Agenda
Public Works Standing Committee
Thursday, April 16, 2015
12:00 noon
Depot Board Room, Blackler Avenue
Agenda
Public Works & Environment Standing Committee
Thursday, April 16th, 2015
12:00 noon
Depot Board Room, Blackler Avenue

1. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes of February 19, 2015

3. Business Arising
   a. Discussion on Garbage Netting
   b. Robin Hood Bay Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) Contract Extension

4. New Business:
   a. Garbage Collection Areas
   b. Relocation of Downtown Parking Meters & Sign Posts Cost Estimate
   c. Community Garden Request for Eric Street & Bond Street
   d. Proposed Land Acquisition – Battery Road/Fort Waldegrave

5. Other Business

6. Confirmation of Date & Time of Next Meeting

7. Adjournment
A meeting of the Public Works Standing Committee was held on Thursday, February 19, 2015 at 12:00 noon in Conference Room A, fourth floor of City Hall.

In Attendance: Councillor Jonathan Galgay, Chairperson
Deputy Mayor Ron Ellsworth
Councillor Danny Breen
Councillor Bruce Tilley
Councillor Dave Lane
Councillor Sandy Hickman
Councillor Bernard Davis
Paul Mackey, Deputy City Manager of Public Works
Don Brennan, Director of Roads & Traffic
Lynnann Winsor, Director of Water & Wastewater
Phil Hiscock, Manager of Roads
Brian Head, Manager of Parks & Open Spaces
David Crowe, Operations Supervisor, Parks and Open Spaces
Scott Winsor, Manager of Construction Engineering
Chris Pitcher, Supervisor of Parking Services
Jason Phillip’s, Manager of Water & Wastewater
Jonathan Murphy, Waste Management Engineer
Skee Majofsky, Manager of Fleet Services
Sean Janes, Internal Audit
Stacey Fallon, Legislative Assistant

Also in attendance were Dan Brake, Chief Executive Officer and Catherina Kennedy, Corporate Development Manager from EMSAT.

Deputy Mayor Ellsworth and Councillor Lane disclosed that they knew and had past business with EMSAT.

Adoption of Agenda
The agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.

Adoption of Minutes
The minutes of the meeting held November 20, 2014 were approved by unanimous consent.

Delegation
Dan Brake and Catherina Kennedy from EMSAT were present to conduct a presentation regarding data monitoring of pot holes. The delegation presented the Committee with a proposal for a system that can automate identify and measure the volume of potholes and road disrepair which was detailed in a power point presentation, a copy of which is on file with the Office of the City Clerk.

A motion was moved by Councillor Breen; seconded by Councillor Hickman: That staff review the information presented to ascertain whether or not EMSAT’s
system would address the City’s needs and bring forward a recommendation to a future meeting.

Snow Clearing Winter Parking Ban Warning Notices
The Committee considered a memorandum dated February 11th from the Deputy City Manager - Public Works on the above noted matter. Discussion took place surrounding both the directive as well as the notices that went out to citizens. The Committee recommended the following after reviewing the memo and the previous Committee recommendation. Moved by Councillor Breen; seconded by Councillor Davis that:

Notices will be issued 3 days prior to the official start of the parking ban implementation. In the event the Deputy City Manager of Public Works under the Snow Clearing Bylaw has to institute a parking ban earlier then the set date, notices will be issued during the notice period.

The Committee further recommends that the wording on the notices specify the actual date of the parking ban’s implementation.

Communities in Bloom Participation Alternative
The Committee considered a memorandum dated December 9, 2015 from the Deputy City Manager - Public Works regarding the above noted. At the December 1, 2014 Regular Meeting, Council referred this issue back to the Committee for further consideration with the following decision:

Contrary to the committee’s recommendation, Council agreed to have the City’s Participation in Communities in Bloom deferred to further review the value in participating against using these funds to provide better clean up in the spring of the year.

Councillor Hickman brought forward an alternative level of participation in the Communities in Bloom for this year which would cost $2,500. It was to have the City judged as it is now, to see where it stands and what would need to be done in future years should the City embark on entering the competition. Discussion took place surrounding the City’s role as well as the role of Clean St. John’s if the City wishes to compete in the future.

