

**Region of Queens Municipality Police Advisory Board
Wednesday, August 14th, 2025
2:00 p.m.**

Present:

Councillor Vicki Amirault, Chair
Don Kimball, Vice Chair
Deputy Mayor Maddie Charlton
Councillor Roberta Roy
Elaina Gaetan
Kate Wong, Recording Secretary
Staff Sergeant Daniel Archibald
Willa Thorpe, CAO
Andrew Francis
Angela Green
Danielle Desjardins
Kurtis Kamotzki

Agenda

1.0 Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

Councillor Amirault, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:06p.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

2.1 August 14th, 2025 Police Advisory Board Agenda

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, Seconded by Don Kimball:

THAT the Police Advisory Board approve the April 16th 2025 Agenda 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 16th, 2025

Moved by Councillor Roy, seconded by Elaina Gaetan:

THAT the Police Advisory Board approve the April 16th, 2025 minutes as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

5.0 New Business

5.1 Orientation Training with Danielle Desjardins and Kurtis Kamotzki

Kurt Kamotzki, Department of Justice, introduced himself. He shared that he has 27 years of service with the RCMP and now works with policing standards, grants and funding. Mr. Kamotzki explained the structure of PAB boards and how they differ from engaging solely with elected officials.

There was an overview of:

- Overview of the Public Safety and Security Division
- Foundations of Effective Police Governance
- NS Police Act and Regulations
- Establishing priorities for your Police Service
- Overview: RCMP Accountability

There was a discussion on the current structure of the Nova Scotia Department of Justice. The Public Safety and Security Division was discussed.

The Safer Communities and Neighborhoods Act (SCAN) was discussed. This gives Nova Scotians the ability to anonymously report a problem residence or business. Several follow-ups within their scope was discussed.

The Nova Scotia Police Act was discussed. There are 39 standards published in September 2024, however, the Department of Justice is looking to make the standards more descriptive for accountability concerns.

June 2025 Policing Review, and the six foundational changes were discussed.

The matter of the province adding community safety personnel “layered policing” was reviewed. This is an introduction for municipalities to add police strength by using By-law or community safety officers in less risky activities for non-constables.

There was discussion on the introduction of a new RCMP billing mechanism for municipalities to create fairness and equity across the board for how they are paying for their police service.

A discussion was held on effective governance, highlighting the core values of vision, destination, resources, monitoring, and accountability. It was noted that the most successful plans are those that actively involve the community, as responsibility cannot rest solely with the police. Community ownership is essential.

The Nova Scotia Police Act provides the legislative authority for all policing activities in the province. Ministerial appointments are currently handled through the Minister and applications are submitted via Executive Council Office. However, upcoming changes are expected to move away from this process, with a stronger emphasis on appointing community representatives. All appointees must complete a criminal background check.

The role of the Police Advisory Board was clarified. It will assess community needs and values, act as a conduit between the community and the police and recommend policies. Members may raise issues anonymously if necessary. While the RCMP cannot change policy based on a single board's recommendation, the Board provides important guidance and community perspective.

Key take aways as functions of the Board:

- Setting of priorities, objectives and goals.
- Community relations

RCMP Accountability Mechanisms were examined. CRCC (Civilian Review and Complaints Commission) was explained in detail.

There was a brief recess at 3:40pm, reconvened at 3:44pm

5.2 Vandalism at the Splash Pad/Elti Milita'mk Universally Designed Play Park

It was discussed that, due to recent incidents of vandalism, including damage to picnic tables, the park has been closing at 8:00 p.m. Officers

will increase monitoring of the area during downtime to deter further occurrences. A detachment-wide email will be issued regarding the matter. Additional incidents of vandalism in Westfield were also noted.

5.3 Carters Beach Road

It was discussed that Constable Winsor has been issuing tickets, however, provincial tickets under the Motor Vehicle Act cannot be issued in this context, so by-law tickets are being used instead. The RCMP are issuing these tickets when it is deemed appropriate. Discussion took place regarding the possibility of increasing the cost of the tickets, as well as the option of towing vehicles and associated costs.

The Mayor and CAO will speak with the MLA regarding the matter and to determine the province's position. It was suggested that a tow truck could remain on site, with towing conducted at the owner's expense. It was also noted that a new booklet of municipal tickets is required.

6.0 Correspondence

6.1 Shaping the Future: Policing in Nova Scotia -Attorney General & Minister of Justice

Received as correspondence. No concrete timeframe has been provided. The Province is working toward implementing a universal system for all municipalities in Nova Scotia to ensure consistency across jurisdictions. S/Sgt. Archibald expressed the view that it would be acceptable to explore the establishment of a Street Crime Enforcement Unit prior to the implementation of these provincial changes.

7.0 Updates from RCMP

7.1 SWN Street Crime Enforcement Unit Operational Summary

Staff Sergeant Archibald noted that Queens county was the only municipality without a street crime enforcement unit and recommended that Council consider adding one. He noted that he will reach out to have discussions with the CAO and the Mayor.

This report was discussed during the August 12th Council Meeting. Staff Sergeant Archibald encouraged everyone to read through the notes.

7.2 Quarter 1 RCMP Update

It was emphasized that documenting ongoing issues is essential to demonstrate what projects are underway. Members of the public are encouraged to call the police and report drug related problems, as a lack of reporting takes away proper documentation. Reports can also be made anonymously through Crime Stoppers. It was noted that obtaining a warrant has become increasingly difficult without sufficient documentation.

8.0 Unfinished Business

8.1 Additional Officer Correspondence - 2011

There was a discussion around the removal of an officer from the additional officer program created by the province. The municipality had let go of one officer, and in doing so the province removed the officer they had been funding.

Police Advisory Board – Upcoming Meeting Dates

- Tuesday, October 15, 2025 | 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- January 2026 | *To be announced – date to be confirmed at a later time*

9.0 Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned by Councillor Amirault at 4:06 p.m