



The Village of  
**PORT CLEMENTS**  
*"Gateway to the Wilderness"*

36 Cedar Avenue West  
PO Box 198  
Port Clements, BC  
V0T1R0  
OFFICE: 250-557-4295  
Public Works: 250-557-4295  
FAX: 250-557-4568  
Email: [office@portclements.ca](mailto:office@portclements.ca)  
Web: [www.portclements.ca](http://www.portclements.ca)

**7:00 PM, Monday, April 3, 2023**  
**Committee of the Whole Minutes**

**PRESENT:**

Mayor Scott Cabianca  
Councillor Brigid Cumming (via conference)  
Councillor Kazamir Falconbridge  
Councillor Wayne Nicol

**NOT PRESENT:**

Councillor Dennis Reindl

CAO Marjorie Dobson  
Deputy CAO Elizabeth Cumming

Members of the Public: Marilyn Bliss, Linda Berston, and Bev Lore

**Committee of the Whole Meeting Called to Order at 7:03 PM**

*Mayor Scott Cabianca: I call to order the committee of the whole meeting of the Village of Port Clements being held on the traditional territory of the Haida People.*

**1. ADOPT AGENDA**

2023-04-076—Moved by Councillor Falconbridge

THAT the Committee adopts the April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, Committee of the Whole Agenda as presented.

**CARRIED**

**2. REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS**

**D-1-Tourism and Beautification Infrastructure Improvement**

- Background details on the Vibrant Community Commission and their relationship to Council, how it went from a tourism advisory committee to a commission that can undertake activities with a bit more flexibility to pull up tourism and some economic aspects as struggle with having ideas and motivation but could not get final steps of approval. It is a Commission of the Council, so Council does have the ability to modify or add to workload, they are accountable to Council, and can ask them to consider/undertake projects, though it is also dependent on Commission's capacity. The focus of the commission has been to make the Village more attractive, to orient it around tourism and to attract tourist operators and pickup on the tourists that go past the Village (to get them to come in). A small group of the ideas could go into the commission; maybe some ideas need a society in of themselves. Commission would run these projects. Commission meetings are public meetings, but currently a struggle to get their meetings held. Recommended to not have another Committee of the Whole Meeting on the topic of tourism without the Vibrant Community Commission being present.
- Discussion on what the focus on tourism and beautification is, how they are interlinked to a degree. If the Village improves itself for its residents, rather than just for tourism, it benefits tourism anyway. However, tourism benefits the community by supporting the businesses the community relies on – if there isn't a summer tourism season, businesses shut down as they cannot support themselves from locals alone, and then residents suffer from losing the businesses. Developing tourism is not the sole responsibility of the Village either, private businesses have their own responsibilities and the Village shouldn't get involved in marketing

individual businesses, but the Village can work on a supportive and attractive environment for it that brings in business, employees and residents. The Village can take initiatives to get the ball rolling, and then others will come along. Additionally, tourism is not just about off-island visitors, but Islanders from other communities as well.

