



RCMP Advisory Board Committee Meeting

July 12, 2022
10am
Council Chambers
359 Main Street

Agenda

Call to Order

1. Approval of Agenda

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. RCMP Advisory Board Committee Meeting, April 12, 2022

3. Public Input / Question Period

PLEASE NOTE:

- Public Participation is limited to 30 minutes
- Each Person is limited to 3 minutes and may return to speak once, for 1 minute, if time permits within the total 30-minute period
- Questions or comments are to be directed to the Chair
- Comments and questions that relate to personnel, current or potential litigation issues, or planning issues for which a public hearing has already occurred, but no decision has been made by Council, will not be answered.

4. RCMP Report:

- a. Quarterly Update

5. Compliance Update (presentation by Kaden Thibault)

6. Round Table

7. Next Meeting – September 13, 2022 – 10 am

8. Adjournment

INFORMATION REPORT

Title: Compliance Update

Date: 2022-07-12

Department: Office of the CAO



SUMMARY

COMPLIANCE UPDATE by Compliance Coordinator Kaden Thibault

The Town of Wolfville filled two positions within their Bylaw department in December 2021. I was selected to fill the Community Compliance Coordinator position, while the part-time Compliance Officer role was filled by Sean LaFontaine. Since then, we have worked many hours getting settled in this position and getting ready for the upcoming season. Sean also works with Acadia University with their Safety and Security team. His knowledge has been a great asset when preparing for special event weekends and talking with the students throughout the Town.

Winter/Spring

The first few months of 2022 were heavily dedicated to the Community Video Camera Pilot and managing the Winter Parking Ban. Sean and I obtained our Special Constable status February 24th, 2022, giving us the ability to issue parking tickets and Summary Offence Tickets. This step is crucial when enforcing parking regulations within the Town and enforcing Town Bylaws, the Nuisance Party Bylaw in particular.

As we are not a 24/7 service and were working mainly early mornings during the winter months to manage winter parking, we were not able to work every night or weekend. Therefore, complainants calling us about noise or nuisance parties when we were not on shift, were advised to contact the RCMP to file a complaint. Oftentimes the complainant would advise they were reluctant to do that.

Since the beginning of spring, service calls have decreased, this is due to the winter parking ban being lifted and residents having been redirected to the RCMP to call in nuisance party complaints. However, having spoken to residents more recently, they say they are hesitant to call the RCMP. **Having residents know they can call and that their call will be taken seriously is an area of opportunity.**

Summer

With better weather comes more events. When there is an anticipated “event weekend” approaching, the Compliance team will rearrange schedules so that we can be available day and/or night.

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Within the Nuisance Party Bylaw, the Town of Wolfville Compliance and the RCMP can issue a Nuisance Party Order (NPO). This document describes where an event has taken place, the details of the call/incident, and the outcome (e.g., verbal warning, Summary Offence Ticket issued, whether individual(s) were compliant). If the responding officer feels a financial penalty is warranted, a Summary Offence Ticket (SOT) can then be issued. This ticket can be issued to the tenants of a property, the guests participating in the nuisance party, or the property owner.

Challenges

However, barriers exist when trying to enforce Town Bylaws. The biggest one being unable to obtain the ID of tenants or party guests at the point in time when the offence is occurring. Without having an individual's legal name and address, we are unable to issue individual Summary Offence Tickets. Compliance officers do not have the authority to detain anyone, making it very easy for the individual to say, "no thank you" and walk away, concluding the matter. The RCMP **do** have the means and the authority to ask for identification and issue a Summary Offence Ticket, however, it has been our experience that during these situations, RCMP are unwilling to support Compliance staff in doing so. **Improving the process and/or working relationship with the RCMP to obtain ID's and issue tickets accordingly is an area of opportunity.**

Since December 2021 there have been 13 Nuisance Party Orders (NPOs) and 7 Summary Offence Tickets (SOTs) issued within the Town of Wolfville.

	NPOs issued	SOTs issued
RCMP	9	5
Town of Wolfville	4	3
Total	13	8

Of the four NPOs, the Compliance team issued, three of them had no name, and therefore could not be served a Summary Offence Ticket, nor forwarded to Acadia to be reviewed under their Code of Conduct.

Of the three SOTs the Compliance team issued, two were for a landlord, and one was for a tenant. The tenant ticket happened this past weekend and was the first time the RCMP supported

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Compliance by providing the name of the tenant residing at the address of the nuisance party on scene.

The Town has an additional 3 case files all originating from one event weekend in March 2022 where no NPOs were written by the RCMP and where Compliance Team were unable to write any due to not being able to obtain IDs at the time. Compliance did do follow up visits to try and obtain IDs but by then RCMP had also issued SOTs and as no information was shared with us, we could not ensure the same people were not ticketed twice. **Improving how NPOs and SOTs are issued between RCMP and Compliance is an area of opportunity.**

The numbers of NPOs and SOTs issued are small compared to the number of parties and incidents that are responded to and does not take into account the properties we visit, where the occupants comply with directions given either from the RCMP or Compliance teams. These numbers also do not reflect the warnings the RCMP issue under the Nuisance Party Bylaw that are **not** shared with the Town. **Improving communications overall between RCMP and Compliance is an area of opportunity.**

Compliance uses other methods prior to issuing an NPO or SOT and take a proactive approach to situations. For example, if we notice a property starting to get too loud or we get a complaint, we may give a warning and let them know the next steps if the behaviour continues. We make the occupants aware that if things do get too out of hand, or they experience unwanted guests, they can call us, and we can assist with removing people from their property. If we have to return multiple times in a short period of time, and no attempt is being made by the occupants to solve the problem, this will warrant the issuance of an NPO and possibly an SOT depending on the situation.

Looking to the Future

A solid working relationship with the RCMP and Compliance is important for the success in service provision for the community of Wolfville. Below are some areas of improvement identified.

- **Residents must be encouraged to call and know their concerns will be taken seriously.**
- **Support for Compliance Team from RCMP in obtaining ID's and issuance of tickets.**
- **Clarity of process in how NPOs and SOTs are issued between RCMP and Compliance.**
- **Improving communications and building overall relationship between RCMP and Compliance.**

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1) CAO COMMENTS

For information purposes only.

2) REFERENCES AND ATTACHMENTS

3) DISCUSSION

4) FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5) REFERENCES TO COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN AND TOWN REPORTS

6) COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS

7) FUTURE COUNCIL INVOLVEMENT