



LE MESSENGER

N° 2 013

December 2022

Frelighsburg, QC

SINCE 1806

PROUD OF OUR
PAST
UNITED IN
PROGRESS

A WORD FROM THE MAYOR

For many, the arrival of December marks a reflection on the year ending. It is with that in mind that I am giving you an overview of the main events from the first year of this Council.

Although not everything we wanted to achieve has fully materialized, great strides have been made and important items can now be added to the next municipal agenda.

Urban planning and regulations

Upon taking up its duties in November 2021, the Council focused on the revision of the urban plan and regulations, a major undertaking that spanned several years of work and consultations. The suggestions and constructive comments made by citizens and groups interested in the matter have led to the early 2022 adoption of a version that respects the will of all.

Among the changes made under this revision, the secondary housing units and the larger area granted to additional dwellings set examples in our MRC and elsewhere as well. These two important add-ons – combined with the decision to set aside 30% of the future eco-district for perpetually accessible property – truly open up access to housing at an affordable cost.

Wastewater Treatment Plant

The upgrade of the Treatment Plant is also one of the major projects pursued in 2022. We are awaiting confirmation on the subsidy percentage that will be granted. We will then be able to carry on this construction, still planned for 2023 and that includes:

- a basin with aerated ponds, replacing the filtering marshes;
- the addition of a phosphorus removal system;
- natural disinfection (not possible with the current system);
- a connection to the aqueduct network.

Creation of Advisory Committees

In line with what we announced before the elections, the Council set up four committees, each made up of a Councillor, a municipal representative and four citizens. The general mandate of these committees is defined by the Council:

Agriculture and Forestry — Foster the development of sustainable agriculture and forestry throughout our Municipality.

Culture and Tourism — Spotlight Frelighsburg's distinctive cultural and tourism attractions.

Environment — Work towards becoming a greener municipality.

Society — Working for the well-being and quality of life of all citizens, regardless of their age, interests and concerns.

As you will read later, tangible results are already emerging, while many other projects are in gestation and about to become a reality very soon.

A huge thank you to all committee members who spend so much energy doing things the right way.

Adherence to the Declaration of Commitment: United for the Climate

Adopted this summer, this declaration highlights the leading role of municipalities in dealing with climate change.

For every action we take, we will ask ourselves if our choice is the right choice and if our decision is the most coherent with that commitment.

Governments, civil society and citizens alike are all part of the problem, but also the solution.

I am very proud of our unanimous commitment to let our coping with climate change permanently drive our Council decisions.

Slow Down!

To protect our gravel roads, increase pedestrian safety and lessen dust-related problems, the Municipal Council recently adopted a by-law reducing the speed to 50 km/h and prohibiting trucks – except for local deliveries – on all municipal roads.

These measures receive the approval of a large number of citizens and reflect the current trend of responsible motoring. We stand by our decision

and hope that we will eventually have the entire community on side.

Fire Brigade

The call for tenders for the purchase of a pumper fire truck is ready to be initiated. This truck will be equipped with a large capacity tank and pump and will replace two existing trucks that are reaching the end of their life. If you are interested, a few part-time firefighter positions are open.

Communication

Various actions have been taken to maintain open communication with the community.

- In addition to the "Actualités" featured on frelighsburg.ca, the Municipality now has a Facebook page to quickly inform the population during urgent or specific situations, and to announce events that are held here or in the MRC.
- The Messenger has resumed its monthly publication, which was interrupted during the pandemic.
- For greater accessibility and to encourage participation, the Council continues to hold its meetings in hybrid mode. In addition, recordings of the meetings are available on the Municipality's website.
- The provisional agenda for each meeting is available on frelighsburg.ca before the weekend preceding the meeting.
- A calendar of all the activities in which the Municipality is involved is available online.

We carried out many other initiatives during the year, including:

- Hiring of a full-time Administrative Assistant and a full-time Director of Public Works, and a part-time Town Planner and part-time Inspector;
- Major work on Pinnacle, Spencer and Selby Roads;
- Transition to a paperless administration;
- Development of Goodhue Park, including widening the access road, building a sidewalk, expanding the parking lot, and obtaining a \$63,307.45 grant for the pump track;
- Town Hall now opens 5 days a week (by appointment on Fridays);
- Agreement with the Garagona Association regarding the Summer Day Camp;
- The Municipality having a Forest Producer status;
- and much more!

