

**Road Region of Queens Municipality Regular Council
Tuesday, March 25, 2025**

6:00 p.m.

Livestream on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xka-kBA6OwE>

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

Heather Cook, Acting Municipal Clerk

Kate Wong, Administrative Assistant

1.0 Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

Mayor Christian called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm 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.

He noted that Councillor Roy is on a Council approved leave for this Council meeting. Councillor Wentzell joined the meeting at 6:03pm. Mayor Christian noted that there is sufficient attendance for Quorum.

2.0 Approval of the Agenda

The following items were added to the agenda by members of Council:

12.1 – Queens Place Emera Centre Walking Track

8.1 – Protective Services Committee

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Jenkins,

THAT the Agenda be approved as amended.

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 March 11, 2025

Moved by Councillor Amirault, seconded by Councillor Carver,

THAT the Region of Queens Municipality approve the March 11, 2025 Regular Council Meeting minutes as circulated.

Motion Carried.

5.0 Public Comment

Mayor Christian opened the meeting to comments from the public.

Speaker #1: Melissa “Min” Smale from Brooklyn, Chair of Privateer Days, spoke about how she is proud of last year's Privateer Days event with only 6 volunteers.

This year, they have 7 new volunteers and more vendors, and have plans to increase the activities held during the festival.

Speaker #2: Robin Anthony of Brooklyn spoke about concerns with Brooklyn Area Rates. She questioned whether Queens has been exceeding its authority when levying area rate taxes on Brooklyn rate payers.

Speaker #3: Tara Druzina of Liverpool spoke about a dedicated Food & Housing Security Committee, which she had asked Council about on February 11th, 2025. Since that time, she has met with other community service providers and would also like Council to consider establishing a committee dedicated to community well-being.

Speaker #4: Lindsay Wambeck of North Queens spoke about the need for a dedicated committee to support the well-being of the community. She has been working to establish a youth centre. She sees struggles in rural communities where youth lack access to resources that are readily available in urban areas, and a community well-being committee could help to bridge that gap.

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

6.0 Delegations and Presentations

6.1 Queens County Food Bank

Tara Druzina, fundraising lead for the Queens County Food Bank spoke of many volunteers ages 55 and older dedicating many hours per week. The Foodbank had a recent large expense, \$10,000 when their freezer failed. They requested that Council reinstate \$15,500 annual rent subsidy for the next four fiscal years, beginning with the coming budget. She stated that grants are not readily available for the organization, and there has been an increased demand for the Food Bank in the community.

Mayor Christian thanked Ms. Druzina for the presentation and the Queens County Foodbank volunteers for providing this needed service.

6.2 Greater Moлега Lake Lot Owners Association

Dwayne Primeau, Past President and Bruce MacInnis, Treasurer of the Greater Molega Lake Lot Owners Association (GLLOMA) spoke about Region of Queens Municipality's proposed Bylaw 27. GLLOMA is an Incorporated, Non-Profit Organization developed in 1977 and is the largest recreational land development in the Atlantic Provinces, covering the area of Ponhook, Molega, Beaverdam, Annis, Hidden, Beavertail, and Black Rattle Lakes.

They discussed how Bylaw 27 would be an important part of creating a professionally managed board to keep up with growing resident needs. Currently, GMLLOA members are all volunteers, and the organization has strong support from volunteers and members. Their Intent is to hire staff to keep up with demands of the growing infrastructure.

As an alternative to 5% administrative fee, they suggested Council consider s set fee to 2-3% with a cap, and longer term agreement with GMLLOA, with alterations to the 2-year termination clause for material cause.

Mayor Christian thanked Mr. Primeau and Mr. MacInnis for the presentation

7.0 Correspondence

7.1 Wind Turbine Setbacks - Honourable John A. Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

A letter was received stating Minimum Planning Regulations under Section 214 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) and Section 229 of the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter (HRMC) have been amended to implement a maximum setback for commercial wind turbines.

7.2 Letter of Support for NSFAM from Mayor Christian on behalf of Council

The letter of support sent to NSFAM by Mayor Christian was reported to be well received by President Mayor Pam Mood.

7.3 Privateer Days Commission – Request to Waive Alcohol Consumption Policy

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Wentzell,

THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality waives Alcohol Consumption Policy for Privateer Days on June 27th to June 29th, 2025, with the conditions that the Privateer Days Commission hold 2-million-dollar liability insurance as per policy, valid permits, and acquire a license obtained from the Alcohol, Gaming, Fuel and Tobacco Division of the provincial government.

Motion carried.

7.4 Council Code of Conduct – Honourable John A. Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

A letter from Honourable John A. Lohr advised that mandatory Code of Conduct (Code) training for all local elected officials in Nova Scotia must be completed by April 30th, 2025.

8.0 Committee Reports

8.1 Protective Services – Councillor Fancy attended a Protective Services Committee meeting on Tuesday, March 11th, 2025, at 7:00 pm. In attendance were Fire Chiefs Trevor Munroe, Kendall Farmer, Chris Wolfe, and Moyal Conrad, with Mike Morton attending in place of Fire Chief Wayne Trimm. Councillor Carver and Councillor Jenkins attended the gallery. A number of discussions took place, including a potential EMO exercise, which was suggested to be tabled until The EMO Coordinator could attend. Also discussed was the need for fit test machines, insurance regarding the two damaged fire trucks, and concerns about dry hydrant repairs being budgeted by the Municipality but work not being completed. A question was asked about if Region of Queens could hire someone to oversee permits and installation of the wet hydrants, and suggestions made regarding identifying which hydrants have certain levels of pressure. The next meeting is July 15, 2025, at 7:00 pm at South Queens.

