



The Regular Meeting of Town Council for the Town of Mahone Bay was held on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in Council Chambers and broadcast via YouTube live.

Present:

Mayor S. Lohnes-Croft
Deputy Mayor C. Kingsmill
Councillor P. Carver
Councillor J. Feeney
Councillor R. Twanow
Councillor B. Palfreyman
Councillor K. Wilson
CAO, D. Heide
Town Clerk, K. Munroe

Absent:

Deputy CAO, E. Levy (Regrets)

Gallery:

Online & 3 in-person gallery

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.

Call to Order

1. Agenda

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Carver, "THAT the agenda be amended to add items 7.3 Communities in Bloom and 9.1 Notice of Motion."

Motion carried.

2. Minutes

A motion by Deputy Mayor Kingsmill, seconded by Councillor Carver, "THAT the minutes of the December 10, 2024 meeting of Council be approved as presented."

Motion carried.

3. Public Input Session

Tami Turner, Hawthorn Road, Short Term Rental concerns

4. Presentations

4.1 Ashley Nunn-Smith, South Shore Public Libraries – Update on Activities

Council received a presentation from Ashley Nunn-Smith of South Shore Public Libraries (SSPL). Ms. Nunn-Smith updated Council on recent activities of SSPL as well as statistical information.

4.2 Andrew Tanner and Joanne Cooper – 55+ Provincial Games

Council received a presentation from Andrew Tanner on the upcoming 55+ Provincial Games.

5. Correspondence

5.1 Paige Hoveling – Nova Scotia Association of Realtors

Council received correspondence from Paige Hoveling congratulating them on the 2024 municipal election and offering housing data and support.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Deputy Mayor Kingsmill, “THAT item 5.1 be received and filed.” Motion carried.

5.2 Anya Holloway & Garry Macey – Damage to 384 Main Street

Council received correspondence from resident, Anya Holloway, requesting that they be reached out to concerning possible damage to their property during the most recent snow event.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Carver, “THAT item 5.2 be received and filed.” Motion carried.

6. Staff Reports

6.1 Staff Report to Council – January 14, 2025

Council received the January 14, 2025 Staff Report to Council.

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Kingsmill, “THAT the January 14, 2025 Staff Report to Council be received and filed.” Motion carried.

6.2 Staff Report – Region 6 Budget Report 2025-2026

Council received correspondence from Christine McClare, Regional Coordinator, Region 6, requesting approval of their proposed 2025-2026 Budget.

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Carver, “THAT Council approve Region 6’s proposed 2025-2026 annual budget, Town of Mahone Bay’s contribution being \$1,496.99.” Motion carried.

6.3 Staff Report – Short Term Rental Regulations and Enforcement

Council received a Staff Report providing them with information on Short Term Regulations in the Town of Mahone Bay and the Province of Nova Scotia.

A motion by Deputy Mayor Kingsmill, seconded by Councillor Twanow, “THAT this report be accepted for information.” Motion carried.

6.4 Staff Report – Post-Election Policy Reviews

Council received a Staff Report providing them with recommendations of items for inclusion on the January 27, 2025 Policy and Strategy Committee meeting agenda.

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Carver, “THAT Council sets the agenda of the January 27, 2025 Policy and Strategy Committee meeting to include review of the Expense Policy and Audit and Finance Committee Terms of Reference with staff to present proposed amendments to the Expense Policy.” Motion carried.

6.5 Staff Report – Project Volunteer Phases 2 and 3

Council received a Staff Report providing an update on Project Volunteer and to request Council give direction to staff to participate in phase two of the initiative and approve associated costs.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Palfreyman, “THAT Council direct staff to participate in Phases 2 and 3 of Project Volunteer with an unbudgeted cost of \$100 in 2024-25.” Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Carver, “THAT Council direct staff to include anticipated Project Volunteer costs for 2025-26 in the draft 2025-26 budget.” Motion carried.

7 Council Items

7.1 Mayor Lohnes-Croft – REMO Appointments

Council was informed that one extra person was appointed to the Regional Emergency Management Organizations committee.

7.2 Mayor Lohnes-Croft – Committee Appointments

Council received recommendations concerning public member appointments to Town Committees, as well as recommendations for Chair and Vice Chair.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Twanow, “THAT Council refer items 7.1 and 7.2 to the next meeting of the Policy and Strategy Committee.”

Motion withdrawn.

Council deferred this item to follow 10 - Closed Session.

A Motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Wilson, “THAT the Terms of Reference for the Nominations Committee be referred to the Policy and Strategy Committee.”

Motion carried.

7.3 Communities in Bloom

Councillor Feeney made a Notice of Motion at Council’s December 10, 2024 meeting concerning support of the community group, Communities in Bloom.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Deputy Mayor Kingsmill, “THAT Council direct staff to provide links from the Towns website to the Community in Bloom “Community Profile Book”, the Communities in Bloom 3-minute video of Hidden Gems of Mahone Bay as well as the Communities in Bloom Judge’s Evaluation Report.”

Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Deputy Mayor Kingsmill, “THAT Council direct staff to facilitate a discussion between the Town of Mahone Bay, Mahone Bay Tourism and Chamber of Commerce, Festivals of Mahone Bay and the Communities in Bloom organization to review planned and imagined beautification investments and activities to ensure alignment with CiB judges’ recommendations. As well as to explore options to how the Town might collaborate with Communities in Bloom in the future and kick-off planning for the 2026 Communities in Bloom program.”

Motion carried.

8. Committee Reports

8.1 South Shore Open Doors Association – Monthly Report – November 2024

Council received the monthly report of the South Shore Open Doors Association for the month of October.

8.2 Lunenburg County Senior Safety Program – Monthly Report – December 2024

Council received the monthly report of the Lunenburg County Senior Safety Program for the month of December.

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Carver, “THAT Council accept items 8.1 and 8.2 for information.”

Motion carried.

8.3 Policy & Strategy Committee Minutes

Council received the minutes of the December 16, 2024 meeting of the Policy & Strategy Committee.

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Feeney, “THAT Council adopt the amended Town Council Policy as presented.” Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Kingsmill, “THAT Council adopt the updated Public Participation in Planning Policy as presented.” Motion carried.

9. New Business

9.1 Councillor Carver – Notice of Motion

Councillor Carver made a Notice of Motion concerning the municipal role in cases of intimate partner violence.

10. Closed Session

A motion by Councillor Carver at 10:31 a.m., seconded by Deputy Mayor Kingsmill, “THAT Council go into Closed Session to discuss Acquisition, Sale, Lease and Security of Municipal Property, Contract Negotiations and Litigation or Potential Litigation as permitted in the Municipal Government Act section 22(2)(a), 22(2)(e), and 22(2)(f).” Motion carried.

Council arose from closed session at 1:08 p.m.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Wilson, “THAT Council appoint Annette St. Onge to the Heritage Advisory Committee as the representative from the Founders Society.” Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Palfreyman, “THAT Council remove Councillor Palfreyman from the REMO Planning Committee.” Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Deputy Mayor Kingsmill, “THAT Council refer item 7.2 – Committee Appointments, to the Policy and Strategy Committee January 27, 2025 agenda.” Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Kingsmill, “THAT Council approve the signing of the Housing Accelerator Fund contribution agreement.” Motion carried.

Council adjourned at 1:15 p.m. on conclusion of business.

TOWN OF MAHONE BAY

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Mayor, Suzanne Lohnes-Croft

Town Clerk, Kelly Munroe