The Committee on motion of Councillor Lane; seconded by Councillor Davis recommended the following:

The $20,000 budget be allocated as follows:
- contribute an additional $17,500 to extend the annual 2015 litter collection clean up program;
- participate in the Class of Excellence with Communities in Bloom at a cost of $2,500.
**Land Erosion – 50 Mooney Crescent**
Discussion took place surrounding the land erosion located at 50 Mooney Crescent. The situation presents a two-fold problem. First, the eroded bank compromises the stability of the electric pole. The erosion is also resulting in a loss of property and the eroding bank is approaching the sidewalk of the Kilbride Housing Cooperative Society Limited (KHCSL). Presently the City does not accept responsibility for repairs caused by erosion along watercourses. The drainage ditch in question is not a watercourse in the salmonid bearing sense but it does convey runoff during rainfall/snowmelt events. It was questioned whether or not the City wishes to adopt the same stance regarding erosion for drainage ditches. Staff has recommended that as this is a private matter, the KHCSL should be advised to perform the necessary erosion remediation of the drainage ditch along their property boundary.

The matter was deferred to a future meeting for a broader discussion on the affordable housing piece.

**Petty Harbour/Long Pond Treatment Plant Update**
The Committee considered a memorandum dated February 12, 2015 regarding the above noted which was tabled for information. A background report prepared by the Director – Water and Wastewater was attached for review, in which she spoke to some of the details within.

She noted that despite all of the challenges above, the new facility is now at the start-up and commissioning stage. It is expected that PHLP will again be supplying drinking water to the City of St. John's by the Summer of 2015.

**New Depot@ Southlands**
Don Brennan, Director, Public Works provided a verbal update with regard to the above noted and advised this is something being considered as part of the KPMG final report, the details of which will be released in the near future. The KPMG Report contemplates longer term options for a new depot, and consideration is being given to the acquisition of lands with enough space to facilitate a satellite depot smaller than Blackler Avenue. In the shorter term, the City is looking for an east end location for the dumping of snow with the possibility of expansion. Sharing the Harding Road Provincial site was suggested; however, it is a decrepit building that needs to be replaced. Operationally it would not be appropriate, though sharing amongst jurisdictions happens in other areas.

**Clearing Snow From Public Fire Hydrants**
The Committee considered a memorandum dated February 11, 2015 from the Deputy City Manager of Public Works regarding the above noted as well as a background report prepared by the Director of Water and Wastewater which was requested by the committee including the current protocol/practice for snow clearing of fire hydrants. The report indicates that for the 2015 winter season, and for the first time, the Water & Wastewater Division has awarded a contract for snow clearing services for 1,800 for the 3,251 public fire hydrants within the City. The cost to clear these hydrants is $25/hydrant, which equals $45,000 each time these hydrants are cleared. When the contractor is directed to clear the hydrants they have five 5 days to complete the task. In previous years, it typically took the City 7-10 days to complete the snow clearing of
all public fire hydrants. Snow clearing for the remaining 1,451 public hydrants remains the responsibility of the Water & Wastewater Division. Although it has not been tested this year, to date, it is expected that the same 5 day timeframe can be met for those hydrants as well.

**Drinking Water Quality Report**
The Committee considered a memorandum dated February 11, 2015 from the Deputy City Manager of Public Works regarding the above noted which was tabled for information. The Director of Water and Wastewater briefly outlined the report which is attached to the agenda noting that both Windsor Lake and Bay Bulls Big Pond water supply systems received a perfect DWQI Score of 100 in the most recent independent testing.

The Committee commended staff for the perfect results.

**Electric Vehicle Pilot Project**
The Committee considered a memorandum dated February 6, 2015 from the Deputy City Manager - Public Works regarding the above noted.

The Committee on motion of Councillor Tilley; seconded by Councillor Hickman recommended the following.

> That Council proceed with the Electric Vehicle Pilot project as outlined in the memo which is attached to the agenda. Funding has been allocated in the 2015 capital budget for this project estimated at $74,000 plus HST.

**New Gower Street Entrance & Median Upgrade**
The Manager of Parks and Open Spaces gave a verbal update on the above noted advising that a concept plan would have to be developed as well as an RFP for a design. With the convention center and Mile One doing some work, there may be an opportunity for joint cooperation. The Chair requested that the matter be deferred to a future meeting pending staff’s preparation of a briefing.

**Robin Hood Bay MRF Contract**
The committee considered a memorandum dated February 12, 2015 from the Deputy City Manager, Public Works regarding the above noted matter. Some discussion took place surrounding the inclusions of the contract.

> The committee moved to defer for one month with Councillor Breen dissenting.

