

**Region of Queens Municipality Regular Council
Tuesday, January 28, 2025
6:00 p.m.**

Watch January 28, 2025 on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/0oyZ1xxAUDk?si=H5qHFOxqTL3YnowK>

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:

Dan McDougall, Interim CAO
Pam Lovelace, Municipal Clerk

Meeting Minutes

1.0 Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

Mayor Christian called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 28 and opened the meeting with a Land Acknowledgment.

2.0 Approval of the Agenda

Councillor Jenkins requested an item be added under 12.0 Business from Members of Council, Waiving of Fees. Interim CAO McDougall requested two

items be removed from the agenda 6.1 Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia presentation and 10.1 Hillsview Acres Operational Report.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Carver:

THAT the Region of Queens Municipality approve the agenda as amended.

MOTION CARRIED.

3.0 Declaration of Conflict of Interests

There were no declarations of Conflict of Interest.

4.0 Approval of the Minutes

4.1 December 16, 2024, January 14, 2025, and January 16, 2025, Minutes

Moved by Councillor Amirault, seconded by Councillor Carver:

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve the December 16, 2024, January 14, 2025, and January 16, 2025 meeting minutes.

MOTION CARRIED.

5.0 Public Comment

Mayor Christian opened the Public Comment portion of the meeting inviting people to address council.

Brock Junkin, Hunts Point Landing Subdivision Association, spoke in favour of the Private Road Bylaw. He thanked Council and staff for the public consultation and expressed concerns about the initial application costs being too expensive for smaller private lot owners' associations. In addition, Mr. Junkin mentioned that the review and engagement report would be too expensive for smaller associations and suggested that having two officers of the society sign off on the financial statements would be a cheaper and more effective approach. Mr. Junkin noted that the restrictive covenants already secure property owners approval for the private road maintenance fees.

Laura Methot, President, Greater Molega Lake Lot Owners Association (MLLOA), thanked Council for the work being done to address the issue of private road maintenance, which started in 2018. Ms. Methot raised the annual renewal process as a concern because the covenants of the subdivision include private road fees. She is concerned that the 5% administrative fee could amount to over \$15,000 for the association in annual overhead costs. MLLOA wants to work with Council to create a simplified process that would not include so much staff time or overhead for the region.

Al Moore spoke against the initial application fee of \$2500 which equates to over five loads of gravel in road costs. He expressed concerns about the overhead costs of getting financial statements certified, and suggested that the Private Road Bylaw is too onerous for small lot owner associations.

Albert Knock spoke about the Medway Area Heritage Society and asked if the church in Mill Village could be designated a heritage site.

6.0 Delegations and Presentations

6.1 Queens County ATV Association

Dave White, President OF Queens County ATV Association, provided a presentation on ATV trails and trail connections. Following the presentation Council approved three motions:

Moved by Councillor Fancy, seconded by Deputy Mayor Charlton

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality direct staff to write a letter of support for the development of trails in the Region of Queens Municipality including a commitment to helping both of the associations to explore available funding programs through Region of Queens.

MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Jenkins

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality direct staff to write a letter of support related to Council's support of the development of trails including road trails that support trail to trail connectivity and connectivity to services.

MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Amirault
THAT Direct the CAO to prepare a staff report that identifies the process required to approve a road trail connecting West Street and Harley Humphrey Drive to the Trestle Trail.

Motion amended to include delivery date to Council of February 25:

Moved by Councillor Amirault, seconded Councillor Carver

THAT Direct the CAO to prepare a staff report that identifies the process required to approve a road trail connecting West Street and Harley Humphrey Drive to the Trestle Trail to be reviewed by the Council on February 25, 2025.

Amendment Carried.

MOTION CARRIED.

7.0 Correspondence

Correspondence was received and distributed to Council.

- 7.1 YMCA Mental Health Letter of Support
- 7.2 South Shore Housing Action Coalition
- 7.3 Department of Seniors and Long-Term Care
- 7.4 Minister Masland, Moving towards Consistent and Impactful
Emergency Response

8.0 Committee Reports

Deputy Mayor Charlton reported on the recent January 22, 2025 meeting of the Queens Community Health Board (QCHB). The QCHB supports community based projects, addressing issues related to the social determinants of health such as housing, poverty, food insecurity, early childhood development, social isolation and more. The two 2025 priorities for QCHB are child poverty and recreation. The Board will be presenting at the February 11, 2025 Council meeting where they will be asking for Council support the creation of an Advisory Committee focused on housing and food insecurity. The QCHB is recruiting for new members to join the committee.

Councillor Wentzell reported on the recent South Shore Public Libraries Board meeting and that the Queens Library will continue to be named Thomas H Raddall Library.

Councillor Wentzell also reported on the first meeting of the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities Climate Change Committee. Queens is not a voting member of the committee.

As an ex-officio member and Interim Committee Chair, Mayor Christian reported on the first meeting of the Dismantling Discrimination and Hate Committee. In December 2024, Council had directed the Committee to review the Mace and Chain of Office Staff Report and offer advice on how to move forward. Mayor Christian stated that the Committee discussed both the Mace and the Chain of Office and considered the creation of a new Chain of Office that could represent the entire Region of Queens more accurately with various elements that identify the Region. The Committee has project funds available that could be allocated to reinvent and redesign a new Chain of Office.

9.0 Unfinished Business

9.1 First Reading: Bylaw No 26: Private Road Maintenance Charges

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Carver

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality amend the Bylaw title from #26 to #27.

