

**Region of Queens Municipality Regular Council
Tuesday, February 25, 2025
6:00 p.m.**

Livestream on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=laHxJZwlsSQ>

Present:

Mayor Scott Christian, Chair
Deputy Mayor Maddie Charlton, District 2
Councillor Vicki Amirault, District 4
Councillor Wanda Carver, District 7
Councillor Jack Fancy, District 5
Councillor Stewart Jenkins, District 6
Councillor Courtney Wentzell, District 3

Regrets:

Councillor Roberta Roy, District 1

Staff:

Dan McDougall, Interim CAO
Pam Lovelace, Municipal Clerk

1.0 Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

Mayor Christian called the meeting to order at 6:05pm and gave a land acknowledgement to recognize that the meeting is taking place in Mi'kma'ki, the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

2.0 Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Deputy Mayor Charlton

THAT the Region of Queens Municipality approve the February 25, 2025 agenda as presented.

Motion Carried.

3.0 Declaration of Conflict of Interests

There were no declarations of conflict of interests.

4.0 Approval of the Minutes

4.1 February 11, 2025

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Amirault

THAT the Region of Queens Municipality approve the February 11, 2025 meeting minutes as circulated.

Motion Carried.

5.0 Public Comment

Mayor Christian opened the meeting to comments from the public. This section of Council's agenda is an opportunity for residents of the Region of Queens Municipality to share their views, concerns, and ideas.

Speaker #1 - Dave White, Queens County ATV Trails Association and Queens Rails to Trails Association, provided an update on trails work underway. The organizations are working with \$25,000 to clear the Hunts Point trail. He thanked Council and staff for their hard work in preparing a report in this evening's Council agenda.

Mayor Christian called three times for additional speakers. No speakers.

6.0 Delegations and Presentations

6.1 North Queens Active Living

Candice Flemming from Caledonia, Active Living Coordinator for North Queens, and noted she works every day to bring more recreational opportunities to the area. Lyndsey Rheinhardt is a committee

member, and talked about the important partnership with South Shore Regional Centre for Education since 2018, to access to facility space such as the school.

Created a steering committee in 2008, and just last year, became a non-profit association. Candida is the coordinator. offering programs in the communities people live is important, as not all can access programs in Liverpool.

They want North Queens residents to enjoy well-being and deep sense of belonging. They establish low cost and free programs that last through time, to enable people to access the programs.

6.2 Rural Communities Foundation

Hugh McKay joined virtually to provide a presentation on the Rural Communities Foundation (RCF). RCF is a charity that responds to requests from community organizations, and administers trust funds, distributes grants, and primarily provides support in rural communities. Among the opportunities, they have a fund to support climate change initiatives, the Housing for Health program which enables properties that are bequeathed to the organization to be made available to workers, a Community Impact Conference on climate change was held in Membertou, and notably, there is a Zero Hunger Fund which has a Free Stores program. Teachers can take the children to the Free Store and the students can take nutritional food to eat. The program started in 2023, and had 80 applications last year. They currently support over 30 schools and supported over 100,000 in food. RCF does much to advance community wellness and address housing insecurity.

7.0 Correspondence

7.1 Queens Community Health Board

7.2 Minister of Justice, Police Board Member

7.3 Letter from Minister Lohr regarding reduction in inter-provincial trade barriers and resource development

7.4 Letter from NSFM President regarding correspondence from Minister Lohr

Mayor Christian said Region of Queens Municipality needs more information from the province that there is support for the NSF. Council will work through the NSF and get clarification and will hold off from taking a formal position at this point in time until more information is available. Mayor Christian has spoken with Minister Lohr, and Mayor Christian feels Council needs a balanced approach, keeping in mind that we need economic advancement, but we also need to be balanced.

8.0 Committee Reports

Councillor Fancy – Fire Services Committee: On February 11, a Fire Services Committee meeting was held, and all the chiefs attended. They asked when the new EMO coordinator will begin and can meet with them. Once the Coordinator is in place, they want to have a fire services exercise. A draft Safety Audit report was presented to the chiefs, and they will review and they will bring any errors to the next meeting. They noted that the contract with Valley Communications needs to be renewed. Fire chiefs requested that a fit test machine be purchased. They requested a report back on the dry hydrants. They enquired about the progress on the cell tower in Greenfield is being worked on and will be completed. They noted that there be new Mutual Aid Agreements in place for various services, and requested that the Region to create a standard one. The fire chiefs requested better communication between Region and fire chief is needed. As well, a list of approved contractors would be beneficial, for an example, when an excavator was needed for a fire in the summer, they were unable to get it in a reasonable time. There was a question posed regarding who is responsible for clearing snow from fire hydrants. A request was made for a dry hydrant to be installed behind the North Queens Nursing Home by the lake. The next meeting is scheduled on March 11, 2025 at 7 pm in Greenfield.