**PPE @ Robin Hood Bay Commercial Tipping Face**
The Committee considered a memorandum from the Deputy City Manager – Public Works outlining the implementation of mandatory PPE for users at the commercial tipping face at the Robin Hood Bay Landfill. As noted, this change is necessary to comply with an Order issued by the Provincial Occupational Health & Safety Division. The outgoing notice was included in the agenda for information.
**Kenmount Terrace Snow Clearing**
The Deputy City Manager of Public Works advised that the snow clearing routes for Kenmount Terrace will be revamped with a view to imposing shorter routes which better facilitate quicker response, particularly in problem areas where higher amounts of snow fall occur.

**National Garden Celebration**
The Committee considered a request from the Canadian Capital Cities Organization for a garden site for the 2017 National Garden Celebration project. The Committee on motion of Councillor Hickman; seconded by Councillor Breen recommends the following:

- That the City confirm its interest in having a Sesquicentennial Garden in St. John’s
- Provide input into the project
- Determine the site of the garden with the City of St. John’s
- Support funding request that will be done by the 2017 National Garden Celebration Organization.

**Next Meeting**
Councillor Tilley asked that garbage netting be brought forward at the next meeting for a larger discussion.

**Adjournment**
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:41 p.m.

**Councillor Jonathan Galgay**
Chairperson
Memorandum

Date: March 12, 2015
To: Paul Mackey, Deputy City Manager – Public Works
From: Stephen Colford, P. Eng., MBA, Manager-Waste and Recycling
Re: Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)-Contract Clarification

At the last Public Works meeting there was a request to clarify the existing contract with Scotia Recycling for the operation of the Materials Recovery Facility at Robin Hood Bay.

Scotia Recycling is living up to their contractual requirements with the City. The contract doesn’t require Scotia Recycling to accept newsprint from any of their commercial customers. Their commercial operations are separate. However, since we don’t want to see any newsprint landfilled we are always are willing to see if there is something that can be worked out.

Stephen Colford, P. Eng., MBA
MEMORANDUM

Date: February 12, 2015

To: Councillor Jonathan Galgay
   Chairperson, Public Works Committee

From: Paul Mackey, P. Eng.,
      Deputy City Manager, Public Works

Re: Robin Hood Bay Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) Contract

Attached for your consideration is a background report on the contract for the operation of the MRF at Robin Hood Bay prepared by Steve Colford.

Recommendation

I recommend that the current contract with Scotia Recycling for operation of the MRF be extended for a five (5) year period in accordance with the provisions of the original contract.

Paul Mackey
Deputy City Manager,
Public Works

Attach.
Memorandum

Date: February 11, 2015
To: Paul Mackey, Deputy City Manager – Public Works
From: Stephen Colford, P. Eng., MBA, Manager-Waste and Recycling
Re: Contract for the Operation of the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)

Issue

The contract awarded to Scotia Recycling to operate the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) will expire on September 16, 2015. A decision has to be made to either create a new Request For Proposal (RFP) or to mutually extend the contract for another five years.

Background

In November of 2011, an RFP was issued for the operations of the Materials Recovery Facility. Based on research that was conducted it was estimated that the cost to operate the MRF would be approximately $1,300,000. One response was received for the RFP with a value over $2,000,000. Due to this high price consideration was given to have the City operate the MRF using its own forces. However, an agreement could not be reached with the union. Therefore, a second RFP was issued on June 2010 with the following changes:

- Guaranteed a yearly tonnage of 5,000 tonnes
- Included the accepting of ICI recycling material. The contractor would pay a fee
- Simplify the residual rate. Set it at 12%
- Contract for five years with three five year mutually agreed extensions.

Two responses were received. Once again the contractor who bid on the first RFP was over $2,000,000. The other response was closer to $1,100,000 and was accepted. The contract was awarded to Scotia Recycling.

Discussion

A decision whether or not to proceed with a new RFP has to be made quickly because:

- If a new RFP is to be created considerable time will be required based on the previous experience to ensure that the City receives a reasonable response,
- If a new contractor is selected then time is necessary to transfer the operation of the MRF from the existing contractor to the new contractor and to provide the necessary training to the successful bidder.
Issuing a new RFP in 2015 may result in a higher cost to the City for the following reasons:

- Due to the requirements of the RFP, there are few local companies that can respond. This may result in the same company bidding again but at a higher price.
- It is unlikely that companies from out of the province would respond since the tonnages are not at high enough levels for them to operate out of St. John’s.

**Recommendation**

The Division of Waste & Recycling are recommending that the contract with Scotia Recycling be extended for another five (5) years. Scotia Recycling has been contacted and has agreed with the possible extension. Scotia Recycling has adequately operated the MRF for the past four years and staff believe that it would be prudent to extend the contract. Any future yearly increases in cost are tied to the changes in the Consumer Price Index.

Stephen Colford, P. Eng., MBA
Date: March 13, 2015

To: Councillor Jonathan Galgay  
Chairperson, Public Works Committee

From: Paul Mackey, P. Eng.,  
Deputy City Manager, Public Works

Re: Garbage Collection Areas  
CD# R2015-02-16/8

As requested, attached for your consideration is a background report on the route layout and numbering system for the garbage and recycling collection areas.

Recommendation

It is not feasible to realign the collection areas to follow the ward boundaries and I therefore recommend that the current collection routes be retained. I further recommend that consideration be given to re-naming the garbage and recycling collection areas when the next major route revisions are implemented to avoid any potential confusion with ward boundaries.

Paul Mackey, P. Eng.,  
Deputy City Manager, Public Works

Attach.
Memorandum

Date: March 5, 2015

To: Paul Mackey, Deputy City Manager – Public Works

From: Stephen Colford, P. Eng., MBA, Manager-Waste and Recycling

Re: CD# R2015-02-16/8-Garbage Collection: Changing Garbage Areas to Match Wards

Issue

Councillor Collins relayed concerns expressed by some constituents about the confusion with the City's numbering system for garbage collection (1A and B; 2A and B; 3A and B; 4A and B; 5A and B). He states that this causes confusion particularly with respect to collections in wards 4 and 5 which seem to overlap. He suggested it would be better to remove the numbering system currently in place and replace it with an alphabetical system from A - E only, with one letter attributed to each ward, i.e. Ward 5 would be Section E. He requested that this matter be referred for discussion to the next meeting of the Public Works Standing Committee.

From discussions with Councillor Collins he is requesting the garbage collection routes be revised to coincide with the Ward boundaries and to be named with letters (ie Ward 1 would be garbage area A).

Background

Four council wards were established for the 1981 general election. The existing five council wards were mainly developed by trying to split the population of the City equally for each ward using census data. The wards were last amended on September 27, 2004.

From the historical records, garbage routes were called wards but they had no correlation to any council wards. In March of 1995, with the implementation of the garbage cycle, the City went to Area 1, Area 2, Area 3, Area 4 and Area 5 for garbage collection. In 2010, each of the garbage areas were split into two and called 1A/1B, 2A/2B etc. to account for the biweekly collection of recycling.

Discussion

For operational and financial reasons it isn’t practical to create garbage areas and routes based on the council wards. Unlike the council wards, garbage areas are not split by population but are based on operational factors including number and density of households, garbage weight by household in each neighborhood, volume and weight capacity of garbage and recycling vehicles, collection time at each household, distance between stops, distance from the landfill and number of individuals required to be on a
truck. For example, the downtown area is split into five different garbage areas because two individuals are required to be on the truck due to the on street parking, hills and density of households. Garbage areas in the Goulds/Southlands/Kilbride areas weren’t originally designed to have as many households as in the east end of the City because the routes have to account the travel time it takes to get to the landfill and back to the municipal depot.

Even it was operationally feasible, as one can see from the table below, there are only 12.2% of the total units in the City that have a Ward that has a matching garbage area. ie. Ward 1 has 25.5% of its units in garbage areas 1A or 1B, while Ward 4 has 0 units in garbage area 4A or 4B. Thus, it would involve a large communication effort which would lead to greater confusion among residents. It may be better served trying to inform residents about the council wards they are in.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WARD</th>
<th>UNITS</th>
<th>% MATCHING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WARD MATCHES GARBAGE AREA</td>
<td>WARD DOESN'T MATCH GARBAGE AREA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2,279</td>
<td>6,656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2,497</td>
<td>8,505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>381</td>
<td>8,913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12,751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1,103</td>
<td>8,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>6,260</td>
<td>45,065</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the status quo be maintained. It is not practical to match council wards and garbage areas for operational reasons. These garbage areas and council wards have been named the same since March of 1995, a span of 20 years. Most people know their garbage area since they put out their garbage out 52 weeks a year but don’t know their ward. It might be better to do larger communication effort to inform residents of their wards.

It is hoped with a new garbage and recycling lookup which is available through the City’s webpage or Waste and Recycling App that the need to know the garbage area may be reduced in the future. The information is provided by address and the resident can get a reminder of their collection day or any other garbage notifications through a phone call, text, twitter or email.

