

## **Region of Queens Municipality Regular Council**

**Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**6:00 p.m.**

**YouTube:**[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMJE7x8EDeI&list=PLfAvc-FvNEDdGdgqKG1k12NuV\\_PbQ4\\_2o&index=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMJE7x8EDeI&list=PLfAvc-FvNEDdGdgqKG1k12NuV_PbQ4_2o&index=1)

### **Minutes**

#### **Present:**

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

#### **STAFF**

Willa Thorpe, CAO  
Heather Cook, Acting Municipal Clerk  
Kate Wong, Administrative Assistant  
Adam Grant, Director of Infrastructure  
Mike MacLeod, Director of Land Use  
Joanne Veinotte, Director of Finance  
Richard Lane, Project Manager  
Steve Whynacht, Manager of IT  
Steve Burns, Community Development Officer  
Kelley-Anne Hurley, By-law Enforcement Officer  
Brenda Keating, By-law Enforcement Officer

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

Mayor Christian called the meeting to order at 6:01 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 Carver;**

**THAT** the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approved the agenda for the June 24, 2024 Regular Council meeting, as amended to move Item 10.1 – Variance Appeal – Old Port Mouton Road, to immediately follow the Public Comments section.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

## 3.0 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

## 4.0 Approval of Minutes

### 4.1 June 10<sup>th</sup> 2025, Regular Council Meeting Minutes

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

**THAT** the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 be approved as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

## 5.0 Public Comment

Speaker #1 - Stephen Anthony, Liverpool, spoke about the new development being built on Old Port Mouton Road, and expressed concern that it has created a man-made waterway.

There were no other members of the public who spoke during the Public

Comments portion of the agenda.

#### 10.1 Variance Appeal – Old Port Mouton Road, Liverpool

Paul Bird, Project Manager for the Department of Growth and Development, spoke regarding the project as the applicant for the Variance Appeal.

There was one neighbouring property who filed an appeal for the application. Stephen Anthony, a landowner, expressed concerns about a man-made ditch located on or near his property. He raised issues related to storm water management and storm water drainage, noting that rocks had been placed up against the property line. Marilyn Anthony, owner of the same property as Stephen Anthony, also spoke, echoing concerns about the man-made ditch and its impact on storm water management.

**Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Jenkins:**

**THAT** Council of Region of Queens Municipality uphold the decision of the Development Officer to approve a variance to reduce the rear yard setback on property identified as PID# 70029210.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

## 6.0 Delegations and Presentations

### 6.1 – Green Shores Program – TransCoastal Adaptations, Kelly Umlah

Kelly Umlah of TransCoastal Adaptations delivered a presentation on the importance of building climate-resilient coastal and lakeshore communities and ecosystems by protecting, enhancing, and restoring natural processes through innovative research, collaboration, and the implementation of nature-based adaptation solutions.

Ms. Umlah spoke about Green Shores, a program of the Stewardship Centre for British Columbia, which supports climate change adaptation by addressing issues such as sea level rise, deteriorating lake health (including algal blooms), and other environmental challenges. The program promotes nature-based solutions that provide long-term environmental and societal benefits.

Ms. Umlah noted that free training programs are available, along with a Green Shores Government Working Group that meets virtually on a monthly basis to build capacity among municipal and provincial government staff across Nova Scotia.

## 6.2 – Path Lake Property Conservation: A Proposal for Collaboration – Nature Conservancy of Canada

Dave Ireland, representing the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), provided an overview of his role with the organization. He noted that NCC is Canada's largest environmental charity and a leading land conservation organization, working to secure properties throughout Canada through donation, purchase, and conservation agreements to ensure long-term protection.

Mr. Ireland spoke about a property of interest to NCC - PID 70067921 - located on Path Lake adjacent to the Port Joli Nature Reserve. The 160-acre property consists of a highly intact, multi-aged forest and provides suitable habitat for at-risk lichen species within a swamp wetland surrounding Cox Creek Brook. The property was given to Region of Queens Municipality in 1988, and is currently a small municipal park.

NCC is proposing working with Region of Queens Municipality by protecting this property while maintaining access for all recreational uses, outlined in the original bequest. NCC proposed that they assume management and long-term conservation responsibilities in one of three ways: a transfer of ownership from Region of Queens Municipality to NCC, an Easement Agreement, or OECM - 'other effective area-based conservation measures'.

