



**Town of Sidney – COVID-19 Recovery Task Force Committee
AGENDA**

Thursday, October 22, 2020 – 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Meetings are video recorded and posted on the Town's website.

1. Call to Order
2. Territorial Acknowledgement
3. Adoption of October 1st and October 8th Meeting Minutes
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Update on Virtual Town Hall Wed October 14th
6. Next steps for the four purposes within Committee Terms of Reference
7. Adjournment



**Town of Sidney – COVID-19 Recovery Task Force Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 1, 2020 – 2:00PM – 3:30PM
Zoom Meeting**

Present: Mayor C. McNeil-Smith, David Calveley, Glenys Cavers, Steve Duck, Councillor B. Fallot, Kirsten Norris, Graden Sol, Denny Warner

Regrets: Morgan Shaw

Staff: Randy Humble, Chief Administrative Officer, Brett Mikkelsen, Fire Chief, Alison Verhagen, Senior Manager of Current Planning / Recovery Director, Donna Barner, Recording Clerk

1. Call to Order
Meeting called to order by the Chair at 2:02.
2. Adoption of Agenda
Moved by S. Duck, seconded by G. Cavers, that the agenda be adopted. **CARRIED**
3. Territorial Acknowledgement
4. Adoption of Minutes
Moved by D. Calveley, seconded by K. Norris, that the Recovery Task Force Committee minutes from the September 10th 2020 meeting be adopted. **CARRIED**
5. Business arising from previous minutes
 - a. M. Shaw and A. Verhagen to format sandwich board print into a digital poster for distribution to businesses
 - A. Verhagen has not had a chance to work on with M. Shaw as of yet. Will be working on moving forward.
6. Report: Recovery Task Force – Next Steps
 - a. Updates from individual community representatives
Chair provided summary of report. The Town initiated recovery aspects in alignment with the Provincial announcement of the BC Restart Program on May 18th. Restart was a turning point for the province and the Town and how we provide services to our residents. We are still in a response measure in many ways, such as bylaw changes for patios and sidewalks.

The Chair invited committee members to provide updates from their organization's pandemic responses.
 - G. Cavers:
 - Thrift shops have reduced hours
 - Donations are quarantined for 5 days

- Masks are mandatory in shops
- Have had volunteers resign or take leaves due to being uncomfortable during the pandemic
- Annual employment fair is virtual this year. Finding number of people seeking employment is reduced due to CERB.
- Have extra staffing on at SHOAL to assist changes with both assisted and independent living residents
- Through the BC211 Safe Seniors, Strong Communities program staff created a More Than Meals program. Have been delivering over 1200 meals per week within the CRD. This is funded until December; hoping to make a permanent program.
- Recently received a \$12,000 grant from Island Health to set up mental health supports.
- Over \$400,000 has been secured in grant funding; still applying for more.
- Normally would run two flu clinics. Would like to see a plan on how the public will receive flu shots this year.
- Staff, volunteers, and clients are all feeling anxious. Beacon Community Services are encouraging staff and volunteers to take time off and remain healthy.
- B. Falot noted she would like to see a further discussion on flu shots at the next meeting.
- D. Warner:
 - Response has been trying to reimagine all events they have done in the past and how to make them virtual.
 - Currently organizing an all candidates forum. Partnering with radio Sidney, October 15th.
 - Planning Business Excellence Awards event, have hosted at Butchart Gardens in the past, hard to capture that virtually. Finding it's more expensive to host virtually than in person.
 - Member numbers have been fairly strong, have a few new members. Renewal is January which will provide an accurate picture, slightly concerned.
 - Looking to develop a campaign starting soon that will showcase all the things available for purchase in Sidney as opposed to a “shop local” campaign.
 - Now that school has resumed and there is a cold going around, there's a loss in time and revenue due to the turnaround time for a COVID test. Takes a long time to get a test, results, etc. a lot of lost time in the workplace. Really impacting the workforce in general.
 - New program in BC chamber of commerce called building resilience to thrive. Starts in November. For Chamber to be a supporting participant, they must facilitate monthly resilient round tables. Tremendous opportunity, feels it will be very valuable for businesses in our community.
 - Hospitality is suffering, concerned for restaurants. Seems like there is little consideration on how to operate for winter. Manufacturers, supply chains are interrupted. Employers were finding employees preferred to stay on wage subsidy than return to work.
- K. Norris:
 - SEAG met on September 16. Reported lots of organizations reopened with modified access or hours in early or late summer. Several offering online programs.
 - Capacity limits, volunteers, financials, PPE, and general cleaning supplies

are all concerns.

