

Region of Queens Municipality Regular Council
09:00 a.m. Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Meeting Minutes (Draft)

Video Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wbZ6s51p7Ok>

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:

Cody Joudry, CAO
Pam Lovelace, Municipal Clerk

Regrets:

Councillor Wanda Carver

1.0 Call to Order

Mayor Christian called the meeting to order at 09:00 a.m.

2.0 Changes / Approval of Agenda

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

- 11.1 – Electrification at Miriam Hunt Park
- 11.2 – Walking Track
- 11.3 – Grey box sites in Labelle
- 11.4 - Coastal Protection Act
- 11.5 - Mersey Legion Funding for New Year's Levee

**Moved by Councillor Wentzell, seconded by Councillor Amirault that
the Agenda be approved as amended.**

**Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Jenkins that item 12.1 Closed Session follow 4.0 Public Comments.
MOTION CARRIED.**

3.0 Approval of Minutes

3.1 November 25, 2024 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

**Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Roy:
THAT the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held November 25,
2024 be approved as presented.
MOTION CARRIED.**

4.0 Public Comment

Paul Deveau from Brookdale Cres spoke to Council on the barriers people face living with disabilities in Region of Queens Municipality. He asked Council to put a fitness credit in place to support people living with disabilities who need access to physical fitness programming.

5.0 Closed Session

**At 9:20 a.m. moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Amirault that the Council move to the Closed Session of the agenda to discuss item 12.1: Labour Relations
MOTION CARRIED.**

**At 10:56 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Wentzell and seconded by Councillor Fancy that Council return to the Open Session of the agenda.
MOTION CARRIED.**

6.0 Delegations and Presentations

No delegations or presentations were before the Council.

7.0 Correspondence

6.1 Correspondence was received from Mersey Legion #38 for funding request and distributed to Council.

**Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Amirault that Council receive the correspondence.
MOTION CARRIED.**

8.0 Committee Reports

Councillor Jenkins presented a committee report for Region 6 Solid Waste Management Committee. The committee meets three times per year. Councillor Kacy Delong Municipality of the District of Lunenburg is new chair of the Committee. Committee members attended a training session, reviewed the 2025-2026 Committee Budget and meeting schedule. The meeting included a round table discussion. Members of the public can use the Region 6 Waste APP for collection reminders and to search the What Goes Where tool. It can be downloaded from the website: <https://region6swm.ca/wasteapp/>. The Committee report included details on the source of recent landfill fires from lithium batteries. Planned public education by Region 6 will encourage proper disposal of batteries.

8.0 Unfinished Business

8.1: Chain of Office

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Jenkins:

**THAT Council receive the report titled “Chain of Office” for information.
MOTION CARRIED.**

Discussion:

Mike MacLead, Director of Land Use Planning, offered a brief background from the staff report on the Chain of Office and Mace and responded to questions from Council. Councillor Amirault spoke in favour of bringing the Chain of Office back to the municipality and thanked resident Barb Redmond for bringing this issue forward to Council. Councillor Jenkins spoke in favour of using the Chain of Office for special occasions. Deputy Mayor Charlton suggested that using a diversity, inclusion and Indigenous may be needed to provide further information for Council.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Amirault:

THAT Region of Queens Municipality Council refer the report for consideration and recommendations to the Dismantling Discrimination and Hate (EDI) Committee.

MOTION CARRIED.

8.2 Cannons at Tupper Park

Moved by Councillor Fancy, seconded by Deputy Mayor Charlton:

THAT Council receive the report titled “Cannons at Tupper” for information.

MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion:

Adam Grant, Director of Infrastructure, provided Council with an overview of the report and responded to questions from Council.

Councillor Wentzell asked if the report could be referred to the Heritage Advisory Committee. Deputy Mayor Charlton asked about the past promises of Council for the Cannon restoration and agreed the report could go to Heritage Advisory Committee. Councillor Fancy spoke about the potential delay in getting this work completed. Councilor Jenkins stated that any fix would be an unbudgeted amount, and the Heritage Advisory Committee should review it and it could be budgeted for the next annual budget.

Moved by Councillor Wentzell, seconded by Deputy Mayor Charlton:

THAT Region of Queens Municipality Council refer the *Cannons in Tupper Park* report to the Heritage Advisory Committee for further considerations and recommendations.

MOTION CARRIED.

8.3 Airport Financials and Agreement

Moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Councillor Wentzell:

THAT Council receive the report titled “Airport Financials and Agreement” for information.

MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion:

CAO Joudry presented the report to Council to outline the financials and agreements at the airport. Councillors discussed the various amounts of expenses and revenues presented for each group and determined more information is required to make an informed decision.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Amirault:

That Region of Queens Municipality Council direct staff to provide a report with the operational plan for the Airport dated January 2024 and request the financial statements of the Flying club and Drag Racers Club for Council to make informed decisions on future agreements.

