

1. Opening and Welcome

1.1. Present/Regrets – Chair Susan Creelman, Darren Schriver, Julie Hay, Marla Taylor, Brian Harrison, Mark Laughlin, Jeff Gray, Greg Connell, Erin Richard, Roseanne Chapman.

1.2. Approve Agenda

1.3 Guests - Common Good Solutions – David Upton
Colchester Transportation Cooperative Limited- Sue Taylor
Staff – Erin Richard

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

2.1. November 2023, December 2023

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

3.1. Council update – Susan advised committee members Council has acquired an Interim CAO pending signing of a contract. Staff member Leah Bennett has resigned. Budget process beings this month. RFP for a recruiter for CAO position is underway. Congratulations to Bill Hay for receiving a lifetime achievement award from TIANS. UARB has approved Town’s application to reduce number of Councilors from 6 to 4 effective next elections October 2024.

4. New Business

4.1 –Presentation – Transportation Study – Erin Richard, David Upton and Sue Taylor.

Town received a grant to fund a study on community transportation. Common Good Solutions awarded the contract to conduct a survey, perform a study and make recommendations. CTCL is the local provider of community transportation. David reviewed the survey results.

105 residents completed surveys along with several in person interviews. Immediate need seems to be getting residents to grocery store (Foodland) when it moves to Perry Lake in February and transportation to appointments that may be in Truro, Musquodoboit, Halifax etc.

The Town needs to give consideration to the immediate needs as above but also planning for future growth of the Town as we are on a path for significant growth in the Town and Province as a whole. In addition some employers have staffing shortages as employees can’t afford to commute from Truro/Elmsdale.

CTCL serves Colchester region. They are a pre-booked service. Many people aren’t aware of their services. They receive their funding from province, municipalities and clients. They currently come to Stewiacke about once per week.

There is an immediate need to promote their services.

Committee may look at surveying some of the local businesses who are having difficulties staffing due to transportation costs.

David concluded the presentation noting 3 issues:

1. Transportation to and from grocery store and to appointments.
2. Consultation process will continue throughout the Colchester Region
3. Start with short term solutions and then start thinking long term. What will Stewiacke look like in 5-10 years?

5. Member Reports

6. Dates to Remember –

7. Next Meeting – February 1, 2024 @ 9:00 AM

8. Adjournment