

Region of Queens Municipality May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Regular Council Meeting

## **Region of Queens Municipality Regular Council Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 9:00 a.m.**

**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHPnoBrfjGg>

### **Minutes**

#### **Present:**

Mayor Scott Christian, Chair  
Councillor Vicki Amirault  
Councillor Wanda Carver  
Councillor Jack Fancy  
Councillor Stewart Jenkins  
Councillor Roberta Roy  
Councillor Courtney Wentzell

#### **STAFF**

Dan McDougall, Interim CAO  
Heather Cook, Acting Municipal Clerk  
Kate Wong, Administrative Assistant  
Joanne Veinotte, Director of Finance  
Adam Grant, Director of Infrastructure  
Steve Whynacht, Manager of Information Technology  
Mike McLeod, Director of Land Use  
Steve Burns, Community Economic Development Officer  
Richard Lane, Project Officer

#### **Regrets:**

Deputy Mayor Maddie Charlton

### **1.0 Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement**

Mayor Christian called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and opened the meeting by acknowledging that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

## **2.0 Approval of Agenda**

**Moved by Councillor Wentzell, seconded by Councillor Jenkins:**

**THAT** the Council of Region of Queens Municipality amend the agenda to reflect the correspondence from Liverpool Pickleball and Tennis Club to become Item 7.7, and Fire Service Review Letter to become Item 7.4

**MOTION CARRIED.**

## **3.0 Declaration of Conflict of Interests**

There were no declarations of conflict of interests.

## **4.0 Approval of Minutes**

### **4.1 April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Regular Council Meeting Minutes**

**Moved by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Fancy:**

**THAT** the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 be approved as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

### **4.2 April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Special Council Meeting Minutes**

**Moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Councillor Carver:**

**THAT** the minutes of the Special Council meeting held April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 be approved as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

### **4.3 April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Special Council Meeting Minutes**

**Moved by Councillor Fancy, seconded by Councillor Carver:**

**THAT** the minutes of the Special Council meeting held April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 be

approved as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **4.4 May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Special Council Meeting Minutes**

**Moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Councillor Carver:**

**THAT** the minutes of the Special Council meeting held May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025 be approved as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

### **5.0 Public Comment**

Robin Anthony, Brooklyn, presented correspondence sent from Interim CAO McDougall on May 7<sup>th</sup> and a letter she had sent on May 6<sup>th</sup> to Mayor, CAO and Council.

Barry Anthony, Brooklyn, spoke about the waterfront park in Brooklyn.

Rob Crawford, Beach Meadows, spoke about the background of the correspondence of Liverpool Pickleball and Tennis Club being presented.

Paul Deveau, Brookdale Crescent, District 5, expressed that he would have appreciated more information on the budget items. Mr. Deveau asked if information can be added to the yearly tax bill.

Stan Clark, Carter's Beach, spoke in support of establishing a community garden. He encouraged the Region of Queens Municipality to continue the rehabilitation program at Queens Place Emera Centre in collaboration with the hospital and further recommended that RQM approach the provincial government to seek increased involvement from QPEC in rehabilitation efforts. He also addressed concerns regarding the litter problem in Queens County.

### **6.0 Delegations and Presentations**

There were no Delegations or Presentations to come before the Council.

## **7.0 Correspondence**

### **7.1 Reprofiting of Programs – Minister of Municipal Affairs**

**Moved by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Wentzell:**

**THAT** the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality receive this letter for information.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

### **7.2 Fire Record Management System – Minister of Municipal Affairs**

**Moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Councillor Carver:**

**THAT** the Council of Region of Queens Municipality receive this letter for information.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

A request was made to send this letter to the Fire Services Committee for inclusion in their next agenda.

### **7.3 12-Months' Notice re: Provincial changes for 2026-2027 – Minister of Emergency Services and Minister of Municipal Affairs**

**Moved by Councillor Amirault, seconded by Councillor Fancy:**

**THAT** the Council of Region of Queens Municipality receive this letter for information.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

### **7.4 Fire Service Review Letter – Minister of Emergency Management and Minister of Municipal Affairs**

**Moved by Councillor Fancy, seconded by Councillor Jenkins:**

**THAT** the Council of Region of Queens Municipality receive this letter for information.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

A request was made to send this letter to the Fire Services Committee for inclusion in their next agenda.