Mayor Christian explained that Brian Hatt has retired and Louis Landry is serving as the EMO Coordinator.

9.0 Unfinished Business

9.1 ATV Road Trails Report

Interim CAO McDougall thanked Dave White and Mr. Huntley for their participation in report development and proceeded to review the content with Council. Interim CAO requested feedback and direction from Council. This would be a pilot project for the municipality to get a Policy Framework in place, including a community engagement process.

Moved by Councillor Amirault, seconded by Deputy Mayor Charlton,
THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality direct staff to strike an advisory group consisting of staff, a member of Council, and impacted community organizations for the purpose of developing the recommended timelines and foreseeable costs to execute on the items identified including a community engagement strategy, required needs assessment for built environment, and establishing the policy framework or bylaw requirements to facilitate off highway vehicle access from West Street to Bristol Avenue via the Trestle Trail connection.

Motion Carried.

9.2 Trunk Paving Report

Moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Councillor Wentzell,

THAT Council of the Region of Queens Municipality receives the report titled Trunk Paving for information.

Motion Carried.

9.3 Grey Boxes Overflow Report

Adam Grant, Director of Infrastructure presented a report on Grey Boxes on private roads.

Moved Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Deputy Mayor Charlton,

THAT Council of the Region of Queens Municipality receives the report titled Grey Box Overflow Update for information.

Motion Carried.

9.4 EDI Plan Update

Pam Lovelace, Municipal Clerk provided an update on the Provincial legislative requirements for Council to adopt a Dismantling Racism and Hate Plan.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Carver,
THAT Council receive the update on Dismantling Racism and Hate Plan.
Motion Carried.

9.5 Adoption of Policy 4 – Payment of Taxes

Moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Councillor Amirault,
THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality adopt the revised Policy 4 – Payment of Taxes dated February 25, 2025.
Motion Carried.

Mayor Christian called a recess at 7:46pm.

Mayor Christian called the meeting back to order at 7:58.

10.0 New Business

10.1 First Reading Tax Exemption Bylaw

Joanne Veinotte, Director of Finance presented the report.

Moved by Councillor Amirault, seconded by Deputy Mayor Charlton,
THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality receive the report titled “Tax Exemption Bylaw – First Reading” and give first reading to the Bylaw.

Motion Carried.

10.2 Fire Inspector Appointments

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Carver

THAT the Region of Queens Municipality appoint Bruce Parks, Graham Hopkins, Ryan Whynot, Kyle Whynot and Amanda Esterbrooks as Fire Inspectors for Region of Queens Municipality to administer and enforce provisions of the Nova Scotia Fire Safety Act, Regulations and National Fire Code.

Motion carried.

10.3 Solid Waste Management Facility- Tipping Fees

Joanne Veinotte, Director of Finance reviewed tonnage and the costs associated by the closure and post closure.

Moved by Councillor Wentzell, seconded by Councillor Carver,

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality receive the report titled "Solid Waste Management Facility – Tipping Fees" and approve the Tipping Fee Schedule for the 2025 / 2026 fiscal year as presented.

Motion Carried.

11.0 Mayor's Report

11.1 Mayor's Report

On Feb 18, the CAO Selection Committee met to identify elements of the job ad. The draft of the job ad has been reviewed and circulated for feedback with the intention to post by the end of this week. All members of Council will have the opportunity to meet that candidate.

On Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025, the new library opened its doors to the community. Council is contemplating if this is the new location for the library. Queens County Transit and SSPL to provide accessible transit on Tuesdays from 10 am – 2 pm

On February 24, 2025, Mayor Christian and Interim CAO Dan McDougall – met with IBEW representatives to continue to strengthen the working relationship with the unionized staff.

12.0 Business from Members of Council

There were no business items from members.

Moved by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Amirault.

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens move to closed session at 8:20 p.m.

Motion Carried.

13.0 Closed Session

13.1 In Camera Minutes, February 11, 2025

13.2 Personnel - appointments

13.3 Contract Matter

13.4 Property Matter

Moved by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Wentzell

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens end closed session and move to public session.

Motion Carried.

14.0 Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Amirault, seconded by Councillor Carver

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Mayor Scott Christian, Chair

Dan McDougall, Interim CAO

Heather Cook, Acting Municipal Clerk

Date Approved: March 11, 2025