



Municipality of the District of Argyle

Item: Veteran's Banner Project

Date: March 6, 2022

## VISION

We see Argyle as home to a healthy and thriving rural population. Our municipality promotes and supports economic and social opportunities for the region and engages in the active expression of our unique Acadian heritage. We are a place of choice for rural living and are widely recognized for our warm hospitality and joie de vivre. Surrounded by fresh air and cool ocean breezes, we work and play in the great outdoors. People choose to live in Argyle because of our commitment to each other, to our community, and to our neighbors. Argyle is a place we are proud to call home.

## Request:

I'm looking for guidance and feedback on whether we continue to pursue this veteran's banner project. We all know how important this project is to many of our residents, certainly those that have family members that have served our country. This would be a great way to honor them in the municipality.

Looking for feedback on the following questions.

- Do we support this project?

If yes then we need to consider the following

- Where do we install the banners? In each district or on the NS Power poles on the sidewalks. (Keep in mind safety)
- How many do we install in each area?
- How much do we budget for this project?

## Background

Ms. Leblanc contacted the West Pubnico and the Wedgeport Legions in late 2021 to discuss the possibility of starting a Veteran's Banner program similar to what you see in the town of Yarmouth. One of my first meetings that I had as Deputy CAO was with the Wedgeport Legion trying to see if we could get this project off the ground for this year.

I have recently met with the West Pubnico Legion, and they have also advised that they are interested in this project. I will be attending their meeting this month to discuss the project.

Here is what we know

- Administrative responsibilities: The Legions will create the application and selection process. The Legions will work on the design and logos for the banners. The municipality will have our logo on each banner. The Legion is asking if Municipality

can collect the funds and pay the bills. Both the Legions and the municipality can assist in promoting the program.

- Banners: Cost of one banner is \$140 plus tax. Legion is asking if the municipality can install. Cost of the banner will be covered by the family who purchases the banners
- Brackets: Cost for one bracket is \$80 plus tax. Legion is asking for the municipality to cover the cost to purchase and install.

We can order the banners and brackets from a company in Ontario with 1 month turnaround.

### **Things to consider.**

- We still need approval from NS Power to use the power poles.
- Currently working with NS Power to see if they can assist us with the installation of the brackets on the power poles. First indication is that NS Power do not have the resources or the time to assist but they are considering this request.
- The municipality does not have the equipment to install brackets in certain areas such as over ditches. Safety is key to any decision on installation, and removal (and reinstallation) of signs.
- The municipality would have trained staff to use the appropriate equipment (scissor lift) to installed brackets and banners on a flat and safer surface such as the sidewalks.
- We may be able to use the brackets already on the poles in West Pubnico to lower our cost in the project.
- If we only use sidewalks poles it will limit the number of banners we can install in each area.
  - ✓ 6 to 7 poles in Tusket,
  - ✓ 27 poles in Wedgeport
  - ✓ 29 poles in West Pubnico.

### **Suggestions**

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Option #1 We install only on sidewalks areas (Tusket, West Pubnico and Wedgeport)

Option #2 We look to install in all districts.

Option #3 Council advise that they are not interested in the project.

### **Recommendation:**

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Staff is recommending supporting this project and start with a manageable number of brackets and banners to be purchased and installed so the project can be completed in a timely manner and has minimal budget impact. We suggest installing banners and brackets on the NS power poles on the sidewalks in Tusket, Wedgeport and West Pubnico. This suggestion is made for safety reason that our staff have already been training to use the lift and this lift can be safety used on sidewalks. If we were to install brackets and banners at other areas, we would not have trained staff or the proper equipment to do the install if we need to go over ditches. Having the

banners on the sidewalk's poles will also provide a safe gathering place for residents and family to honor their veteran.

If we shall support the project, it would be important to understand our role. The signs will be paid by the Legions of our Community. They will own and be responsible for those signs. Our role will be the cost of the brackets, approval from NS Power, and the installation, and lowering of these signs at the agreed upon times. The work to raise and lower these signs shall be our responsibility. The storage and maintenance of the signs shall be the Legions' responsibility.

In regard to budget impact, I would suggest starting small and can reevaluate the project in the coming years. I suggest we do 6 to 7 banners in Tusket and only do 20 to 25 in West Pubnico and Wedgeport.

Here is our cost.

Assuming we can use the bracket in West Pubnico, we are confident in the following cost estimates:

- $32 \times \$80 = \$2560 + \$384 \text{ (tax)} = \$2,944$
- Rental of lift = \$250 per day (8 days) = \$2,000
- In-kind man power = 8 days for 2 staff Approx. \$2,500

If we can't use the Brackets in West Pubnico we could add another \$3000.

**Suggested Motion:**

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Project support:

Move that Council support the veterans signage project, as championed by the Legions of our communities, and authorize the installation of signs in the three communities of Tusket, West Pubnico and Wedgeport alongside our municipal sidewalks, and that the budget to be considered in the deliberations of fiscal 2022-23.

Denial:

Move we deny the signage request from the Legions.