



A meeting of the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee for the Town of Mahone Bay was held on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 9:01 a.m. in Council Chambers

Present

Mayor David Devenne  
Councillor Penny Carver  
Councillor Kelly Wilson (arrived at 10:00)  
Veryan Haysom  
Richard Wilson  
James Tilley (remote)  
John Evarts (remote)  
Gregg Little  
Amanda Montgomery  
Dylan Heide, CAO  
Lauren Clark, Climate & Energy Program Manager

Absent:

1. Approval of Agenda

A motion by Ms. Montgomery, seconded by Mr. Little, "THAT the agenda be approved as presented." Motion carried.

2. Approval of the Minutes

A motion by Ms. Montgomery, seconded by Mr. Little, "THAT the minutes of the November 1, 2023 meeting be approved as presented." Motion carried.

3. Updates

a. Coyotes – Recommendation to Council

Chair Carver updated the committee on Council's decision not to proceed with the Committee's recommendation concerning coyote – human interactions. Committee members discussed opportunities to educate the public in this regard.

b. Municipal Planning Strategy / Land Use By-law

Chair Carver highlighted the opportunity presented by the upcoming Public Hearing on the proposed new Land Use By-law (on Dec 6<sup>th</sup>) for residents – including members of the Committee – to provide input on the draft by-law.

### c. Solar Open House

Climate & Energy Program Manager Lauren Clark gave an overview of preparations for the upcoming open house for the Town's solar garden project (on Dec 11<sup>th</sup>), which will be the third and final open house for the project as it nears completion. Members were encouraged to attend and discussed some of the questions which they had heard in the community with respect to the project (to better prepare staff to address these questions at the open house).

### d. Light Cycle Community Bike Ride

Climate & Energy Program Manager Lauren Clark gave an overview of preparations for the Light Cycle Community Bike Ride coming up on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

## 4. Review Terms of Reference

Committee members conducted the annual review of the Committee's terms of reference and arrived at several amendments to be recommended to Council.

A motion by Mr. Little, seconded by Councillor Wilson, "THAT the Committee recommend **that Council amend the Terms of Reference for the Climate & Environment Committee as proposed.**"

Motion carried.

## 5. Adaptation Proposal – Veryan Haysom

Mr. Haysom presented the adaptation proposal developed by several members of the Committee for consideration.

A motion by Mr. Haysom, seconded by Mr. Evarts,

"WHEREAS

(1) The Nova Scotia Government Report *Weathering What's Ahead: Climate Change Risk and Nova Scotia's Well-being* (Department of Environment and Climate Change, December 2022) makes clear that

- the world is now feeling the effects of greenhouse gases emitted in the past.
- we will continue to live with these effects well into the next century.
- we have a short time to make the changes needed to avoid some of the worst effects.
- we also need to act now to respond and prepare for our well-being.

(2) *Weathering What's Ahead* says Nova Scotia can expect that:

- Temperatures will continue to rise.
- We will have less snow and more rain.
- The rain will be more intense.
- Storms will be more frequent and intense.
- The sea level will continue to rise.
- Ocean temperatures, oxygen, and acidity levels will change.

(3) The unprecedented weather events we experienced during the past year, including forest fires, heat waves, persistent rain and intense storms, have offered us a taste of climate change impacts we can expect to see more frequently in the future.

(4) The Mahone Bay Climate Change and Environment Advisory Committee believes that:

- a vision of abundant and quality-filled living that incorporates coming-climate-driven changes will determine a healthy and positive trajectory for the vibrant community of Mahone Bay.
- to achieve abundance in the face of climate change, adaptability and resilience thinking should permeate all policies and actions of the Town and be dominant capacities throughout the community.
- the community will have to build, collectively and consistently, capacities for adaptation and resilience at all levels, in all sectors and over time.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Mahone Bay Climate and Environment Advisory Committee (the "Committee") hereby recommends to the Mahone Bay Town Council ("Council") that:

- The Town commit to making adaptation a priority and develop a strategy to advance Mahone Bay as an Adaptive and Resilient Community (the "strategy") through collaborative and deliberative consultation with residents of Mahone Bay and area (the "community");
- for purposes of commencing the consultation, Council adopts the attached report titled *Mahone Bay: Adaptive and Resilient Community (MBARC)* as a tentative framework on which to engage the community;
- Council authorizes the Committee to work with Town Staff to develop and implement a community engagement plan for purposes of developing the strategy (the "Plan"). The Plan shall be consistent with the Town's *Public Engagement Policy* and the CAO shall be responsible for determining the work to be done by Town Staff consistent with their duties and other priorities; and
- Council's approval of the Plan, including a budget and work plan, shall be required prior to commencing its implementation."

Motion carried.

Items 6 and 7 on the agenda were carried over to the Committee's next meeting.

On completion of business, the committee adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

TOWN OF MAHONE BAY

TOWN OF MAHONE BAY

Chair, Councillor Penny Carver

CAO Dylan Heide (Recording Secretary)