

**Sustainable Community Planning Task Force
Monday, Sept. 8, 2008**

Attendance:

Chairperson, George Freer, Councilor
Co-Chair, Jeffrey Aitkens, CAO
Recording Secretary, Kim Lewis, Sustainability Coordinator
Marney Simmons, Resident
Laurie Evans
Ken Laurie MacDonald
Regrets: Tim Gilfoy, John Grimes, Ron Savoury, Mike Hadley, Wilma Spencer, Walter Crant, Vincent Powers

1. **Call to Order**

Chairperson George Freer called the meeting to order at 6:08pm.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Consensus to accept the agenda as circulated.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

Moved by Jeff Aitkens and seconded by Marney Simmons to approve the minutes of July 14, 2008.

4. **Business Arising**

1st Order: Introduction of new Committee Member Ken MacDonald

Ken is a newcomer to Mulgrave, from Sydney, Cape Breton and is employed with Eastnovability.

2nd Order: ICSP Coordinator reviews work to date

Kim Lewis reviewed the work done to date on the ICSP beginning with the formation of the Steering Committee in March of 2008, and the hiring of the coordinator in June. Since that time the bulk of the work involved developing the vision statement, which is now completed. The coordinator has been involved in other tasks peripheral to the plan such as researching funding opportunities, website additions, and community sustainability awareness opportunities; i.e. battery drop-off boxes, Senior's Expo display, and Mulgrave Community Newsletter contribution. The plan is currently in stage 2 of the 5 stage process. This is the section that requires the greatest amount of committee input. The issues arising from this section will be the foundation on which the rest of the plan will be built.

3rd Order: Identifying the scope – evaluating and prioritizing the issues.

The group reviewed the focus questions, and while discussing the answers a number of common themes appeared. For example, under the Social Sustainability category issues include: Out-migration, improved emergency services, improved seniors care/facilities. Economic Sustainability issues include: More homegrown businesses, shortage of skilled labour, more signage, maximizing existing resources such as, the ice-free port, and undeveloped land. Environmental sustainability issues include: Access to clean water and air, preserving green spaces, protection of coastal areas, rivers, wetlands, and wildlife habitats, issues of illegal dumping and waste management were noted along with the need for more education and awareness campaigns. Under Cultural Sustainability there was a consensus that the arts, culture and heritage is well supported by town residents, but is limited by funding. There is an appreciation for the senior population and the wealth of historical and cultural knowledge they hold. Also, it was noted that more commemorative tributes citing the accomplishments of the Town's notable citizens is needed.

4th Order Report on “Port Mulgrave” research.

Marney reports that little could be found at present, but will continue the search.

5. Next Meeting

Monday, October 20 Time to be announced at a later date.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm