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The Regular Meeting of Town Council for the Town of Mahone Bay was held on Tuesday, March 11, 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 B. Palfreyman  
Councillor R. Twanow  
Councillor K. Wilson (remote)  
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 Deputy Mayor Kingsmill, seconded by Councillor Carver, "THAT the agenda be approved as amended to add item 6.5 – Correspondence from Lunenburg County Pride and 8.7 Strategic Plan." Motion carried.

2. Minutes

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Carver, "THAT the minutes of the February 27, 2025 regular council meeting be approved as amended." Motion carried.

### 3. Announcements by Council Members

Mayor Lohnes-Croft told Council about the Women's Day Event held on International Women's Day.

### 4. Public Input Session

Kai Skinner of Lunenburg Pride spoke about decorative crosswalks.

### 5. Presentations

#### 5.1 Gem Roberts, Regional Anti-Racism and Diversity Coordinator

Ms. Roberts presented her Draft Anti-Racism & Diversity Plan to Council.

#### 5.2 Ellen Johnson, Regional Accessibility Coordinator

Ms. Johnson presented her Draft 2025-2028 Accessibility Plan.

#### 5.3 Craig Kennedy, Peak Experiences

Mr. Kennedy presented Council's draft 2025-2029 Strategic Plan.

### 6. Correspondence

#### 6.1 Pam Mood, President, NSFM

Council received correspondence from Pam Mood, informing Council about the potential for upcoming legislation that could impact Nova Scotia municipalities.

#### 6.2 Pam Mood, President, NSFM

Council received correspondence from Pam Mood, inviting municipalities to write letters of support for NSFM's work.

#### 6.3 Dr. Geldenhuys & Dr. Covington, Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE)

Council received correspondence from Dr. Geldenhuys and Dr. Covington with concerns about the provincial government taking steps to repeal legislation around hydraulic fracking and uranium mining.

#### 6.4 Donna Harding, Engel & Volkers

Council received correspondence from Donna Harding with her concerns about a potential increase in Provincial Deed Transfer Tax.

#### 6.5 Premier Tim Houston

Council received Premier Tim Houston's statement concerning U.S. tariffs.

#### 6.6 Lunenburg Pride

Council received correspondence from Lunenburg Pride with concerns about Council's discussion around removing decorative crosswalks.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Wilson, "THAT Council receive and file items 6.1 to 6.6". Motion carried.

## 7. Staff Reports

### 7.1 Staff Report to Council – March 11, 2025

Council received the March 11, 2025 Staff Report to Council.

### 7.2 Staff Report – Insurance RFP

Council received a staff report with a recommendation for the award of a contract for the Town's general and cyber insurance policies.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Deputy Mayor Kingsmill, "THAT Council award the general and cyber insurance contract to BFL Canada for the next three years."

Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Palfreyman, seconded by Councillor Carver, "THAT Council direct staff to, over the next three years, examine the option of consolidating the insurance package with partner municipalities, in conjunction with MJSB." Motion carried.

## 8. Council Items

### 8.1 Mayor Lohnes-Croft – Appointments to LCARADC & LCAAC

Council received a list of proposed appointments to the Lunenburg County Anti-Racism and Anti-Discrimination Advisory Committee and the Lunenburg County Accessibility Advisory Committee.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Deputy Mayor Kingsmill, "THAT Council appoint Astrid Seidel and Darlene Higgins to the LCARADC for three-year terms."

Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Palfreyman, seconded by Councillor Feeney, "THAT Council appoint Vernon Simms and Caleb Paul Wheeldon to the LCARADC for two-year terms."

Motion carried.

A motion by Deputy Mayor Kingsmill, seconded by Councillor Carver, "THAT Council appoint Violet Cai and Meagan MacDonald to the LCARADC for one-year terms."

Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Deputy Mayor Kingsmill, “THAT Mahone Bay Town Council agrees to the revision of the Terms of Reference of the Lunenburg County Anti-Racism and Anti-Discrimination Advisory Committee to include a non-voting member on the committee.” Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Twanow, “THAT Council appoint Lora Church to the LCAAC for a three-year term ending September 30, 2027.” Motion carried.

A motion by Deputy Mayor Kingsmill, seconded by Councillor Feeney, “THAT Council appoint Amy Chrysler to the LCAAC for a term ending December 31, 2026.” Motion carried.