Motion Carried.

The Municipal Clerk explained that a Bylaw 26 had received first reading in 2024, but not second reading. Therefore this Bylaw should be numbered 27.

The Interim CAO provided an overview of the process to enact a new Bylaw and the need to make substantive changes to the Bylaw at First Reading. Should substantive changes be made at Second Reading, the Bylaw would have to go back to First Reading phase.

Mayor Christian requested more detailed information on the operating costs of the municipality to deliver the program.

Deputy Mayor Charlton requested more information on the initial application fee of \$2,500 fee and the need to clarify the cost recovery model.

Moved by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Jenkins

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality accepts the proposed bylaw as presented and direct staff to schedule the Second Reading of Bylaw #26 - Respecting Private Road Maintenance Charges.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Wentzell

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality defer Bylaw #27 - Respecting Private Road Maintenance Charges to a future meeting of Council.

MOTION CARRIED.

9.2 Council Committee Appointments

Mayor Christian opened the floor for committee nominations

Moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Councillor Roy

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality appoint Councillor Courtney Wentzell to the Audit and Internal Control Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded Councillor Fancy

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality appoint Councillor Amirault to the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded Councillor Jenkins

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality appoint Mayor Christian as Alternate Member for Region 6 Solid Waste Management Committee.

MOTION CARRIED.

10.0 New Business

10.1 Report: Temporary Borrowing Resolution – Weir Lane

Moved by Councillor Amirault, seconded by Deputy Mayor Charlton,

THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality approves Temporary Borrowing Resolution – File 24/25 01 in the amount of \$280,000 for the Weir Lane Sewer/Water project.

MOTION CARRIED.

10.2 Region 6 Solid Waste Management 2025-2026 Budget

Moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Councillor Wentzell

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve the 2025-2026 Region 6 Solid Waste Management Budget.

MOTION CARRIED.

11.0 Mayor's Report

11.1 Mayor's Report

Last Monday, January 20th we welcomed back Dan McDougall to the organization as our interim CAO. Dan is stepping into the CAO position on an interim basis as we begin the process of identifying our next permanent CAO. I'd like to welcome Mr. McDougall while also extending my sincere thanks to Ms. Lovelace for her service in taking on the duties and responsibilities of the CAO position on an Acting basis. As I shared in my last Mayor's report, Pam made significant strides in her brief tenure as the

Acting CAO, and I thank her for her immense contributions and tireless work ethic.

We, the members of the Council and the Management team have begun the process of strategic planning and priority setting, guided by Strategic Steps Inc. – I'm very encouraged by the quality of facilitators we've engaged to guide this work and are looking forward to a set of facilitated sessions we'll be participating in later this week. Defining our strategic priorities, as an organization, is an important step for us as a new Council to align the vision and priorities of the organization to the realities of our community. This work will provide critical guidance as we start preparation to set our first budget.

We have started to stand up the committees of council and to recruit to vacant positions for community members on those committees. We still have a number of vacancies that we are recruiting volunteers from the community to fill, if you're interested in participating in a committee please contact us at info@regionofqueens.com / or call us at 902-354-3453.

At our last regular meeting of Council various members of the public come forth during the public comment section of our meeting to raise concerns, identify issues and ask questions. I am grateful for the engagement of our residents and encourage any members of our community to come forth and engage with our Council as we seek to improve the way we deliver municipal services and function as a local government. Our Council has been exploring ways to be responsive to and engaged with the communities we serve; we are committed to increased transparency and accountability in this organization, we take this seriously.

- Having said that we've received various questions specific to personnel including disclosure of salaries, details around employee terminations and performance management. Although we're a public organization we, like any employer, manage personnel matters in a private a confidential manner.
- With respect to questions pertaining to procurement, tendering and sale of equipment – I would direct you to Policy 26 (Purchasing Policy) outlines the processes for procurement, purchasing and sale

of public assets; this is one of many policies we'll be reviewing to ensure it aligns with our strategic priorities moving forward.

- Our Council knows there is work to be done, none of us are satisfied with the current state of our organization – we are aspiring to be an employer of choice, to have excellence in service delivery, to improve the efficiency of our operations.

12.0 Business from Members of Council

12.1 Councillor Jenkins:

Moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Councillor Wentzell

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens waive the tipping fees in relation to the dangerous and unsightly property located at 1 Pond Road, Mill Village, PID 70105341 and owned by the Medway River Historical Society. The cleanup is to remove the collapse structure formerly known at the Temperance Hall.

MOTION CARRIED.

Councillor Wentzell mentioned complaints about speeding and the lack of a three way stop at Camerons Corner. There are also concerns about the housing project at Bristol Ave.

Councillor Fancy expressed concerns about using speed display radars as they are effective and slow traffic. He asked if the RCMP could install them. Mayor Christian suggested the Police Board review this option and Police Board Chair Vicki Amirault announced the next meeting of the Board is February 10 in Council Chambers.

Moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Amirault

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens move to closed session.

MOTION CARRIED.

Council returned to Public Session.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Amirault,
THAT the Council of the Region of Queens appoint the following to the
Planning Advisory Committee:

- Stephanie Miller Vincent representing District 1
- Jonathan Bowers representing District 2
- Linda Rafuse representing District 5
- Deanna Armstrong representing District 7

MOTION CARRIED.

13.0 Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Roy, seconded by Carver that the meeting adjourn
at 9:33 p.m.