



Region of Queens Municipality Regular Council

Tuesday, April 22nd, 2025

6:00 p.m.

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0h7g19JZaow>

Minutes

Present:

Mayor Scott Christian, Chair
Deputy Mayor Maddie Charlton
Councillor Vicki Amirault
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

Regrets:

Councillor Wanda Carver

1.0 Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

Mayor Christian called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.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 Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Amirault;

THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve the April 22nd, 2025, as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

3.0 Declaration of Conflict of Interests

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

4.0 Approval of Minutes

4.1 April 8th, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Moved by Councillor Fancy, seconded by Councillor Amirault;

THAT the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held April 8th, 2025, be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

5.0 Public Comment

Mayor Christian opened the meeting to comments from the public.

David White, South Brookfield, President of Queens County ATV Association came to speak. Mr. White is returning to Council with a request to consider expanding the scope of work for the committee to reflect recent changes in provincial legislation. One change he noted is that there is no daily traffic count required. To support the request, Mr. White referenced similar successful implementations in Sussex, NB (three traffic lights, 8,000–10,000 vehicles/day) and St. John's, NL (six traffic lights, population ~20,000), both without reported issues. Mr. White addressed a common question he has heard from the public, noting that door to door surveys were conducted across several districts, with strong support for the proposed routes (88% in favor on Beech Hill, 100% on Labelle Road - including input from a public meeting, 100% on River

Head Road, and 91% from Nickerson Pond through Brooklyn). In total, 160 residents living directly along the proposed routes participated in the surveys.

Robin Anthony, Brooklyn, came to discuss the Regions' Policy 23. She discussed the differences between RQM (Region of Queens Municipality) and HRM's (Halifax Regional Municipality) policy, as she noticed that RQM draws on HRM area rate policy. She explained that in HRM, an area rate is only implemented if at least 50% plus one of the properties within the defined area agrees to the area rate by returning a mail-in ballot. Another key requirement is that a majority of properties within the catchment area must support the initiative. Once an area rate is established, the community group must submit a detailed business plan and annual budget for review by HRM Council, who then has the authority to approve or reject the proposal. Additionally, community groups are required to hold public meetings, which must be properly advertised with minutes available. She noted that she is not advocating to defund Brooklyn Recreation Committee but would like an answer as to why Brooklyn parks are funded by an area rate while all other parks are maintained by the Municipality.

Donald Olman, Brooklyn, spoke in support of maintaining the area rate taxes in Brooklyn. He noted that community meetings had been held to discuss the matter, and a majority of attendees voted in favor of keeping the area rate in place.

6.0 Delegations and Presentations

6.1 Rails to Trails Association

Brian Hatt, representing Queens Rails to Trails, presented the Broad River Bridge Assessment Project to Council. The purpose of the project is to determine the structural viability of the former railway bridge and assess whether it can be repaired. Mr. Hatt noted that the boundary of Summerville Beach Provincial Park runs through the center of the bridge, with the eastern half falling within the park and the western half forming part of an existing shared-use trail that connects to Shelburne County.

He highlighted the natural beauty of Summerville Beach and the historical significance of the bridge, which has been deemed unsafe for public use. The goal is to restore the bridge for non-motorized users. Mr. Hatt emphasized that this is the last major bridge needed to complete a continuous recreational trail connecting Lunenburg County to Shelburne County.

In 2024, a funding grant was conditionally approved by the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage (CCTH). However, Queens Rails to

Trails chose not to proceed with the grant at that time, intending instead to explore additional funding opportunities before reapplying in 2025.

A funding request of \$15,000 has been submitted to the Region to support an engineering assessment of the bridge. This assessment will be instrumental in determining its future. Additional funding requests include \$20,000 from CCTH (provincial) and \$13,000 from private sources.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Fancy;

THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality considers the funding request of \$15,000 during budget process for Queens Rails Trails Association to hire a firm to conduct an engineering assessment of the Broad River Bridge.

MOTION CARRIED.

6.2 Development on Main Street: Eric Fry

Mr. Fry presented his upcoming development project, *The Stedman*, a new apartment building proposed for 194 Main Street in Liverpool. The existing building is currently being cleaned out following previous flooding, with construction anticipated to begin in early July. Projected occupancy is targeted for Spring 2026.

The development will include 16 residential units and underground parking, ensuring no impact on existing downtown parking. Units will feature views of both Main Street and Water Street, and secure storage rental units will be available to all residents.

Rental rates are expected to be in line with *The Falls*, another property owned by Mr. Fry in Milton, with two-bedroom units ranging from \$2,000 to \$2,150 per month. The project will likely include two affordable units. Mr. Fry noted that there is already public interest regarding unit availability.

The purpose of his presentation was to inform Council of his future plans and to respond to any questions they may have.

7.0 Correspondence

7.1 South Shore Chronic Pain Support Community – Letter of Support from Council

Letters sent from Mayor Christian on behalf of Council. Now South Shore Chronic

Pain Support Community has incorporated as a group.

7.2 South Shore Flying Club – Response from Council re: request

Letter was sent by Mayor Christian regarding Council's decision on request to waive rental fee.

7.3 Adapting the Additional Officer Program – Attorney General and Minister of Justice Becky Druhan

Mayor Christian noted that the municipality had previously taken advantage of a police resourcing program but no longer does. Interim CAO Dan McDougall informed Council that this matter was discussed at a recent Police Advisory Board meeting. He explained that the program was originally designed to supplement existing police staffing levels. However, if a municipality reduces its complement of officers, it becomes ineligible to participate.

CAO McDougall further clarified that the recent correspondence indicates the Department of Justice is exploring options and alternatives to the current deployment model for additional officers. In response, the Police Advisory Board passed a motion to submit a letter of advocacy, urging the Department of Justice to consider the policing needs of the Region of Queens as they evaluate redeployment strategies.

7.4 Paving of Subdivision(J-Class) Streets 25-26 Program – Minister of Public Works Fred Tilley

It was noted that the municipality had submitted seven sections for inclusion in the J-Class Roads program, however, these were not approved by the Minister of Public Works.

Deputy Mayor Charlton provided additional context, explaining that the J-Class Cautionary Program is a \$2 million initiative, jointly funded by the province and municipalities—each contributing \$1 million. Two years ago, RQM received approval for a few small sections of road. She suggested that the province is likely aiming to distribute available funding equally among municipalities.

7.5 Ownership and History of Clubhouse – Liverpool Tennis and Pickleball Club

Mayor Christian noted that this will be discussed in Closed Session.

7.6 Letter of Thanks – Kiwanis Club of Liverpool

Mayor Christian received a letter of thank you from Kiwanis Club of Liverpool for allowing them to make use of the canteen at Queens Place Emera Centre.

8.0 Committee Reports

8.1 Police Advisory Board

Councillor Amirault, chair of the Police Advisory Board, provided an update. At its meeting on April 16th, the Police Advisory Board (PAB) discussed the General Duty Police Resourcing Model (GDPRM). This model analyzes the general duty workload of a detachment over the course of an average year to determine whether it is appropriately resourced to meet current demand. It was noted that the Region of Queens has not had a GDPRM conducted in several years, however, one is scheduled to be completed next year. It was noted that Queens County is currently the only municipality in the region without a dedicated Street Crime Enforcement Unit. This unit was removed several years ago by a former Mayor and Council as part of budget reductions and has not been reinstated since.

The Speed Radar Program was discussed. Councillor Amirault noted that at the last council meeting a motion was passed to redeploy speed radar cameras throughout the municipality and continue to do so on a regular basis. It was noted that North Queens has not previously participated in the traffic calming program. A recommendation was made to consider the purchase of solar-powered signs, as battery-operated signs tend to deplete quickly in high-traffic areas, resulting in frequent maintenance and battery replacements by staff. Staff Sergeant Archibald noted that he was reading a news article about the province adapting a Traffic Safety Act, and abolishing the Motor Vehicle Act, which would allow the RCMP to ticket the registered owners.

At the PAB meeting, Staff Sergeant Archibald recommended that a clear and appropriate channel of communication be followed for reporting community concerns. Councillors are encouraged to relay any issues to the CAO or Mayor, who will then communicate directly with the RCMP as needed, or to call the non-emergency police line.

9.0 Unfinished Business

9.1 Fort Point Winter Maintenance

Councillor Wentzell made a motion to table this decision until September. The motion did not have a seconder, and died on the table.

Councillors discussed leaving Fort Point walkway winter maintenance status quo.

10.0 New Business

10.1 Resolution for Preapproval for Debenture Issuance subject to interest rate – Weir Lane

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Fancy:

THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality passes the Resolution for Pre-Approval of Debenture Issuance Subject to Interest Rate as attached to this staff report and approve funding the project overage of \$28,000 from the Accumulated Surplus.

MOTION CARRIED.

10.2 Pre-Budget Approval for Implementation of Microsoft Security Solutions

Moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Councillor Amirault:

THAT Council provide pre-budget approval of \$37,000.00 for the implementation of Microsoft 365 Business Premium security solutions.

MOTION CARRIED.

10.3 Development Agreement Discharge

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Wentzell:

THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality receive the report titled

"Development Agreement Discharge" and that Council approve the discharge of the development agreement dated January 16, 2004, for the property located at 3888 Highway 3 in Brooklyn and identified as PID# 70084058.

MOTION CARRIED.

10.4 Road Trails Ad Hoc Committee – Scope Expansion Request

Councillor Wentzell left Council Chamber at 7:33 p.m. and returned at 7:36 p.m. He was absent for the vote on the motion.

Moved by Councillor Amirault, seconded by Deputy Mayor Charlton:

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality authorizes the Road Trails Ad Hoc Committee to include Bristol Avenue from Hank Snow Drive to the intersection with Milton Road, Hank Snow Drive to Great Oak Park, Milton Road from approximately civic number 35 to the intersection, Highway 3 towards Brooklyn to the limit of municipal road jurisdiction, and Queens Place Drive / Old Cobbs Barn Road, when considering making recommendations to Council for designation as road trails.

MOTION CARRIED.

10.5 MPAL Agreement Renewal

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Jenkins:

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality authorize the Mayor and Interim CAO to enter into the Agreement for the Municipal Physical Activity Leadership program with Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage on behalf of the Municipality.

MOTION CARRIED.

11.0 Mayor's Report

11.1 Mayor's Report

Mayor Christian noted that there would be no Mayor's Report to present at this meeting, and he will provide a Mayor's Report after budget Deliberations have concluded.

12.0 Business from Members of Council

12.1 Earth Day

Councillor Amirault spoke about the importance of Earth Day and expressed interest in organizing a roadside litter cleanup initiative. She proposed collaborating with fellow councillors and staff next year to participate in a community clean-up event in recognition of Earth Day.

13.0 Closed Session

At 7:41 p.m, it was moved by Councillor Roy and seconded by Councillor Amirault that Council move to the Closed Session of the agenda to discuss three items; 13.1 Personnel Matter, 13.2 Property Matter, and 13.3 Personnel Matter.

MOTION CARRIED

At 8:47p.m., it was moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Wentzell that Council return to the Open Session of the agenda.

MOTION CARRIED.

13.1 Heritage Advisory Committee Appointments

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Roy:

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality receive the report titled Heritage Advisory Committee and that the Council appoint Linda Rafuse, Danielle Robertson, Michael VanDale, Matt Smith, Albert Knock and Matthew Adams to the Heritage Advisory Committee.

MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Councillor Amirault, seconded by Councillor Jenkins:

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality direct staff to review and provide recommendations to update Bylaw 17: A Bylaw Respecting Heritage Properties.

MOTION CARRIED.

13.3 CAO Selection Update

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Jenkins:

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality authorize the Mayor and Interim CAO to enter into the Agreement based on the Contract terms presented to Council in closed session.

MOTION CARRIED.

14.0 Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was **moved by Councillor Roy, seconded by Deputy Mayor Charlton at 8:58 p.m**

Mayor Scott Christian, Chair

Heather Cook, Acting Municipal Clerk

Kate Wong, Recording Secretary

Date Approved: May 13, 2025