

SUBMISSION TO HHS VILLAGE COUNCIL REGARDING BY-LAW 1216, MARCH 3, 2025

Owing to some unavoidable delays in my personal timetable, I was unable to go over the final draft for matters I feel are necessary to consider. I apologise for the delay.

6 (b) The starting time at 5:30 is a puzzling move. It makes little sense. Meetings are supposed to be open to the public, but this will deny a significant number to be late or not make it at all.

14 (a) If a late item is to be introduced, NO debate or supporting argument should be allowed other than the reason why it could not be introduced at the proper time. The new procedure states that the information to go with a late item must be distributed to the Council and public. How will this be done?

17 (b) The notice for such a meeting should indicate that a motion to go “in camera” will be made at the beginning. (Bonus: “Pre-closed” is gone! Hoo hah)

18 (h) This really restricts debate at the table. It is not practical. Right now, too many decisions are made with little or no discussion, leading us to think this is done ahead of the meeting.

18 (k) A member can raise a “Point of Privilege” or “Point of Information” at any time to make such a request.

Section 19: Members in Board Rooms and Council Chambers everywhere are entitled to raise concern about an issue or action of the Chair. They can raise a “Point of Order”, at which time the Chair must stop proceedings and ask the Member, “State your point”. The Chair then must state the reasons for his actions and justify them. The Member can then “challenge the chair if they do not accept the reason. At this point, the chair can ask for a motion to sustain his ruling. A majority of Members present must agree by vote aye or nay. The Chair does not vote. The winning side will determine what action the council will take.

21 (d) and (g) First it states that a member may abstain, then it later states that a member is required to vote. That will only work if you add a definition of ‘vote’ to include affirmative, negative or abstention

22 (a) This is probably the most important procedure in the document, but it is rarely enforced. How many times has a member listed a whole bunch of comments, and then say, “so I move that . . .). That motion should not be accepted under this rule. This should also include motions that follow a bunch of Whereas’es, which should be disallowed.

28 (e) Why are OPC and Zoning bylaws exempt?

29 (a) This statement accurately defines Committee of the Whole. Added to the definition in Section 2, it describes what is a meeting within a meeting.

29 (b) and (c) This whole section is beyond the legislated purpose for CoW. For some reason, these meetings are an obsession for some Members on Council. Members and staff already know that there is a legitimate procedure that enables Council to debate in a less formal fashion. In most recent agendas, members should note that our CO has successfully used the proper route to conduct and conclude CoW sessions. Our Council Procedures are not just guidelines, but rules. These rules provide that only two kinds of meetings are legitimate: Regular and Special. Every meeting must be one or the other. To properly conduct deliberations in the relaxed environment of a CoW, a motion is placed to “move into Committee of the Whole to discuss a matter.

30 (f), (g) and (h) These items describe the proper procedure to follow when the deliberations and actions of that meeting are concluded. There is a motion put by the Chair to “Rise and report” with or without recommendations. Our CO has been largely successful with this general approach for some time now, yet this Bylaw wants to give this a status it does not merit under our legal requirements. The provision for Committee of the Whole Meetings muddies up our whole proposed Procedures Bylaw. Let’s grow up here and stop looking like a small, seemingly ignorant governing body. We not only have the opportunity but the obligation to do what is legitimate and more effective in the long run. Everything that is hoped to be achieved in a CoW Meeting, can be done legally. Anything wrong with that?

Respectfully submitted,

Allan Garneau,

Schooner Place

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allan Garneau", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.