MOTION CARRIED.

8.4 Joint Letter to NS Dept. Senior and Long-term Care

Moved by Councillor Roy, seconded by Councillor Amirault:

THAT Council receive the report titled “Joint Letter to NS Dept. Senior and Long-term Care” for information.

MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion:

CAO Joudry provided an overview of the report and draft joint letter to Nova Scotia Department of Seniors and Long-term Care. The Province of Nova Scotia requests the Council to review the governance model for Hillsview Acres Home for Special Care to ensure it aligns with provincial expectations.

Moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Councillor Roy:

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality authorizes the Mayor and staff to execute the letter as presented.

Amendment:

Deputy Mayor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Amirault to amend the motion:

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality authorizes the Mayor and staff to execute the letter regarding transfer of operations and governance of Hillview Acres as presented.

Motion on Amendment Carried.

MOTION CARRIED.

8.5 Proposed 2025 Council Meeting Schedule

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Jenkins:

- 1) THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality receive the report titled "Proposed 2025 Council Meeting Schedule" for information; AND**
- 2) THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve the Proposed 2025 Council Meeting Schedule.**

MOTION CARRIED.

9.0 New Business

9.1 2024-2025 Capital Projects Update

Discussion:

Adam Grant, Director of Infrastructure, provided an overview of the staff report on Capital Projects 2024-2025. He explained there are challenges in the market, with staffing, and that the report highlights the progress status of each project.

Councillors asked questions about the capital projects expressing concerns about construction delays, need for affordable housing, and additional information such as conceptual designs once available.

Moved by Councillor Amirault, seconded by Deputy Mayor Charlton:

THAT Council of the Region of Queens Municipality receive the report titled “2024 Capital Projects – Update” for information.

MOTION CARRIED.

9.2 Building Official Appointment

Mike McLeod, Director of Land Use, responded to questions from Council about the appointment of a Building Official.

Moved by Councillor Wentzell, seconded Councillor Roy.

(1) THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality receive the report titled "Building Official Appointment" for information; and

(2) THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality appoint Myles Harlow to the position of Building Official for the Region of Queens Municipality to administer and enforce provisions of the Nova Scotia Building Code Act.

MOTION CARRIED.

9.3 Queens County Track Society CIF Extension

Councillor Fancy declared Conflict of Interest and left his seat for the duration of the discussion on this item. Steve Burns, Community Economic Development Officer, provided an overview of the Community Investment Fund (CIF) and the request for an extension by Queens County Track Society.

Moved by Councillor Amirault, seconded by Deputy Mayor Charlton.

(1) THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality receive the report titled ‘Queens County Track Society CIF Extension’ for information; and

(2) THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve the Queens County Track Society’s field and running track project CIF funding extension to June 30, 2025, subject to required CIF reporting.

MOTION CARRIED.

Councillor Fancy returned to his Council seat.

9.4 Westfield Community Centre Society CIF Extension

Steve Burns, Community Economic Development Officer, provided an overview on the request for an extension from Westfield Community Centre Society.

Moved by Councillor Fancy, seconded by Councillor Jenkins:

**(1) THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality receive the report titled 'Westfield Community Hall Society CIF Extension' for information, and
(2) THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality agrees an extension of the CIF grant to Westfield Community Hall Society from January 15, 2025, to September 30, 2025, subject to CIF reporting requirements.**

MOTION CARRIED.

9.5 J. Gordon Achievement Award

CAO provided an overview of the report. The school provided a certificate to the student at graduation that they received the award despite the student not being eligible for the award because she is pursuing an Arts degree and not Business. The family contacted RQM for and update on the funding.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Amirault:

THAT Council receive the report titled "J Gordon Achievement Award" for information.

MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion:

Deputy Mayor Charlton suggested the family set the parameters not the Council or school.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Jenkins.

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality direct staff to initiate conversation with the family of J. Gordon Achievement Award to discuss the present request and parameters of the award moving forward.

MOTION CARRIED.

9.6 Safety Reserve – Fire Departments

Moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Councillor Fancy.

(1) THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality receive the report titled "Safety Reserves – Fire Departments" for information,

MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Councillor Amirault.

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality direct staff to ensure the funds in Reserve 52172 are to fund purchases of safety equipment for the fire departments.

MOTION CARRIED.

At 12:38 p.m. the Mayor called for a 30 minutes.

The Mayor called the meeting back to order at 1:13pm.

Councillor Roy left the meeting.

10.0 Mayor's Report – December 10th 2024

Mayor Christian provided a monthly report to Council as follows:

November 27 - Milton Tree Lighting – wonderful event, former member of our council Ralph Gidney was Santa's helper, providing kids with advent calendars and elf hats filled with treats

November 28 - Domtar / Paper Excellence – feasibility update, on track to decide if the project will advance into the public consultation/environmental impact assessment phase in February 2025.