Stephen Colford, P. Eng., MBA
Memorandum

Date: April 10, 2015
To: Paul Mackey, P.Eng. – Deputy City Manager, Public Works
From: Don Brennan, P.Eng. – Director, Roads and Traffic
Re: Cost Estimate to move downtown parking meters

Attached for discussion at the Public Works Committee is an estimate for relocating parking meters to the back of the sidewalk in a number of areas downtown. Included with the meters are a number of signs that should be moved at the same time as the meters. Moving these to the back of the sidewalk would greatly facilitate snow clearing and snow removal operations, as well as facilitate access to these meters for users at times of significant snow accumulation at the curb line.

The estimated cost for meters on Duckworth Street, Water Street, Harbour Drive, New Gower Street, Springdale Street plus a number of coves and side streets is approximately $35,000. Adding an additional 98 meters and signs on a number of other roads outside of downtown would cost an additional $22,000.

I am recommending at this time that Council consider a request for $35,000 to cover the cost of relocating the 152 meter and sign posts in the downtown.
# METER AND SIGN POST RELOCATION PROPOSAL ESTIMATED COSTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STREET</th>
<th>METER POSTS</th>
<th>SIGN POSTS</th>
<th>TOTAL POSTS</th>
<th>Street Sub-Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>DUCKWORTH STREET - South side</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Gower to Mcbrides</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mcbrides to Cathedral</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cathedral to Prescott</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescott to Cavendish</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DUCKWORTH STREET - North Side</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cochrane to Prescott</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescott to Cathedral</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cathedral to New Gower</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WATER STREET - south side in front of Scotia Bank</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WATER STREET - North side east of Cochrane st</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HARBOUR DRIVE - south side in front of the keg</strong></td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SIDE STREETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clift Bairds Cove</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen Street</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adelaide street</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bates Hill</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Hill</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cochrane Street</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holloway Street</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kings Road</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NEW GOWER STREET - south side</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton Ave to Springdale St</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springdale St to Waldegrave St</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SPRINGDALE STREET</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# of posts to relocate downtown  152
Relocation Cost Per Post  $225.29
TOTAL COST  $34,244.08
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duckworth St Posts Only</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>$21,177.26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duckworth Street Cost</td>
<td></td>
<td>$21,177.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Side Streets Posts</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>$7,209.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Street Posts</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>$1,577.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harbour Drive</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>$1,126.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Gower Street Posts</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>$2,478.19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Paul:

The Parks and Open Spaces Division received two requests for community gardens on City owned open spaces. Both these areas are passive open spaces that are mowed to keep them tidy. They have potential for resident use as community gardens.

**Eric Street**

The open space is adjacent to civic number 22. The total area is approximately 1300m²; of this roughly 400m² is suitable for a garden.

**Bond Street**

The open space is located at the corner of Bond Street and Colonial Street, surrounded by off street parking. A height restriction is required on Bond Street as it is on the corner. There are two small pieces and the total area is approximately 45m²

Attached are aerial photos and the requests are attached for both sites.

The Parks and Open Spaces Division recommend consideration for the use of these open spaces as community gardens.

Regards,

David Crowe
Eric Street Open Space
Bond Street Open Space
CGA will partner with the Eric Street Park Community Garden Committee to plan and establish a multi-family community garden in the underused greenspace on Eric Street in the west end of St. John's. The site is owned and is currently maintained by the City of St. John's; the City has offered us their enthusiastic support of the project, and is allowing us to use the space through their Adopt-A-Spot program.

The project will include:
- developing a garden plan to meet City of St. John's approval,
- expanding and strengthening the neighbourhood-based committee to ensure excellent leadership, broad demographic representation, and community participation,
- building up to 12 raised garden beds to be used by families and individuals on an annual basis. Beds will be constructed with wheelchair users in mind, and paths between garden beds will be maintained in order to be wheelchair- and stroller-friendly, and,
- providing hands-on instructions and workshops to Eric Street Park Community Garden gardeners and to the general public about growing and preparing vegetables, including helping new gardeners choose vegetables that appeal to children. We are planning to offer one workshop/month through the main growing season (June, July, August, September).

The layout of the garden will transform the currently underused lot into a multi-use space with child-friendly areas for year-round outdoor play, summertime picnics, and other community gatherings, and for the presentation of workshops. While the garden will be accessible at all times, weekly meet-ups will be encouraged for gardeners to socialize, to help maintain the space, and to assist any garden users who may need extra help.