### **7.5 RQM Intervenor Status for Upcoming Liverpool Bay Fish Farm Expansion – Protect Liverpool Bay**

**Moved by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Amirault:**

**THAT** the Council of Region of Queens Municipality receive this letter for information.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

### **7.6 Request for Assistance Installing Signage – Liverpool Lions Club**

**Moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Councillor Wentzell:**

**THAT** the Council of Region of Queens Municipality direct staff to return with a report on the erection of a proper sign structure that could also be used by other community groups to post their signage, along with a proposed designated area.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

### **7.7 Correspondence from Liverpool Pickleball and Tennis Club, 3 letters**

**Moved by Councillor Fancy, seconded by Councillor Wentzell:**

**THAT** the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality authorize the Tennis & Pickleball Club to install a shed and associated facilities on municipal property, pursuant to the existing agreement and subject to any other

required municipal permits.

**AND THAT** the Council of Region of Queens Municipality direct staff to work with the Tennis & Pickleball Club and consult with the property owners of 113 Church Street to develop an orderly plan to decommission and discontinue the use of the existing clubhouse.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

### **7.8 Request for Endorsement re: Public Library Funding – South Shore Public Libraries**

**Moved by Councillor Wentzell, seconded by Councillor Carver:**

**THAT** the Council of Region of Queens Municipality direct Mayor Christian to prepare a letter of support, in collaboration with other mayors and wardens, endorsing the petition to the Province to undertake a review of the current library funding formula.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

## **8.0 Committee Reports**

### **8.1 Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) and Queens Community Health Board – Deputy Mayor Charlton**

Read by Mayor Christian in the absence of Deputy Mayor Charlton

The Planning Advisory Committee met on May 5 to discuss a proposed amendment to the Land Use By-law. Further information was requested, and a follow-up meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 15. A report will be brought to Council at the May 27 meeting for direction on how to proceed with the proposed amendment related to a development at the former Stedman's building on Main Street, as requested by developer Eric Fry. The Committee also intends to begin a broader review of the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law in June, focusing on items identified by staff, Council, and community feedback since the documents were last updated in 2023.

## **8.2 Pool Committee- Councillor Amirault**

Councillor Amirault spoke about the Pool Committee meeting that took place on May 8<sup>th</sup>. A discussion was held about a possible retractable pool cover. Updates were given on the progress of the pool. An update was given at the May 8 meeting by a member of the fundraising committee about fundraising efforts. They are due to meet next week. The next meeting to take place on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 p.m.

## **9.0 Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

## **10.0 New Business**

### **10.1 Strategic Priorities Budget Alignment**

**Moved by Councillor Amirault, seconded by Councillor Wentzell:**

**THAT** the Council of Region of Queens Municipality receives the report titled 'Proposed 2025-2026 Operating, Capital, and Water Utility Budget' for information.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**The meeting recessed from 10:38 a.m. to 10:44 a.m.**

### **10.2 Budget Approval**

**Moved by Councillor Fancy, seconded by Councillor Carver:**

**THAT** the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve the 2025-2026 Operating Budget as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Councillor Amirault:**

**THAT** the Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve the 2025-2030 Five Year Capital Investment Plan as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Moved by Councillor Amirault, seconded by Councillor Fancy:**

**THAT** the Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve the proposed 2025-2026 Water Utility Operating budget reflecting a deficit of \$813,098;

**AND THAT** the proposed three-year Water Utility Operating budget for the years 2025-2026, 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 be adopted and submitted to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Moved by Councillor Wentzell, seconded by Councillor Amirault:**

**THAT** the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality authorize the levying of a four (4) cent area rate in Assessment Districts 5 and 6, to be provided to Brooklyn Recreation Committee.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Moved by Councillor Wentzell, seconded by Councillor Amirault:**

**THAT** the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality authorize the levying of a one point five (1.5) cent area rate in Assessment Districts 5

and 6, to be provided to Brooklyn Cemetery Committee.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Councillor Amirault:**

**THAT** the Council of Region of the Queens Municipality authorize the levying of area rates for all assessment accounts according to the following rules:

Assessment Districts 1-12, excluding assessment account numbers 10148820, 10462223, and 00132837, a road levy charge of 75% of the provincially mandated road charge, as well as those properties in Assessment Districts 1, 3, 5, and 6 that are connected to, or have the ability to connect to, Liverpool's Water Utility hydrant charges at 100%.

Assessment District 13, as well as assessment account numbers 10148820, 10462223, and 00132837, debt charges for Assessment District 13 at 100%, roads, streets, and sidewalk expenses at 75%, engineering and public works equipment expenses at 75%, Liverpool street paving expenses at 100%, and Liverpool Water Utility hydrant charges at 100%.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Moved by Councillor Fancy, seconded by Councillor Amirault:**

**THAT** the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality authorize the levying of the following tax rates for Assessment District 13, as well as assessment account numbers 10148820, 10462223, and 00132837, effective April 1, 2025:

Residential and Resource base rates of \$1.04 per \$100 of assessment plus an area rate of 84.5 cents per \$100 of assessment for those properties connected to or have the ability to connect to Liverpool's Water Utility,

or 76 cents per \$100 of assessment for those unable to connect to Liverpool's Water Utility.