## 7.0 Correspondence

### 7.1 Path Lake Property Proposal – Nature Conservancy

**Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Amirault:**

**THAT** the Council of Region of Queens Municipality direct staff to work with staff of NCC to explore options with respect to the Path Lake property.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

*The meeting was recessed at 7:33pm, and was called back to order at 7:40pm*

- 7.2 Letter of Thanks – Queens County Food Bank
- 7.3 Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association (CPAA) Letter
- 7.4 Request for Improvements – South Shore Flying Club

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

**THAT** the Council of Region of Queens Municipality receive all three letters (Items 7.2, 7.3, and 7.4) as correspondence for information.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

## **8.0 Committee Reports**

### 8.1- Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association – Councillor Wentzell

Councillor Wentzell reported on attending his first Annual General Meeting of the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association. He noted that the Association holds monthly meetings via Zoom and consists of a large membership with multiple sub-committees. Several projects are currently underway.

Councillor Wentzell highlighted the *Two Billion Trees Project*, as reported by Adam Deveau. The project involves the planting of indigenous trees, ferns, and other native plants throughout the Southwest Nova area, with 157,170 planted to date on 124.58 ha. The initiative also includes ongoing planting site maintenance and aims to support forest revitalization. Mr. Deveau, a forest firefighter by trade with extensive experience in tree planting across Canada, has expressed interest in presenting to Council. He has recently purchased 70 acres in Danesville with the intent to develop it as part of the project. The initiative is also closely tied to local community groups.

A report was provided on the Forestry Committee and the Western Crown Land Sub-Committee, which addresses the use and management of Crown land. Concerns specific to the county include overuse by ATVs, lack of established fire lanes, water misuse, and general environmental degradation. Additionally, historical concerns regarding uranium in the East Dalhousie area were noted.

Councillor Wentzell discussed how some counties are addressing climate change through participation in the Climate Change Caucus, while also maintaining their own local committees focused on climate action or preparation. For example, both Annapolis County and Digby have established such committees- information he learned at the Biosphere AGM. These counties are working collaboratively through the Caucus while also advancing local strategies, which he noted could serve as a potential model for this Region to consider.

#### 8.2 - Climate Change Caucus, Federation of Canadian – Councillor Wentzell

There was no committee report presented at this time.

#### 8.3 - Pool Committee – Councillor Fancy

Councillor Jack Fancy provided Council with an update from the June 12<sup>th</sup> Pool Committee meeting, at which Elise Johnston provided an update to the Pool Committee on the progress of the pool project. Building permits have been approved, and the foundation is now complete. Construction is progressing, and the project is nearing the stage where wood framing will begin. Myles Harlow, Building & Fire Official conducted a site visit and confirmed that the breezeway must be set out five meters. Installation of the heat pump, approved at a previous Council meeting, is proceeding as planned.

Small details are already underway at Queens Place Emera Centre. Ms. Johnston is actively researching applicable grant opportunities to support the project. A fundraising group has been formed, and initiatives include the sale of sponsorship tiles to place on the bleachers using different colours to indicate levels of donation. The total surface area and square footage required for the tiles will be researched by Ms. Johnston. Other fundraising ideas include a ticket raffle at Privateer Days, sponsorship of a floating wheelchair for pool accessibility, and organizing a bike rodeo.

Additionally, competitive wages for pool staff were discussed to keep lifeguards' interest in staying in Queens County. The next meeting is scheduled for July 24<sup>th</sup>.

#### 8.4 - Queens Community Health Board – Deputy Mayor Charlton

Deputy Mayor Charlton discussed The Queens Community Health Board (QCHB) meeting on June 11. The group remains active, with ongoing recruitment and new members joining. QCHB administers annual Wellness Funds, with six successful applicants in Queens receiving a total of \$15,601.96 in grants (up to \$3,500 for non-profits).

Although unable to attend, Deputy Mayor Charlton noted that the Queens Community Connections Network met on June 18 at QPEC to support and connect local non-profits, municipal staff, and community partners. Highlights include: breakout discussions, a partner spotlight on the Department of Opportunities and Social Development, and shared community well-being resources. From the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities - elected officials are invited to attend a virtual Community Health Board overview on July 16, 12:00–1:00 p.m., to learn how municipalities can support the new 2025–2029 Community Health Plans. QCHB will pause meetings over the summer and begin again in the fall.

## 9.0 Unfinished Business

### 9.1- Municipal Fire Inspections Policy

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

**THAT** the Region of Queens Municipality approve Operational Policy 97 - Respecting System of Municipal Fire Inspections.

#### **MOTION CARRIED.**

*At 8:17 pm, resident David Huskins, Liverpool, asked for the volume of the speakers to be increased in Council Chambers.*

### 9.2 - Revised Policy 23: Respecting Regular Meetings of Council

#### **Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Amirault;**

**THAT** Council of Region of Queens Municipality receive the report “Revised Policy 23: Respecting Regular Meetings of Council”.