November 30 – postponed date for Liverpool tree lighting – thanks to the SQCC for organizing the tree lighting and to the SSMCA for an amazing multi-cultural display of celebration through dance and song.

December 2 – travelled to Yarmouth to meet with Mayor Pam Mood of the town of Yarmouth – President of NSFM, wealth of knowledge and incredibly generous with her time –community of Mayors in NS are very supportive – I intend to engage as an active member of the Atlantic Mayor’s Congress.

December 2 – Union members employed within our engineering and public works department voted to strike rather than ratify the current offer, this was a very concerning development for myself and my fellow members of Council who would all like to see a good and fair deal for these valuable employees of our organization. Elected officials are not directly involved in the collective bargaining process, we all feel for those employees who are directly involved and are working to understand how we can find a productive and fair path forward.

Dec 4 – Queens County Health Board – Councillor Carver and I attended (although I had to leave early) – would be interesting to receive the presentation from 211 – data on complexity of support needed for residents of Queens.

Dec 8 – Unfortunately, the RQM pulled the float out of the North Queens Santa Claus Parade due to dangerous road conditions due to weather.

11.0 Business from Members of Council

11.1 Electrification at Miriam Hunt Park Gazebo

Discussion:

Mayor Christian spoke on the issue on behalf of Councillor Carver who was not present at the meeting.

Moved by Councillor Fancy, seconded by Councillor Jenkins:

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality direct staff to provide a report on the background and cost of options to install permanent electrical connections for the gazebo in Miriam Hunt Park, Caledonia.

MOTION CARRIED.

11.2 Walking Track

Discussion:

The Council discussed removing the fee for the public using the walking track at the Queens Place Emera Centre and gathering more information to track use.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Fancy:

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality directs staff to remove the \$2.00 fee and promote the fact that the walking track is free to use from Jan to April; and initiate a staff report as per the items listed below:

- a. Data collection on numbers of participants and user feedback during pilot project;**
- b. Historic data on use of walking track from Emera Place staff including popular and unpopular times of days & months; and,**
- c. Expected financial and operational impacts from this four-month pilot project.**

MOTION CARRIED.

11.3 Grey Box Sites in Labelle

Discussion

Council discussed the issue with garbage collection at the grey boxes in Labelle. Residents experienced rodents, crows, and other creatures making a mess of the garbage area. Residents are concerned the garbage is not being picked up frequently enough. The CAO confirmed that garbage is scheduled to be picked up three times a week at the grey boxes, however, the contractor missed a day. A progress report is due to Council on a solution to better manage garbage collection at the grey boxes.

Moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Deputy Mayor Charlton:

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality direct staff to provide a report with updates on the current project to address accumulation of

**garbage and dumping at the gray box sites in Labelle.
MOTION CARRIED.**

11.4 Discussion – Coastal Protection Act

Moved by Councillor Wentzell, seconded by Councillor Jenkins:

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality ask government agencies about enacting our own Coastal Protection Act.

Discussion:

Mayor Christian requested clarification on the motion. Deputy Mayor Charlton mentioned that some Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) members are advocating to the province to bring the Coastal Protection Act back into consideration. Deputy Mayor suggested that the Planning Advisory Committee could consider coastal protection measures during their meetings and could send a letter to NSFM supporting their advocacy efforts.

Councillor Wentzell raised concerns about the need to initiate conversations with other municipalities about the Coastal Protection Act and that the province may have money and manpower to assist municipalities.

Mayor Christian spoke to the motion and suggested Council does not need a motion to enter into conversations with other elected representatives. If a motion was directing staff it would be in order.

Councillor Wentzell and seconder Councillor Jenkins withdrew the motion.

Moved by Councillor Wentzell, seconded by Deputy Mayor Charlton:

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare a letter from Council to Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities showing support for their advocacy of the Coastal Protection Act.

MOTION CARRIED.

11.5 Mersey Branch #38 Funding Request

Moved by Councillor Amirault, seconded by Councillor Fancy:

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve the

**funding request from Mersey Branch #38 for \$750 and for the Region of Queens Municipality to co-host the New Year's Levee with the Region of Queens Municipality.
MOTION CARRIED.**

11.6 – Progress on staff report on Town Lake Reservoir

Councillor Wentzell requested an update on the reservoir conservation which was included in the last meeting agenda. CAO Joudry did not have any updates to provide to Council.

12.2 Closed Session – Personnel

At 1:51 p.m., moved by Councillor Amirault, seconded by Councillor Fancy that Council move to the Closed Session of the agenda to discuss item

12.2 : Personnel.

MOTION CARRIED.

15.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

Mayor Scott Christian, Chair

Pam Lovelace, Acting Chief Administrative Officer / Municipal Clerk

Date Approved: _____