



Region of Queens Municipality Police Advisory Board Meeting

February 19th, 2026

Council Chambers

Minutes

Present:

Willa Thorpe, Chief Administrative Officer

Deputy Mayor Maddie Charlton

Angela Green, Municipal Clerk

Adam Grant, P. Eng. Director of Infrastructure

Councillor Vicki Amirault

Councillor Roberta Roy

Don Kimball, Vice Chair

Andrew Francis

S/Sgt Patrick Frenette, RCMP

Stephanie Warren, Area Manager, Department of Public Works, Lunenburg,
Queens

Mitchell Conrad, District Director, Western, Department of Public Works.

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:30pm

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Don Kimball;

THAT the Police Advisory Board approve the February 19th, 2026 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED, unanimously.

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

4. Adoption of Previous Minutes

Moved by Don Kimball, seconded by Councillor Roberta Roy;

THAT the Police Advisory Board adopt the minutes from November 13th, 2025 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED, unanimously.

5. New Business

5.1 Carter's Beach Signage and Parking

Representatives from the Provincial Department of Public Works attended to respond to the Board's previous request to extend no-parking signage along the full length of Carter's Beach Road. Provincial staff confirmed that the request had been reviewed and was not approved.

It was explained that current signage prohibits parking on the ocean side of the road for its full length and on both sides for approximately the first 300 metres from the beach entrance. The Province indicated that further expansion of no-parking restrictions was not supported due to impacts on residents living along the road. Several properties have limited or no driveways, and full prohibition of parking on both sides would eliminate the ability for residents and their visitors to park within the highway right-of-way. As no-parking signage applies to all road users, including residents, additional restrictions could create unintended hardship and neighbour-to-neighbour enforcement conflicts.

The Province advised that the remaining enforcement tool available would be the installation of tow-away zone signage, which is anticipated to be

implemented in the spring. It was noted that this would allow for vehicle removal in cases of non-compliance. Provincial staff further emphasized that enforcement ultimately relies in part on voluntary compliance by visitors.

Board members discussed continued summer congestion and instances of vehicles parking directly beneath no-parking signage. Concerns were raised regarding emergency vehicle access, particularly whether fire trucks would be able to turn around at the end of the road if parking occurs beyond designated areas. It was acknowledged that while conditions have improved compared to years prior to the establishment of the main parking lot, compliance remains inconsistent during peak season.

Members also discussed visibility challenges during the summer months when foliage can obscure signage. The Board noted that despite signage and the availability of the larger upper parking lot, some visitors continue to park roadside out of convenience.

No further action was taken.

5.2 Role of the Police Advisory Board

Clarification was provided regarding the role and expectations of the Police Advisory Board. It was explained that Police Advisory Boards in Nova Scotia are relatively new and are intended to formalize the process by which community policing priorities are identified and communicated to the RCMP.

The Board's responsibility is to provide the Detachment Commander with a list of reasonable and achievable objectives reflective of community concerns. These priorities are incorporated into the RCMP Annual Performance Plan, which serves as the operational blueprint for the upcoming fiscal year. The Detachment Commander then develops action plans to address those priorities and reports back quarterly on progress and measurable outcomes.

The following concerns were identified as priorities by the Police Advisory Board:

- Drug Enforcement
- Traffic Safety (Speeding & Impaired Driving)
- Increased Police Visibility & Community Engagement
- Response to Domestic Violence
- Mental Health-Related Incidents

- Off-Road Vehicle Enforcement

It was noted that this structure replaces the former practice whereby the Mayor and CAO would meet directly with the Detachment Commander to identify priorities. The Police Advisory Board now serves as the formal advisory body.

6.0 Correspondence

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7.0 Updates from RCMP

7.1 RCMP Quarterly Report (October–December)

The Detachment Commander presented the quarterly statistics report for the period of October through December. Queens District remains fully staffed at present, with one constable anticipated to begin paternity leave in the coming weeks.

Calls for service were reported as 89 higher than the same quarter the previous year. Incidents included one fatal motor vehicle collision, 41 motor vehicle collisions overall, three break and enters, nine shoplifting calls, four sexual assault investigations, and 36 assault investigations. There were 11 sudden death investigations, all determined to be non-suspicious.

Mental health-related calls totaled 53 during the quarter, in addition to 31 well-being checks. The Detachment Commander noted that mental health calls continue to represent a significant demand on resources. There were 231 false alarms and 23 911 calls recorded.

Traffic enforcement statistics were reviewed. These included five speeding charges, three impaired driving charges (alcohol), two refusal charges, six administrative suspensions, and various other Motor Vehicle Act infractions. It was noted that these figures reflect enforcement conducted by Queens District members only and do not include regional traffic services statistics.

The Detachment Commander advised that for the upcoming fiscal year, traffic enforcement will align with provincial monthly enforcement themes and will be guided by intelligence-led hotspot analysis. Additional operations have been requested to increase visibility and targeted enforcement within Queens District.

Community Priorities Discussion (2026–2027)

The Board engaged in discussion to identify priority areas for inclusion in the upcoming Annual Performance Plan. Members referenced recurring concerns raised through Town Halls and resident communications.

Themes identified included:

- Drug activity and related crime
- Speeding and traffic safety
- Impaired driving
- Police visibility in both urban and rural areas
- Mental health-related incidents
- Domestic violence
- Off-road vehicle activity and trail enforcement

The skate park area was specifically discussed. Members noted reports of vandalism, broken glass, and perceived unsafe conditions, particularly for younger children. The Detachment Commander emphasized that enforcement efforts must be based on reported and verifiable incidents and encouraged community members to report concerns to allow for data-driven deployment of resources.

The Detachment Commander reiterated that intelligence-led policing requires actionable information and timely reporting, as enforcement efforts are guided by documented trends and hotspot mapping rather than anecdotal feedback alone.

Drug Enforcement Update

The Detachment Commander outlined recent proactive enforcement activity resulting in the recovery of controlled substances, cash, and other assets. The significant time commitment required for such investigations was discussed, including surveillance, warrant preparation, execution, and disclosure obligations.

Information was provided regarding Nova Scotia's civil forfeiture process. It was explained that civil forfeiture allows assets associated with criminal activity to be seized and auctioned through provincial processes independent of criminal

court outcomes. This mechanism prevents assets from being returned through negotiated plea arrangements. Proceeds are directed to the Province and are intended to support justice-related programming.

7.2 Request for Additional GIS (Plainclothes) Positions

The Detachment Commander formally requested two additional General Investigation Section (GIS) positions to enhance investigative capacity. Queens District currently does not have plainclothes capacity, making it the only district in Southwest Nova Scotia without such resources.

It was explained that GIS members focus on serious investigations and proactive enforcement and are not diverted to frontline calls. The addition of two positions would improve efficiency, reduce investigative delays, and allow uniformed members to remain focused on reactive policing. The Detachment Commander advised that two positions are operationally preferable due to investigative requirements and workload sustainability.

Office space and technological infrastructure are already in place to accommodate the positions. Updated provincial cost figures were not yet available; however, a placeholder estimate of approximately \$225,000 per officer was discussed for budget planning purposes.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Maddie Charlton, seconded by Andrew Francis;

THAT the Police Advisory Board recommend that Council consider funding two additional GIS (plainclothes) officer positions at an approximate cost of \$225,000 per officer and include this funding request in the 2026–2027 operational budget.

MOTION CARRIED, unanimously.

8.0 Unfinished Business

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9. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.