**AND THAT** Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve the revised Policy 23, with the provisions as noted within for hybrid and fully virtual meetings.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

9.3 - CIF Recommendation, Capital Funding: Liverpool Tennis & Pickleball Club

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

**That** the Council of Region of Queens Municipality provide grant funding to the Liverpool Tennis and Pickleball Club for eligible Capital project expenses in the amount up to \$5,800.00 from the 2025-2026 Community Investment Fund.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

## 10.0 New Business

10.2 Valuation Allowance

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

**THAT** the Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve \$26,700.96 be added to the Valuation Allowance for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, resulting in a balance of \$87,237.01 as recommended by the Audit and Internal Control committee.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

10.3 Application to Regulatory and Appeals Board: Rates for Water and Water Service, Fire Protection

**Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Carver;**

**THAT** Region of Queens Municipality apply to the Nova Scotia Regulatory and Appeals Board for changes in its rates for water and water service, fire protection to the Region of Queens Municipality and changes to its rules and regulations for customers served by the Region of Queens Water Utility, as set out in the Water Rate Study prepared by G.A. Isenor Consulting Limited in association with Blaine S. Rooney Consulting Limited dated June 16, 2025.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

10.4 Municipal Bursary and Achievement Award Recipients

**Moved by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Roy;**

**THAT** the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality receives the report titled '2025 Bursary Recipients' for information;

**AND THAT** the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve the awarding of the 2025 Bursary funds to the students recommended by the Bursary Selection Committee.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

10.5 Dangerous or Unsightly: 97 East Side Port L'Herbert Road

**Moved by Councillor Amirault, seconded by Deputy Mayor Charlton;**

**THAT** the Council of Region of Queens Municipality declares the property located at 97 East Side, Port L'Herbert Road, Queens Co., NS and identified as PID #70068192 as dangerous or unsightly as defined in the Municipal Government Act of Nova Scotia.

**AND THAT** an Order be served upon the owner(s) of the property requiring that

Within Thirty (30) days of the date of the service of the Order, the Following work be carried out:

1. Demolition of dwelling and one outbuilding;

2. Removal of derelict camper;
3. Construction and demolition materials transported to the Region of Queens Landfill Facility;
4. Levelling of the property; and
5. Clean-up of miscellaneous items strewn about.

**AND THAT** if the owner fails to comply with the Order, the Administrator may cause the requirements of the Order to be carried out and all expenses incurred by the Region of Queens Municipality become the responsibility of the property owner.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

## 11.0 Mayor's Report

### 11.1 Mayor's Report

Between June 13 and 24, Mayor Christian engaged in several meetings and events focused on infrastructure, collaboration, and regional development. On June 13, alongside Councillors Fancy and Carver, Mayor Christian toured the Queens County Fair grounds in Caledonia to assess infrastructure needs and later connected with local businesses. Meetings with the MLA and MP are being arranged to advocate for sustainable funding for the Fair Association.

On June 16, CAO Thorpe began her role. Mayor Christian has been orienting her to municipal operations and commends her leadership and professionalism.

On June 18, Mayor Christian and Councillor Jenkins met with the GMLLOA to discuss collaboration on improving services and safety in the lake land area. On June 19, Council participated in a Water Rate Study Workshop to support the pending application and long-term utility planning.

On June 20, Mayor Christian met with advocates developing a shelter and transition house for those affected by intimate partner violence. That same day, he held a call with Mayor McLean-Wile regarding a regional economic development strategy, with Lunenburg County Mayors/Wardens contributing \$50,000 toward a study. Mayor Christian is advocating for Queens County's inclusion in this initiative and will attend a related meeting with Deputy Mayor Charlton.

Also on June 20, Mayor Christian attended the Summer Solstice Night Market in Brooklyn. On June 21, he was unable to attend the National Indigenous Peoples

Day celebration but extends appreciation to organizers. On June 22, he participated in the POW Summer Carnival's Bucket Dump.

On June 23–24, Mayor Christian and CAO Thorpe met with housing developers in Mersey Point to align on project status and coordinate service expansion.

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

## **13.0 Closed Session**

**At 8:56p.m., it was moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Wentzell that Council move to the Closed Session of the agenda to discuss four items:**

**13.1 Contract Negotiation**

**13.2 Property Matter**

**13.3 Contract Negotiation**

**13.4 Property Matter**

**At 9:49p.m., it was moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Carver that Council return to the Open Session of the agenda.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

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

**THAT** the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality enter into an easement agreement with Susan Marlow for the purpose of installation of a sewer line under a portion of Cobb Street in Liverpool;

**AND THAT** any costs incurred in this transaction be borne by Susan Marlow.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

## 15.0 Adjournment

**It was moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Jenkins that the meeting adjourn at 9:50 p.m.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

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Acting Mayor Maddie Charlton, Chair

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Heather Cook, Acting Municipal Clerk

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Kate Wong, Recording Secretary

Date Approved: July 8, 2025