Gardening is an excellent outdoor physical activity that can benefit anyone of any age or fitness level. In addition to providing an opportunity for exercise, vegetable gardening gives people access to high-quality produce. By growing their own food, families and individuals can offset a portion of their grocery costs for six months of the year or more. The therapeutic aspects of gardening are well-documented, and gardening can provide positive support in terms of stress-reduction and encouraging healthy lifestyle choices.

The demand for community garden plots in St. John's far outweighs the current availability; this project will help meet that demand. The period for which we are applying for funding will cover the initial establishment of the garden and the overseeing of the first growing season and reporting period immediately afterward. The Community Garden Alliance will work closely with the Eric Street Park Community Garden Committee until the end of the 2017 growing season, at which point the Eric Street Park Community Garden Committee will take over full responsibility for the space (in concert with City of St. John's).
Hello David, I hope all is well with you on this wintry day! We're still dreaming of spring plantings over here, of course. CGA has been approached by another group about help setting up a community garden on vacant land - this one is the tiniest little spot of grass, at the corner of Bond and Colonial streets, kitty-corner to Bishop Feild school: https://goo.gl/maps/Kmlhi

Jocelyne Thomas, a CGA volunteer, is interested in pairing with another neighbour to build several deep planter boxes in this space, which would be tended by both families, producing vegetables and flowers for their own enjoyment and to share with other neighbourhood residents. Both volunteers planning the "Bond-Colonial Microgarden" (as we've been calling it) are longtime neighbourhood residents and homeowners on Colonial Street, and both families have young children at Bishop Feild, so there would be no concerns about them taking this on and then moving elsewhere.

As far as Jocelyne knows, the patch of the land is City property and is mowed a few times by City staff over the course of the summer, but it is possible that it is privately owned and that the mowing farmed out to a landscape company - we're not 100% sure. How would we go about finding out who is responsible for that land?

We feel that this project would fall easily under the Adopt-A-Spot program; there would be no tools left permanently on site, and the only structures built would be the frames for the raised beds, which would be clearly marked and high enough that they would not be a tripping hazard. The volunteers would take responsibility for regular grass maintenance and the planting, watering, harvesting, and tidying of the vegetable beds. The garden would be happy to display any signage the City would like to have there indicating that the garden is supported by Adopt-A-Spot or whichever project is most appropriate. The materials for the garden - lumber, soil, seeds, etc - would be sourced by the Microgarden volunteers with support from CGA.

What do you think? Is this a possibility, and, if so, is Adopt-A-Spot the best route?

Thanks, and regards,
Andreae

Community Garden Alliance
"all for one harvest, one harvest for all"
Cultivating community, harvesting health & joy.
cga.stjohns@gmail.com
Date: April 7, 2015

To: Councillor Jonathan Galgay  
Chairperson, Public Works Committee

From: Paul Mackey, P. Eng.,  
Deputy City Manager, Public Works

Re: Proposed Land Acquisition – Battery Rd/Fort Waldegrave

Attached for your consideration is a report prepared by Phil Hiscock. It is proposed to acquire the parcel of land as shown in the attached plan. The land will be used for resident/tourist parking in summer and as a snow clearing equipment turnaround area as well as for snow storage in the winter.

Recommendation:

I recommend that Council approve referring this to our Legal Department to explore the feasibility of acquiring the land.

Paul Mackey
Deputy City Manager, Public Works

attach.
Memorandum

Date:        April 3, 2015
To:          Paul Mackey
From:        Phil Hiscock
Re:          Land Acquisition; Battery Road/Fort Waldegrave

Included in this memo, is a photograph of the area which we wish to acquire. If Council agrees we can ask Legal to move forward with acquiring this small piece of property.

This location is used by local residents for parking, by the City of St. John's for turning equipment and temporary snow storage. Additionally it is used for tourist parking; particularly during the summer months.

We have received some complaints about the maintenance of this property with respect to the large amounts of ice that forms there, and have responded by applying sand to the ice even though it is unconventional for the City to arbitrarily perform service on private property.

Purchasing this property allows the City to pave and maintain it in a safer manner.

The property and the surrounding landscape is not conducive to structures or any other use that would contend more strongly than the safety of pedestrians and traffic in this area. However it is our belief that it is presently being surveyed for the construction of a house. We believe the addition of a structure here would further cramp an already difficult area in which to maneuver safely.

I recommend that we ask Legal to move forward with the purchase.

Phil Hiscock
Manager, Roads
Roads and Traffic
Public Works