

Record of Discussion held August 12, 2015 attended by the CCCL Board

This wasn't a formal meeting with a "Call to Order" etc., therefore, this is simply a "Record of Discussion" of an informal meeting that took place August 12, 2015. CCCL Chair, Lyne Larade, CCCL Chair, had requested the Board convene in order for her to brief us on a meeting that she had recently attended with Councillors for Districts 1 and 2 (Alfred Arthur Poirier and Gloria Leblanc) and Warden Duart MacAulay. She had asked to meet with them to obtain clarification of the role expected of the CCCL as an advisory committee to the Municipality.

As per her report to us, it was her understanding that the municipality feels that the CCCL - a Committee with representation from each sector - is in a unique position to communicate with the majority of residents of the Acadian region through our sectors. Using this mechanism we can ascertain those things that are most important to the majority of area residents. She was advised that this valuable feedback will be particularly significant when the Municipality is formulating plans for the municipality's annual budget and expenditure of funds for the many projects proposed to them every year. The Warden and Councillors also suggested to Lyne that she ask the Board if we would consider meeting more often - at least until the CCCL has become more established as a Committee.

After finishing her report, Gloria and Alfred Arthur, our municipal councillors, addressed the Board. They explained their own roles within Council and what they can or cannot do to assist the communities of their districts, or the CCCL. They explained the discretionary funds that the individual Councillors are allocated each fiscal year and over which they have control. Gloria also explained the limits of what she and Alfred can do for us within the confines of their responsibilities for their Districts (which encompass more than the simply the CCCL's Acadian Region).

When they had finished, a lively discussion followed on what individual members of the CCCL believed our mandate is and it soon became clear that there are several differing opinions on what that role entails. Leonard Leblanc (himself a member of several Boards at the provincial and national level) told us that any new organization experiences "growing pains". He said that this is perfectly normal and that we should be patient and give ourselves time to understand and grow into our function. For his own part, he said that when an issue or project is brought forth to the CCCL, he asks himself some questions. For example: Does this affect my sector? Will it have an impact on the environment, etc? He also suggested that, since we have been receiving requests for letters of support for projects (most of them by 'phone), that we send a letter to ALL of the organizations and sectors in the region and ask them to submit in writing any requests for Letters of Support. He further suggested that we copy local organizations such as CEC and CDENE on our Minutes and, if any other organization wishes to be included on the distribution list that they provide us with this information.

After the discussion was over, we determined that what we needed most from the Municipality at the present time was information. As a result, we asked Gloria and Alfred Arthur to request that the municipality keep us informed about ALL projects in the Acadian Region, whether they are seeking funding from the Municipality or not. Once we know what projects are planned, we can discuss these at

regular meetings and make determinations as to whether or not we need more information from residents of the sectors or groups or organizations involved and if we need to go further.

Alcida Leblanc reminded us that we need a replacement to take Bill Roach's place as the sector representative for the Arts. She said that Gisele Leblanc was interested. Since it is the sector's responsibility to submit names of prospective candidates to replace reps on the board, we decided that we should make a request to the Arts' sector to submit names for consideration and allow that sector to vote for the nominees. This will be discussed at the next meeting and, in the meantime, Lyne will contact the sector to ask them to submit names of potential candidates.