I take much pleasure in working with such a great Council and General Manager. Everyone is fully committed and puts their heart into every project. Even when differences arise – and they do, believe me! – exchanges of ideas and dialogues are always constructive and respectful. Thank you to my colleagues and the Municipal Team for the hard work throughout the year.

In closing, the Holiday Season is certainly a time when we need to pull together, share and support each other. There could therefore be no better time to announce the creation of the Benevolent Squad, a wonderful initiative of the Society Advisory Committee.

Whether for support or to carry out difficult tasks, the volunteers of the Squad are there for you. If they cannot help you, rest assured they will do their very best to direct you to the support you need. To request assistance with dignity and discretion, simply email: escouadebienveillante@frelighsburg.ca.

To all of you, from all of us, a very Merry and warm-hearted Christmas!

Lucie Dagenais
maire@frelighsburg.ca



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MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

The next Municipal Council meeting will be held Monday, December 5th, 2022, at 7 p.m., in person and online. To send a question to the Municipal Council, view the agenda or attend the meeting, please go to frelighsburg.ca/conseil.

MUNICIPAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Overnight Parking Prohibited

Until April 2023, it is forbidden to park on streets and roads throughout the Municipal territory between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m.

Renovations at the Town Hall

Since the renovations of the Town Hall will begin shortly, our offices will be transferred to the Grammar School from December 15 to February 15, 2023.

Holiday Opening Hours

Please note that the Town Hall will be closed from December 19 to January 2, 2023. In case of emergency, leave a message at 450 298-5133, ext. 24 or email: voirie@frelighsburg.ca.

NEWS FROM THE ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Environment

Did you know that several species are impacted by light pollution, including humans? And that many activities are affected by this pollution? And that there are practical and proven solutions?

The Environment Committee invites you to discover what a Dark Sky Preserve is, with experts from the Mont-Mégantic International Dark Sky Preserve at a conference in Frelighsburg next January or February.

If the sky is clear, an outing is also planned after the conference. More information will follow in the next Messenger.

Society

The Benevolent Squad is currently made up of nine volunteers residing in Frelighsburg.

Need help or know someone who needs help? Email the Squad at: escouadebienveillante@frelighsburg.ca.

Requests are processed confidentially by three volunteers who have professional and personal experience in support relationships. Would you like to get involved in the Squad? We need you!

Registration form on the Municipality's website.

Agriculture & Forestry

A major information meeting on management of the Municipal Park forest will be held on Saturday, December 10, at 1 p.m., in the Council room of the Town Hall.

Organized in partnership with the Advisory Committee, the Municipality, the Mount Pinnacle Land Trust and the Réseau Foresterie Frelighsburg et régions, this meeting will review the reasons behind the need for forestry work, the nature of the reforestation studied under climate impact, the landscaping effect and more.

COMMUNITY

Christmas Markets

On December 17 and 18, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., two Christmas Markets will be held simultaneously in our village!

On the 2nd floor of the Grammar School, a Christmas Market will showcase products made by Camp Garagona users.

And at the Anglican Church, a Christmas Market will feature a variety of producers and artisans who are passionate about tableware. On the menu: musical and theatrical entertainment, bonfires, ready-to-eat meals and above all, lots of festivities. Looking forward to seeing you there!

GREETING CARDS FOR SALE!

A collection of greeting cards made by the children of our school was created this year under the "Christmas Village" theme.

A committee made up of Council representatives and municipal staff, as well as a well-known illustrator of our community, selected one drawing per class, for a total of five drawings.

The five drawings will be sold as a set for \$20 at the Christmas market held at the Anglican Church. Proceeds will be used to organize an activity for the children of the school.



THE TOWN COUNCIL
AND EMPLOYEES WISH
YOU HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

A sixth "Heart Stopper" card was selected to illustrate the wishes of the Municipality. This drawing was made by Olivia Tremblay, 4th-5th grade.

Town Hall Opening Hours

Monday to Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Friday : on appointment only

CLOSED FROM DECEMBER 19, 2022 TO JANUARY 2, 2023

Municipality of Frelighsburg

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