Commercial base rate of \$2.14 per \$100 of assessment plus an area rate of 84.5 cents per \$100 of assessment for those properties connected to or have the ability to connect to Liverpool's Water Utility, or 76 cents per \$100 of assessment for those unable to connect to Liverpool's Water Utility.

**AND THAT** authority is given to levy the following tax rates for Assessment Districts 1-12, excluding assessment account numbers 10148820, 10462223, and 00132837, effective April 1, 2025:

Residential and Resource base rate of \$1.04 per \$100 of assessment plus an area rate of 2 cents per \$100 of assessment for the provincially mandated road charge, and on all assessment accounts in Assessment Districts 1, 3, 5, and 6, for those properties connected to, or have the ability to connect to Liverpool's Water Utility, 8.5 cents per \$100 of assessment.

Commercial base rate of \$2.14 per \$100 of assessment plus an area rate of 2 cents per \$100 of assessment for the provincially mandated road charge, and on all assessment accounts in Assessment Districts 1, 3, 5, and 6, for those properties connected to, or have the ability to connect to Liverpool's Water Utility, 8.5 cents per \$100 of assessment.

Commercial Seasonal base rate of \$1.61 per \$100 of assessment plus an area rate of 2 cents per \$100 of assessment for the provincially mandate road charge.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Moved by Councillor Roy, seconded by Councillor Wentzell:**

**THAT** the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality establish June 1, 2025, as the due date for all property taxes, with no interest being

charged for any taxes being paid on or before June 30, 2025.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Moved by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Jenkins:**

**THAT** the Council of Region of Queens Municipality authorize the creation of an Operating Capital Project reserve for the purposes of funding smaller capital projects; to be funded by a transfer from the accumulated surplus of \$1,000,000.

**AND THAT** authorization be given for the creation of a District 13 reserve funded by any overage of revenues from the Roads and Streets, Debt and Paving District 13 area rate as compared to actual costs during the fiscal year.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**10.3 Community Investment Fund 2025-2026**

Steve Burns, Community Economic Development Officer, introduced the Community Investment Fund, giving some history and noting its importance.

Councillor Wentzell declared a conflict of interest regarding the first motion and withdrew from the meeting room.

**Moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Councillor Carver:**

**THAT** the Council of Region of Queens Municipality provide grant funding to CJQC Radio Society for eligible operating expenses in the amount up to \$5,000.00 from the 2025-2026 Community Investment Fund.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Councillor Wentzell returned to the meeting following the vote.

**Moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Councillor Carver:**

**THAT** the Council of Region of Queens Municipality provide grant funding to South Shore Flying Club for eligible operating expenses in the amount up to \$6,047.00 from the 2025-2026 Community Investment Fund.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Moved by Councillor Wentzell, seconded by Councillor Carver:**

**THAT** the Council of Region of Queens Municipality provide grant funding to Friends of Hank Snow Society for eligible operating expenses in the amount up to \$10,000.00 from the 2025-2026 Community Investment Fund.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Councillor Amirault:**

**THAT** the Council of Region of Queens Municipality provide grant funding to the Medway & Area Heritage Society for eligible operating expenses in the amount up to \$2,267.50 from the 2025-2026 Community Investment Fund.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Mayor Christian declared a conflict of interest regarding the motion and withdrew from the meeting room. In his absence, he appointed Councillor Wentzell as Chair.

**Moved by Councillor Wentzell, seconded by Councillor Carver:**

**THAT** the Council of Region of Queens Municipality provide grant funding to South Queens Chamber of Commerce for eligible operating expenses in the amount up to \$3,750.00 from the 2025-2026 Community Investment Fund.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Mayor Christian returned to the meeting following the vote.

**Moved by Councillor Amirault, seconded by Councillor Jenkins:**

**THAT** the Council of Region of Queens Municipality provide grant funding to the Mersey Band Society for eligible operating expenses in the amount up to \$3,121.00 from the 2025-2026 Community Investment Fund.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Moved by Councillor Fancy, seconded by Councillor Carver:**

**THAT** the Council of Region of Queens Municipality provide grant funding to Milton Canoe & Camera Club in the amount of \$2,030.50 from the 2025-2026 Community Investment Fund.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Moved by Councillor Amirault, seconded by Councillor Wentzell:**

**THAT** the Council of Region of Queens Municipality provide grant funding to Friends of Carroll Baker Society for eligible operating expenses in the amount up to \$5,000.00 from the 2025-2026 Community Investment Fund.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Councillor Carver declared a conflict of interest regarding the motion and withdrew from the meeting room.

**Moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Councillor Wentzell:**

**THAT** the Council of Region of Queens Municipality provide grant funding to Queens County Fair Association for eligible operating expenses in the amount up to \$10,000.00 from the 2025-2026 Community

Investment Fund.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Councillor Carver returned to the meeting following the vote.

**Moved by Councillor Amirault, seconded by Councillor Jenkins:**

**THAT** the Council of Region of Queens Municipality provide grant funding to Seaside Recreation & Community Centre for eligible operating expenses in the amount up to \$5,000.00 from the 2025-2026 Community Investment Fund.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Moved by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Fancy:**

**THAT** the Council of Region of Queens Municipality provide grant funding to North Queens Board of Trade for eligible operating expenses in the amount up to \$10,000.00 from the 2025-2026 Community Investment Fund.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**10.4 Transition to Clear Bags**

**Moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Councillor Fancy:**

**THAT** Council of the Region of Queens Municipality receive the report titled Transition to Clear Bags and approve the proposed legislative, education, and enforcement approach

**AND THAT** Council direct staff to develop the appropriate amendments to by-law #13 for Council review and decision in the Fall 2025.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**10.5 Service Exchange with Nova Scotia Public Works**

**Moved by Councillor Amirault, seconded by Councillor Jenkins:**

**THAT** Council of the Region of Queens Municipality authorizes municipal staff to provide winter works maintenance (snow and ice control) for the provincially owned sections of Wolfe Street, Town Lake Road, and Birch Avenue in Milton in exchange for the Provincial Public Works Department providing winter works maintenance (snow and ice control) for the municipal access road to the Leaf and Yard Waste Site Western Head and the municipal portions of Bog Road.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**10.6 Organics Transfer Tender**

**Moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Councillor Carver:**

**THAT** Council of the Region of Queens Municipality receive the report Organics Transfer

**AND THAT** Council authorize the Chief Administrative Officer and Mayor to complete the Form of Tender with GE Environmental for July 1, 2025 to March 31, 2028.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**10.7 Extended Producer Responsibility Participation**

**Moved by Councillor Wentzell, seconded by Councillor Jenkins:**

**THAT** Council of the Region of Queens Municipality provides 'opt-in' notice to Circular Materials

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**11.0 Mayor's Report**

11.1 Mayor's Report

Over the past two weeks, Mayor Christian along with Council members and

staff

have been engaged in budget deliberations, as well as Council orientation Sessions. He also met with various community groups across Queens County to discuss local challenges and opportunities for collaboration.

On April 25, Mayor Christian met with Mayor Elspeth McLean-Wile of Municipality of

the District of Lunenburg and Kim Masland, Minister of Emergency Management. From April 30 to May 2, Mayor Christian attended the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) conference in Truro.

On May 7, Mayor Christian met with the Governor of Kiwanis Eastern Canada and Caribbean district to participate in the unveiling of the new scoreboard at South Queens Middle School. Later that evening, he attended a McHappy Day event at McDonalds in Liverpool, which raised a lot of money for Special Olympics.

On May 8, Mayor Christian gave the opening remarks at the Association of Municipal Administrators of Nova Scotia (AMANS) Conference and attended the morning sessions at White Point Lodge.

On May 9, he accompanied a film production crew around Liverpool.

## **12.0 Business from Members of Council**

### **12.1 Canada Day Fireworks – Mayor Christian**

**Moved by Councillor Amirault, seconded by Councillor Fancy:**

**THAT** the Council of Region of Queens Municipality continue with fireworks for Canada Day and investigate other options.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Council discussed concerns regarding the impact of fireworks on pets, wildlife, and community members affected by PTSD. A drone show was investigated as an alternative, however, it was determined to be not cost-effective. Council directed staff to investigate the feasibility of soundless fireworks and to seek clarity on the current fireworks by-law.

## **13.0 Closed Session**

**At 12:25 p.m., it was moved by Councillor Wentzell and seconded by Councillor**

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**Carver that Council move to the Closed Session of the agenda to discuss one item, 13.1 Property Matter.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**At 1:05 p.m., it was moved by Councillor Jenkins and seconded by Councillor Roy that Council return to the Open Session of the agenda.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

## **15.0 Adjournment**

**At 1:05 p.m., it was moved by Councillor Carver and seconded by Councillor Roy that Council adjourn.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

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Mayor Scott Christian, Chair

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Heather Cook, Acting Municipal Clerk

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Kate Wong, Recording Secretary

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_