9.0 Unfinished Business

9.1 Second Reading: Tax Exemption Bylaw #14

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Jenkins,
THAT Council of the Region of Queens Municipality receive the report
titled "Tax Exemption Bylaw, second reading" for information and give
second reading to Bylaw No. 14 respecting Tax Exemptions.

Motion Carried.

9.2 Updated Municipal Accessibility Plan

Moved by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Amirault,
THAT Council of the Region of Queens Municipality receive the report
titled *Updated Municipal Accessibility Plan* for information;
AND THAT Council approve the document "*Municipal Accessibility Plan
2025-2030*" as attached.

Motion Carried.

Mayor Christian called a recess at 7:37pm.

Mayor Christian called the meeting back to order at 7:47pm.

10.0 New Business

10.1 Queens Neighbourhood Co-operative Housing – Construction Date Extension

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Carver,
THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality receive the report
titled Queens Neighbourhood Co-operative Housing – Construction Date
Extension;

AND THAT the date for initiating construction be extended from
December 31, 2024 to August 31, 2025.

Motion Carried.

10.2 Emergency Management Coordinators – Salary/Compensation

Moved by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Jenkins,

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality receive the report titled Emergency Management Coordinators – Salary/Compensation and approve the 2025/2026 compensation for the Emergency Management Coordinator at \$19,375 and the Alternate at \$9,686, to be adjusted for inflation and CPI annually, and allowing for hourly renumeration over and above the annual compensation in the event of a significant emergency, at the discretion of the CAO.

Motion Carried.

1) Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities Spring Conference & Federation of Canadian Municipalities Annual conference – Council member Attendance

Moved by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Amirault,

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens approve attendance for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Annual Conference for Mayor Christian and Councillor Wentzell and direct staff to include an appropriate amount in the 25/26 operating budget.

Motion Carried.

2) South Shore Flying Club Request to Waive Rental

Moved by Councillor Wentzell, seconded by Councillor Fancy,

THAT the motion from the March 11, 2025 meeting be taken from the Table.

“Moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Councillor Carver, THAT Region of Queens Municipality’s Council approve forgiveness of the rent fee for South Shore Flying Club in the amount of \$4,000 rent due to financial limits the club is experiencing.”

Motion Defeated.

10.5 Spending limitations without an approved budget

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Amirault, THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve one third of the operational expense budget for 2024/2025 in the amount of \$9,500,000 for the purpose of providing spending authority and business continuity in the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2025, and until an Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Plan is presented and approved by Council. This spending limit applies to both operations and capital projects already in progress.

Motion Carried.

11.0 Mayor's Report

Mayor Christian provided a report covering the past four weeks. He spoke about the Thomas H. Raddall Library now being open, and noted that the public and South Shore Public Library staff are pleased with the design and layout of the space. It is a great asset to the community and there will be a public Grand Opening on April 5th, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

On March 12th, 2025, Mayor Christian convened an ad hoc working committee to explore the creation of Roads Trail for "Trail to Trail" and "Trail to Service" connectivity. Membership includes Queens ATV Association and Queens County Rails to Trails Association. The initial phase will connect Bog Road to the Hank Snow Museum by means of the Trestle Trail, and meaningful progress has been made to date by the volunteers of the two associations, municipal staff and members of Council.

On March 19th, 2025, Mayor Christian attended "Queens Connection" event organized and hosted by Nova Scotia Health Promotion which highlighted exploring the range of services and support groups in Queens with respect to community well-being.

Mayor Christian and Councillor Fancy met with representatives of the Shellinck Foundation on March 21 about the potential for a transition house or crisis shelter for women and families in Queens experiencing intimate partner violence. Mayor Christian acknowledged while Harbour House and Second Story in Lunenburg have a mandate to support those in Queens County, there is a group of private individuals working towards and alongside other groups to establish this critical need.

Mayor Christian attended Agricultural Day in Caledonia March 22nd, 2025, and commented on its success. The event was incredibly received by members of the farming community in attendance.

On March 26th, 2025, Mayor Christian, along with several members of Council, planned to attend the South Queens Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting and expressed his pleasure with the opportunity to connect with local businesses.

Budget deliberations, originally scheduled to begin on April 1st, 2025, have been delayed due to unexpected operational delays. Efforts are being made to provide the community with as much notice as possible regarding the rescheduled budget deliberation meetings.

The search for the new CAO and new HR manager is underway, and the number and quality of applicants are impressive. There have recently been several new employees joining the Region of Queens Municipality's staff.

12.0 Business from Members of Council

12.1 Queens Place Emera Centre Walking Track

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Amirault,
THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality direct staff to remove the \$2 fee and continue to promote the fact that the walking track at Queens Place Emera Centre is free to use from April 1 – June 30, 2025.

Motion Carried.

13.0 Closed Session

Mayor Christian asked if there were any objections to moving to the Closed Session of the meeting. Hearing none, the meeting moved to closed Session at 8:42 pm to discuss Item 13.1: Personnel Matters.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Amirault,
THAT the meeting return to the Open Session of the agenda to at 10:07pm time.

Motion Carried.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Amirault,
 THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality extends Interim Chief
 Administrative Officers contract to May 30th, 2025.
Motion carried.

14.0 Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Councillor Carver,
seconded by Councillor Amirault at 10:08pm.

Mayor Scott Christian, Chair

Dan McDougall, Interim CAO

Heather Cook, Acting Municipal Clerk

Date Approved: _____