- Lots of uncertainty as to what this will look like over the next year.
- Provided overview on several different organizations such as McTavish Academy of Art, Sidney Museum, and Sidney/ North Saanich library.
- Having an online communication platform would be helpful. One place to go for information, and a space to share ideas, resources, and struggles.

– S. Duck:

- Sidney Community Association used to hold monthly meetings, has now gone to zero. Board continuing to meet; wondering how to reach out to Association.
- Continue to use newsletter. Instead of once a month, now issue when a topic is relevant.
- Membership is still good.
- Looking at doing a combined in person/ online forum, but members do not seem comfortable in person. Will likely do a zoom platform in first week of November.
- Channels of communications are challenging. Most is online and social media, not always the best avenue. What other channels can we explore?
- In agreement with Chair's remark that we are still in response, not recovery. Where is the task force going? Feels there is strong need for this task force to pivot to a short term response on community recovery and response and well-being.
- As for economic recovery, BIA and Chamber have done a phenomenal job. Funding should go to them as this isn't in their mandate.

– G. Sol:

- Monthly real estate stats for September: Single family homes on peninsula have gone up 7.5%; town homes, 11.4%. Condo/apartment down 4%. Sales of single family homes increased 92% since last year.
- Industry is incredibly busy. Virtually no foreign buyers.
- Seeing a significant amount of urban major centres moving to the peninsula. Fear of being cooped up in an apartment in next wave.
- Construction costs are through the roof. Builders are afraid of housing affordability. Builders are not making enough money to stay in business much longer. Issue with supply chain management around appliances. A lot of pressure on housing.

– D. Calveley:

- The EAC was on hold for a few months, have had two virtual meetings since March.
- Echoes S. Duck's comments, BIA and Chamber have done impeccable work.
- Uncertain on how home based businesses are networking.
- Concerned for restaurant industry, feels that they do not recognize that winter is coming. Council passed a resolution to have staff work with Chamber and BIA to solicit feedback and what are the options for winter months. There is only so much that the town can do directly. Would like to see funding to BIA, chamber, or contractor to provide resources and reach out to businesses. Feels we are not reaching a lot of people. Would like to see funding go to someone to research gaps in our community.
- Longer term, need to rethink how the EAC Terms of Reference exist, and consider them for future planning.

7. Updates from working groups and initiatives

a. Safe Sidney campaign working group

Working Group reported:

- A. Verhagen: Adding decals and a pledge for businesses to fill out online that they are following protocols.
 - B. Fallot: Would like to explore expanding the functionality of the current tourist information centre. Instead of being aimed specifically at tourists, could it be an overall information centre and anyone could go there for information. Whether we use it now, or see an application for down the road, we can expand the use of something we already have.
 - D. Calveley: During recent OCP community engagement, found that walking around and having a table on Beacon Avenue was a remarkably good way to engage with citizens.
 - S. Duck: Having a location to reach out to the community and physically put resources in their hands would be beneficial. Suggested the Saanich Peninsula Food Bank, Greenglade Community Centre, the library.
 - B. Fallot: Staff reported the OCP turn out wasn't overwhelming, but it was a different group of people than who you see when you invite them into a building. Good to look at different locations to connect with people who wouldn't necessarily go online or go to an open house.
 - G. Cavers: Shoal has an information and referral system, anyone can walk into shoal and get any information they need. Also has the timelines newsletter for information.
- b. Community Organizations campaign working group
Updates were discussed under the Safe Sidney Working Campaign Group update.
- c. Town Talk items
R. Humble reported:
- Town Talk COVID edition is complete and has gone to the printers. Thank you to everyone, the 8 pages of content is exceptional. Information is extremely relevant and current. Will be in mailboxes in two weeks. Can be promoted through social media, and town reader board sign.
- d. Virtual Town Hall meetings
A. Verhagen reported:
- Next Virtual Town Hall is on Wednesday October 14 at 6:00-7:30pm. Topic is Community well-being during COVID. Topics include community policing and how to stay healthy. Currently lining up speakers from Island Health to speak to flu shots.
 - R. Humble: Staff have been working hard to get in touch with someone through island health regarding flu shots. Waiting on final word for clinics, anticipating for early October. No specific dates yet for Mary Winspear Centre clinic. For Virtual Town Hall, hoping to have speakers from Island Health, RCMP, BIA (M. Shaw), and SHOAL (Jennifer van Es).