### 8.2 Councillor Wilson – Shoulder Widening

Council received a Notice of Motion from Councillor Wilson at their February 27, 2025 Council meeting.

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Twanow, “THAT Council direct staff to include \$40,000 in the 2025/26 budget to do the required work to widen the shoulder on Clearway Street in the area of Bayview Community School to allow for additional safe parking, per request received at Council’s February 27, 2025 Council meeting.” Motion carried.

### 8.3 Councillor Palfreyman – Decorative Crosswalks

Council received a Notice of Motion from Councillor Palfreyman at their February 27, 2025 Council meeting.

A motion by Councillor Palfreyman, seconded by Councillor Carver, “THAT in accordance with the Nova Scotia Crosswalk Task Force recommendations for consistent and uniform treatment, all Town crosswalks be painted with white zebra markings in the interests of pedestrian safety and driver visibility.” Motion withdrawn.

### 8.4 Councillor Carver – Alternatives to Decorative Crosswalks

Council received a proposed motion from Councillor Carver.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Deputy Mayor Kingsmill, “THAT Council direct staff to prepare a report on a proposed policy concerning crosswalk painting, including suitable alternatives to the existing decorative crosswalks as a way of honouring specific community issues.”

Councillor Feeney requested that the vote be recorded:

Deputy Mayor Kingsmill – Yes

Councillor Palfreyman – Yes  
Councillor Feeney – No  
Councillor Wilson - Yes  
Councillor Carver – Yes  
Councillor Twanow – No  
Mayor Lohnes-Croft - No

Motion carried.

#### 8.5 Councillor Carver – Speed Humps, Grant Allocation, Be the Peace

Council received three proposed motions from Councillor Carver.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Twanow, “THAT Council refer the issue of speed humps/bumps to the Policy and Strategy Committee.”

Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Palfreyman, “THAT Council approve seed funding of \$600.00 for the Faerie project on a one-time basis to help cover start-up expenses incurred in creating the Faerie houses with the goal of having the project ready for the tourist season.”

Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Deputy Mayor Kingsmill, “THAT Council support holding an additional meeting with the Be the Peace Institute for further conversation about measures that Council might consider to address Intimate Partner Violence and Gender Based Violence in our community.”

Motion carried.

#### 8.6 Councillor Carver – Referral to Climate & Environment Committee

Council received a proposed motion from Councillor Carver.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Twanow, “THAT Council refer Mr. Haysom’s letter to the Climate and Environment Committee for consideration and possible recommendations to Council.”

Motion carried.

#### 8.7 Mayor Lohnes-Croft Strategic Plan

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Deputy Mayor Kingsmill, “THAT Council direct staff to engage the community for feedback on Council’s draft 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, to be presented to Council, March 31<sup>st</sup> deadline for public comment.”

Motion carried.

### 9. Committee Reports

#### 9.1 Policy & Strategy Committee – Draft Minutes – February 24, 2025

Council received the draft minutes from the February 24, 2025 meeting of the Policy & Strategy Committee.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Twanow, "THAT Council direct staff to develop a grant program to Mahone Bay recreation and cultural organizations that will support participation of children and youth who may not be able to participate due to lack of funds." Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Wilson, "THAT Council direct staff to bring back a report to the March meeting of the Policy & Strategy Committee with proposals on the budget concerning the Housing Accelerator Fund grant allocation." Motion carried.

### 8.2 Planning Advisory Committee – Draft Minutes – March 4, 2025

Council received the draft minutes from the March 4, 2025 meeting of the Planning Advisory Committee.

A motion by Councillor Palfreyman, seconded by Councillor Wilson, "THAT Council direct staff to bring a report concerning potential non-zoning approaches to address issues noted by Mr. Pavlinic in applying for the rezoning of the Hawthorn Road area, to the Planning Advisory Committee meeting for April." Motion carried.

### 10. New Business

No new business.

### 11. Questions/Comments

### 12. Closed Session

A motion by Councillor Feeney, 12:22p.m., seconded by Deputy Mayor Kingsmill, "THAT Council go into Closed Session to discuss Contract Negotiations as permitted in the Municipal Government Act section 22(2)(e)." Motion carried.

Council arose from closed session at 1:05 p.m.

### 13. Business Arising from Closed Session

There was no business arising from closed session.

Council adjourned at 1:07 p.m. on conclusion of business.

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