: Denise Arsenault (Youth sector/Secretary); Perry Muise (Sports) Marie Aucoin (Communications), William Roach (Arts et culture)

I The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm

II Adoption of the agenda:

Lyne Larade presented the proposed agenda by email. Alcida Landry proposed a change in order of the items on the agenda prior to its adoption. The change and subsequent adoption of the agenda was seconded by Marcel Aucoin. Motion carried.

III Adoption of the minutes of the meeting of March 10:

Stefan Sogne proposed adoption of the minutes of the meeting of March 10, seconded by Michèle Pothier. Motion carried.

IV Old Business

a) Adoption of policies: Alcida Landry presented the amended policies and proposed that they be adopted, this was seconded by Paul Gallant. Motion carried.

b) Proposed upgrades to the Margaree airport: Lyne Larade, CCCL Chair, read us an email that she had received from the Chair of LeMoine Development, Leandre Leblanc about that community's misgivings re the airport. Alcida and several other members of the committee also expressed their doubts about the need to invest the municipality's public money in the extension of the Margaree airport. The main points raised around the table were: i) The municipal representatives' inability to satisfactorily answer questions that were posed by residents during the municipality's public presentation which sought community input about the airport (this presentation took place 19 January 2015); ii) the risk to residents of increased property taxes in the case of non-profitability of the airport; iii) doubts about the forecast potential economic benefits of the airport to the region; iv) doubts about the forecast usage numbers announced (3,000 passengers per year, 2 full aircraft per week for 7 months). Our business sector rep, Michèle Pothier, felt that most people who frequent her establishment would be disadvantaged by the extension of the Margaree airport (however, she didn't explain exactly why that would be the case.) Councillor Gloria Leblanc clarified the following points: Contrary to the perception that some people had after the meeting of 19 January, the extension to the airport has not yet been decided and other economic studies will be carried out to validate the numbers before the municipal council goes any further with this project; if the money does not go to the airport it will not be available for other projects. Councillor Alfred Poirier explained that Ben Cowan Dewar (Managing Partner of the Cabot golf courses and a major proponent of the Margaree airport extension) is now President of the Nova Scotia Tourism Agency and his role now is to help promote the entire tourism industry in Nova Scotia, not just Cabot Links and Cabot Cliff. Alfred also pointed out the positive impact those two courses have had on business so far at le Portage golf course in Cheticamp.

c) Lyne Larade reported on the financial situation of NIRCA (they have a cumulative debt of \$ 600k). Marcel was approached to find out if the Sacred Heart Hospital Foundation, which raises a lot of money each year could possibly support NIRCA and/or the arena. However, they were informed that this would be impossible as all of the monies raised are necessary for the proper functioning of the

hospital. Stefan Sogne noted that, with the decreasing population in this region, the arena situation seems difficult to avoid. He suggested that a possible separation of the golf course and the arena might make the situation more tenable.

V New Business

- a) A group of local people asked Stefan Sogne, CCCL's Environment sector representative, to inform the Board about their concerns re the massive cutting of wood in the centre of the island to supply the Port Hawkesbury biomass plant. Although it allows the paper mill to remain in operation, preserving several dozen jobs in the Port Hawkesbury area (including 32 for the plant), a constant biomass complement of about 1,700 tonnes of wood per day (about 1000 cords of wood) is required. This situation results in a non-selective timber cut due to lack of staff and time and is increasingly preoccupying inhabitants in the Margaree, Inverness and Chéticamp areas who are worried about the risks to the Margaree River, our drinking water being filtered off the region by the forest, and impoverishment of one of the most important resources of our island. No action envisaged yet.
- b) Paul announced the holding of a 'Frolic Acadien' on May 23, 2015 to invite the community to work together on the community garden project, setting up gardens, making a storage room for tools, painting and varnishing on the structure of the farmers' market etc.
- c) Leonard Leblanc reported that the fishermen are optimistic about the upcoming season and vendor market. This season the purchase prices for lobster should be good. Also, the studies conducted on creating a storage pool to store the lobster and thus obtain better purchase prices have been very positive. The pool would be managed by a cooperative of fishermen.
- d) Alfred Aucoin explained that with the arrival of the fishing season, the number of volunteers available to fight fires will be reduced. Firefighters from Chéticamp and Le Moine will be called out on the same pager frequency to improve the response rate in case of fire.
- e) Dr Marcel Aucoin will soon be meeting with the province's paramedics and will have an opportunity to discuss the topics requested by the seniors (through Alcida Landry their sector representative). One of these was a request for bilingual paramedics.
- f) Alcida proposed the creation of a small subcommittee to review the Terms of Reference. It was moved by Marcel Aucoin and seconded by Alcida Landry that a subcommittee be formed. Motion carried.
- g) Alcida spoke to the committee about the possibility of the creation of a welcome committee for newcomers. Scott Aucoin and CEC members were also approached and they are in agreement that this would be a good initiative. Someone will have to spearhead this initiative.
- h) Paul proposed that the CCCL meet with Yvan Michaud who had contacted him to discuss the possibility of hosting a Naval base in the region. Apparently this could create several jobs in the region.
- j) Lyne raised the issue of liability insurance for CCCL. In principle, the CCL should be covered as a subcommittee of the municipality.
- k) Lyne informed the Board that, on Tuesday, May 5, William Roach, the Arts and Culture representative, submitted his resignation for health reasons. The Arts and Culture sector is aware of the situation.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:26PM.

Original copy of the Minutes were signed by Lyne Larade, Chair, CCCL

Minutes prepared by Stefan Sogne (English translation Marie Aucoin)