



**Town of Sidney – COVID-19 Recovery Task Force Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, November 12, 2020 – 2:00PM – 3:00PM  
Zoom Meeting**

**Present:** Mayor C. McNeil-Smith, Glenys Cavers, David Calveley, Councillor Barbara Fallot, Steve Duck, Kirsten Norris, Morgan Shaw, Graden Sol

**Regrets:** Randy Humble, Brett Mikkelsen, Denny Warner

**Staff:** Alison Verhagen, Senior Manager of Current Planning / Recovery Director, Donna Barner, Recording Clerk

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1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by the Chair at 2:00.

2. Territorial Acknowledgement

3. Adoption of Agenda

*Moved by S. Duck, seconded by G. Cavers, that the agenda be adopted.*

**CARRIED**

4. Adoption of Minutes

*Moved by S. Duck, seconded by M. Shaw, that the Recovery Task Force Committee minutes from the October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2020 meetings be adopted.*

**CARRIED**

5. Feedback on recent Special COVID-19 Edition Town Talk

Chair invited committee to share feedback on the Special COVID-19 Edition Town Talk.

Highlights:

- Committee was in agreement that the Special Edition Covid-19 Town Talk was a valuable resource with longevity to it.
- **A. Verhagen:** Town received several phone calls and emails expressing positive feedback. Unusual to receive any feedback at all, let alone so much appreciation.
- **B. Fallot:** only negative comment would be the colours seemed bland and dull.
- Next Town Talk has been sent to printers already. Will feature winter Meet Your Street ideas.
- Several inquiries as to placing copies at additional locations.

**Action: A. Verhagen will confirm with Town staff the potential to have additional Town Talk copies for supplementary locations.**

6. Update from the COVID-Friendly Activities Committee

- **K. Norris:** solicited ideas from SEAG and the committee, have gathered approximately 40 ideas.

- **D. Barner:** committee has discussed ideas for sharing activities such as; adding a new tab on the “[Things to Do](#)” webpage on [www.sidney.ca](http://www.sidney.ca), weekly social media posts through the Town, and the next Town Talk. Welcomed committee to share any ideas they may have.
- **G. Cavers:** has several ideas from Beacon Community Services and SHOAL to contribute still as well.
- A. Verhagen confirmed with M. Shaw that activity ideas could be shared to the BIA calendar.

## 7. Roundtable

Chair invited committee to share updates on organizations they represent.

- G. Cavers and Chair discussed federal funding for municipalities. Town of Sidney is expected to receive \$2.7 million for COVID related purposes. November 23<sup>rd</sup> Council meeting staff will present a report outlining short term and long term ideas on how to allocate funds. Chair does not anticipate any specific initiatives to arise within the next month as Council will need appropriate time to discuss the staff report.
- **G. Cavers:** provided an overview of the recent flu clinic at SHOAL. Senior meal delivery program, fitness classes, and caregiver support programs are all continuing. Seeking ways to recognize volunteers.
- **S. Duck:** Sidney Community Association hosting AGM next Thursday, which has been deferred since May due to COVID. Will be via Zoom, all are invited. Newsletters have been well received. Cycling Without Age also has its AGM next week. Cycling Without Age has essentially been halted due to COVID. Looking at how they can serve assisted and independent residents and those at home better.
  - **A. Verhagen:** The next Town Talk deadline is February 19<sup>th</sup>. Could be an opportunity to share Cycling Without Age. Will connect with S. Duck in new year.
- **M. Shaw:** BIA Halloween was a success. Received a lot of positive feedback from community. Have nearly completely Christmas plans. Similar to Halloween, will include several festivities, such “candy cane lane,” community Christmas tree with Artsea, free movies at Star Cinema on Saturday, horse drawn carriages, and a brass ensemble. Peninsula Celebrations Society is working with Boondocks for a COVID safe Santa experience. Retail campaigns and sweepstakes all launch this week. Lots of food and toy drives occurring this year. May consider more drive-ins but is challenging with weather. BIA is hiring a full time Business Development Manager. At this time role will be to assist with COVID recovery and ensure business are receiving access to all the available resources. Launched the “Sidney Courier” program, which offers free deliveries for businesses with 35km of the business. Cost is covered by the BIA.
  - Committee all congratulated M. Shaw and the BIA for the tremendous efforts they have put in lately.
- **D. Calveley:** EAC meets tomorrow. The two points that originally went to Council were referred to the EAC, which have now gone back to Council. Council will consider as part of budget deliberations and economic development strategy, and will consider a survey. Feels like a component he has been advocating for – better outreach – has been met though BIA.
  - Chair confirmed that Council allocated \$5000.00 to a second survey to businesses.
- **K. Norris:** Library has re-opened; Street market is doing a virtual 100 days of Christmas shopping event; Sidney Museum has two shows going; ArtSea did the Rocks for Remembrance initiative; partnering with BIA for Community Christmas tree. SEAG has not met since the last RTFC meeting.
- **G. Sol:** Nothing to report from APC. Real Estate board has effectively shut down open houses throughout the province of BC. WorkSafe BC Guidelines that assist with how to show a property safely during COVID. Difficult to allow for sufficient time to “air out”

between showings. Provided an update from sailing/ racing committees.

- **A. Verhagen:** winterizing outdoor seating area options has been put on Town website and out to the business community through the BIA and Chamber to collect feedback for a few weeks. Questions to be addressed are:
  - o Permit requirements (building and fire)
  - o Securing seating areas
  - o What could the Town commit to for a timeline in allowing these structures to remain?
  - o Considerations for waiving the monthly right away permit feesDeadline is today, have only received 5 comments so far. Staff report concluding findings and providing recommendations will go to Council on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- o **M. Shaw:** There is an opportunity to work with the Chamber and Town staff to be proactive and identify specific businesses that could benefit from the outdoor seating and approach them. Take a proactive approach and provide information to them versus making information available to them. M. Shaw and A. Verhagen to chat offline.

8. Next Meeting: December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

9. Adjournment

*Moved by B. Fallot, seconded by S. Duck, that the meeting be adjourned.*

**CARRIED**

**Meeting adjourned at 02:56**

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Chair

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Date