Action: A. Verhagen to share poster advertisement with committee.

8. Next Steps

- Committee discussed flu shots.
Highlights:
 - Efforts are being made by staff to contact VIHA regarding firm timelines and how the Town can support messaging.
 - Logistics of having to wipe down everything will create a challenge.

- Hoped to have more information for Town Talk; will now hope to have more for Virtual Town Hall
- D. Calveley: Would like to pursue idea of a “resource person” with cooperation from BIA and Chamber, and funding from the town to do outreach to businesses for a month with guidance from the EAC.

Chair thanked committee for all their efforts and involvements.

9. Meeting: Committee agreed to meet October 8.

Action: D. Calveley to provide brief summary of his proposal for the next agenda package.

10. Adjournment – record members who adjourned

Moved by D. Warner, seconded by G. Sol, that the meeting adjourn at 03:33.

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 03:33

Chair

Date

DRAFT



**Town of Sidney – COVID-19 Recovery Task Force Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 08, 2020 – 2:30PM Zoom Meeting**

Present: Mayor C. McNeil-Smith (Chair), Councillor B. Fallot, David Calveley, Glenys Cavers, Steve Duck, Graden Sol, Denny Warner

Regrets: Kirsten Norris, Morgan Shaw

Staff: Randy Humble, Chief Administrative Officer, Brett Mikkelsen, Fire Chief, Alison Verhagen, Senior Manager of Current Planning / Recovery Director, Paula Kully, Recording Clerk

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by the Chair at 2:35.

2. Territorial Acknowledgement

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by G. Cavers, seconded by G. Sol, that the Agenda be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

4. Still to be determined suggested next steps for the Task Force Committee

a. Submission by D. Calveley

David provided an overview of the intent of his submission:

- Check in with businesses now that we are several months out from the initial pandemic response.
- Seeking budget of one lump sum rather than continually coming back to Council for budget request, for actions to take based on survey. Suggest \$30,000.
- Suggested conducting an information-sharing workshop with businesses.
- Use this to build a bigger and better picture of what business in Sidney looks like now, what it may look like in 6 months, 12 months, etc.
- Council should refer long-term planning to the EAC to look at a long-term strategy.
- BCEDA has developed an economic recovery & resiliency toolkit that would be useful.
- A long-term strategy for economic recovery would help with the OCP review.

Discussion:

G. Cavers: questioned what impact the pandemic will have on the OCP. R. Humble assured that we are moving forward in a modified format but the focus is on a robust, engaging process. A. Verhagen noted that the Town is seeing confidence in the economy with significant numbers of new business licences and few closing.

B. Mikkelsen: Reminded the task force that initiatives should be parallel with other the other 3 pillars - community, culture, economy and anticipating a second wave.

A. Verhagen: Noted that the EOC recommended conducting a second business survey 6 months after the first that was conducted during the pandemic. The outdoor seating areas question could be part of the survey. In regards to budget, we need to identify what it will be used for. The EAC may be a better conduit for this project. Alison also noted that social connection, mental health and community wellbeing are the top factors facing people at this time and that if council approves the business survey, there will be a desire from the community to provide a budget for community wellbeing as well. Advised that there are no immediate plans for follow up survey but would be happy to move forward with it in collaboration with chamber.

D. Warner: Confirmed that businesses taking part in the survey were advised a second would be conducted in about 6 months. It would be advantageous to ask some of the same questions for comparison purposes along with some new. The contractor used for first survey would be good for continuity purposes. Cost of the first survey was for time spent making calls.

R. Humble: Suggest that moving forward, the Task Force my convert into something like SEAG, which has been a highly successful model for information sharing and support.

Moved by David Calveley, seconded by Steve Duck that the Task Force recommends that Council consider providing a budget of \$30,000 to a working group of the Task Force or the EAC to be used as they see necessary to contract, survey, and report on how businesses can be supported in response resiliency and recovery.

CARRIED

Moved by David Calveley, seconded by Denny Warner, that Council task the EAC with preparing and implementing a long-term economic strategy following a detailed planning tool to develop road map.

CARRIED

Next meeting two weeks from today.

5. Adjournment

Moved by G. Cavers, seconded by G. Sol that the meeting be adjourned at 3:45 pm.