

The quarterly meeting of the Town of Mahone Bay's Police Advisory Board was held on Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. via videoconferencing.

Present:

Deputy Mayor Francis Kangata
Councillor Suzanne Lohnes-Croft
CAO, Dylan Heide
Manager of Public Works & Transportation, J. Uhlman
Deputy CAO, Eric Levy
Cpl. Matthew Leggett
Mayor D. Devenne
Katherine McCarron
Annette St. Onge

Absent:

S/Sgt Victor Whalen (Regrets)
David Lesiuk

Land Acknowledgement

Let us begin by acknowledging that we are gathered today in Mi'kma'ki. The ancestral, present and future territory of the Mi'kmaw people. Today, we gather with the intent followed by the living Peace and Friendship Treaties - with respect, cooperation and coexistence.

1. Approval of Agenda

A motion by Mayor Devenne, seconded by Ms. McCarron, "THAT the agenda be approved as amended to include Item 5.3 – ATVs and Item 5.4 – Bicycles on Sidewalks."
Motion carried.

2. Minutes

A motion by Councillor Lohnes-Croft, seconded by Ms. McCarron, "THAT the minutes of the January 25, 2024 meeting of the Police Advisory Board be approved as presented."
Motion carried.

3. Presentation of Police Reports

3.1 Mahone Bay Quarterly Report: January – April 2024

Cpl. Leggett reviewed the report. Some themes from the report included increased calls related to mental health issues and drug use. Cpl. Leggett updated the Board on upcoming staff changes and also discussed increased traffic enforcement in the Town.

4. Speed Sign Stats

Deputy CAO Eric Levy reviewed the speed statistics. It was highlighted in the conversation amongst the Board about safety concerns relating to speed on Edgewater Street at the entry of Town.

A motion by Ms. McCarron, seconded by Ms. St. Onge, "THAT the Committee recommend Council direct staff to move the speed sign posted at the beginning of Town up the hill." Motion carried.

5. New Business

5.1 Police Priority Setting Discussion

Cpl. Leggett and Deputy CAO Eric Levy discussed a meeting they had about Mahone Bay priority setting for the RCMP in the next year and were seeking input from the Board. In discussions, it was identified that police visibility, noise, speeding, and special events were some initial priorities. Also, positive public relations of the RCMP in the area may be helpful and one suggested avenue was via the Mayor's Newsletter.

5.2 Regional Police Advisory Board Discussion

Deputy CAO Eric Levy discussed a staff report submitted to Council exploring the potential of a Regional Police Advisory Board. The Board discussed the felt the approach would have negative impacts on policing in Mahone Bay.

A motion by Ms. McCarron, seconded by Mayor Devenne, "THAT the Town of Mahone Bay Police Advisory Board remain an independent entity." Motion Carried.

5.3 – ATVs

Councillor Lohnes-Croft expressed concern about the increased number of All Terrain Vehicles and Utility Terrain Vehicles in Town, and noise they create, and their use on streets and roads.

Cpl. Leggett stated he would investigate potential solutions.

5.4 Bicycles on Sidewalks

Ms. St. Onge expressed a concern for the use of bicycles being used on town sidewalks, as it poses a risk to pedestrians. She inquired if the RCMP does any outreach on this issue in schools.

Cpl. Leggett stated that he was not aware of any outreach specific to bicycles on sidewalks but would look into the matter.

Next Meeting: July 25, 2024

The meeting adjourned upon motion at 1:16 p.m.

TOWN OF MAHONE BAY

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Deputy Mayor Francis Kangata

Deputy CAO, Eric J. Levy