- Discussion identified that Vibrant Community Commission may need a dedicated staff person. Idea identified to hire someone for three years to research and assess some of the projects brought up in the discussion and develop a business plan for them where then Council could determine if they should/could be pursued (ex. background, tax implications, how to go forward). The Village cannot do into things with just a good idea, needs solid plans and information for decision-making.
- Capacity brought up as frequent topic of discussion. Need to build staff capacity to be able to pursue additional projects in addition to regular workload. For example, hiring another public works person (ex. to look after gardens, etc, instead of trying to rely on volunteers as people in community either too busy working to make a living, or too old). Suggestion to hire someone for 3 years to take ideas and business cases for them, and then conversation evolved into evolved into considering hiring a full-time tourism advocate for town that understands tourism and need to orient town to suit its current and future economic climate. However, pointed out that no one was willing to undertake position when advertised (too short-term), and they must be able to jump through all the hoops, processes, and procedures that municipalities face. Identified that too expensive to employ contractors, but also identified issue with public not historically being in support of hiring additional staff due to increase in cost, and maybe not in a position to hire additional staff.
- Several ideas were brought up and discussed for potential tourism and/or beautification: turning St. Mark's Church into a thrift store, music nights at St. Marks, developing St. Marks for destination weddings, outdoor pool, outdoor pagoda, boardwalk, pump track, developing the property at the Small Craft Harbour (building steps to beach, etc), proper signage at community entrances (Tlell, Masset ways), putting signs far in advance of community entrances to grab attention, more garbage cans in the Village, signs being installed on empty sign posts along trail (end of Park Street, at Bayview Drive crossing), viewing platforms for "vulture restaurants" equivalent" where birds are fed – or covert feeding stations, bird feeders/nesting boxes, etc. Brought up that until something is tried it is not known for sure that it will not work; attending members of public identified frustration where they attend meetings where nothing happens.
- Frequent identification and discussion of maintenance related issues, including discussion on need to maintain infrastructure currently in place and if pursuing new infrastructure, but issue that no grant funding available for operational maintenance. Identification that maintenance plays a part in beautification/tourism, as 90% of tourism is aesthetics. Councillor Wayne identified his opinion that whole Village looks like a construction site, and disagreement with using culverts (construction by product) for flower beds and painting them (looks "redneck"), though intent is good. Dead planters are also a detraction on the Village, as are the 4 unsightly eyesores at the Village entrances. Also, identification of issue with Sunset Park Trail project in how it "clear cut" some areas in its project and expanded gravel roads, etc, rather than focusing on an ecological tourism design, which is not necessarily about convenience. Issue identified with maintenance grading the trails or using leaf blowers, pushing gravel off and ripping up fabric, and moss on the bird tower handrails.
- Discussion identified specific pieces of infrastructure. Identification that management of the Community Hall should be brought under the Village to properly look after it. Identification that St. Marks should not be a municipal business itself (gift store, etc), to not compete with and undercut private business, but could be looked at for renting out to something (charging market rent, etc), same with Dyson corner and laundromat/showers idea. Also identified concern with loggers' sports and mud bog being able to continue – two of the biggest events on the Island based in Port Clements – never historically had involvement of the Village to organize, except

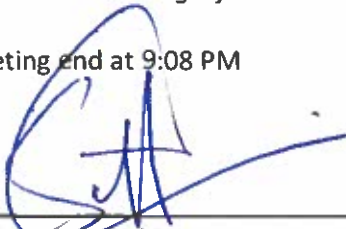
liability, but volunteers no longer there. May need to look at the one-time a year events as attractants and get direction from leadership to run it.

- Discussion of challenges and limitations with projects. The need for short term vs. long-term planning. Short-term, focus on what we have that can be improved (St. Marks, Community Hall, pub, Airbnb) and utilizing what we have. At the same time can make long-term plans for infrastructure that could belong to the Village, such as revenue generators (ex. municipal ski-life [not suggested to undertake but example of municipal-owned infrastructure]) – solid infrastructure that is accountable and financeable that could be managed itself or rented out. Recognition that not all ideas can be implemented all at once, and some may never be achieved (cost, pros and cons, maintenance costs). Additionally, public contribution/consultation would be involved.
- Discussion of issue of lack of proper vision of tourism in Port Clements, which results in projects not being set up properly and well-realized. It's not just infrastructure, but a picture or identity being created for the Village. It's a combination of infrastructure vs. marketing vs. activities, and to attract operators and people alike, the Village needs to look good. Making the Village attractive enough to market and promote this identity that will bring in tourism and maybe even some light industrial sector potential. Tourism website needs to be dynamic to capture this identity for tourism. The name "Haida Gwaii" itself brings an identity that sells the tourism and the products, but it needs to be enhanced what brings them to Port Clements. Brought up that the Village does have a Tourism Roadmap that was developed in 2016.
- Discussion turned to an overall idea that someone interested in tourism (like an advocate) or a separate entity could achieve some of the ideas identified, just need a budget, some funding and hiring. Someone who can physically do the work but can also do other things (whatever is needed – website, maintenance, reports, grants, etc). Countered that workload identified sounds like several people, not just one, and for municipal operations they need to be answerable to Council. Also highlighted issues with finding people in the past.
- Discussion included identification of need for having some sort of ways to go forward on a set number of issues, way of narrowing down the ideas proposed. Maybe more COTW meetings to figure out how to make things happen and hammer out what could be implemented. Could be meetings looking at existing infrastructures, activities infrastructure, one-off activities, and then capital projects. Need to involve the Vibrant Community Commission to confirm whether they are getting involved or not, and where their interest is.

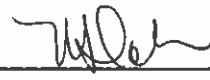
*Councillor Wayne Nicol arrived at 7:19PM*

*Councillor Cumming left the meeting at 8:27 PM*

Meeting end at 9:08 PM



Mayor Scott Cabianca



CAO Marjorie Dobson