

Mayor and Council;

I am sorry I could not attend the rest of the hearing. A few follow-up points I would like to make:

I appreciate that your hands are tied to whatever by-laws and zoning is on the books. However, that is a very narrow interpretation of your role and power. As council, if something is wrong, or incomplete, or puts people at risk, then you can act. In this case, you can indeed vote against the re-zoning of this particular property. This approach isn't really what you should have to use to prevent building in risk areas.

Whatever has been presented to you as floodlines by Plan360, is outdated. It is not valid in the context of risk management, only in the context of what is legally permissible AT THIS TIME. What can be done legally and technically, is very often not what should be done. This is the case here.

The by-laws and zoning currently on the books for Sackville permit building in this location. However, in the context of managing risk for everybody, you also need to consider future risk (which may not be so very much in the future at all!). In this case, currently outdated flood zone by-laws or floodlines which the province has created, which are also out of date, are a case where you should not simply accept what is legally permitted, and technically doable, but also ask if, with the information provided, it is responsible to do.

It takes considerable time for science to do its job and bring global changes to a place where they make sense to a local community. Thus delays are explainable and inevitable. But if you know, and can access information and evidence which tells you that low-lying areas in communities such as Sackville are at risk from sea level rise, storm surges, and heavy rainfall events (and extreme events such as hurricanes/post tropical storms), and that those communities need to start thinking about moving people out of risk areas instead of into them, then you probably should take this seriously into consideration.

There is not just an absolute urgency to act on trying to reduce climate change period. There is also an absolute urgency to prepare for the impacts we are and will be experiencing. You have a chance to use an unusual tool to make a decision based on climate change risk management.

All the best, Sabine

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Sabine Dietz (*she, her, elle*)

Sackville NB

*Located in Mi'kma'ki, the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq people*