



Region of Queens Municipality Regular Council

Tuesday, April 8th, 2025

9:00 a.m.

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
Heather Cook, Acting Municipal Clerk
Kate Wong, Administrative Assistant

1.0 Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

Mayor Christian called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.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 Region of Queens Municipality approve April 8th, 2025 as presented

MOTION CARRIED.

3.0 Declaration of Conflict of Interests

There were no declarations of conflict of interests.

4.0 Approval of Minutes

4.1 March 25th, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Moved by Councillor Amirault, Seconded by Councillor Carver

THAT the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held March 25th, 2025 be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

5.0 Public Comment

Mayor Christian opened the meeting to comments from the public.

Wendy Vissers, Brooklyn, chair of the Brooklyn Recreation Committee spoke to Council about statements that were made to Council and Brooklyn residents regarding the safety of the Hank Snow Playground. Ms. Vissers stated that she had consulted with the Canadian Institute for Playground Safety, who clarified that older playground equipment can be repaired to bring it into compliance with current safety standards. It was also stated that park and playground equipment is insured and reviewed every two years to keep up to date. She provided clarification to concerns expressed about the Brooklyn Recreation Centre use of funds from area rates, noting that while a large portion of these funds goes toward the operation and maintenance costs of the Brooklyn Community Hall, the Brooklyn Recreation Committee is working hard to lower costs and has applied for assistance from Efficiency Nova Scotia through a rebate program. The Brooklyn Community Hall is open to the public but offers reduced rates for Brooklyn residents due to the area rate costs they incur. The average cost of supporting the Brooklyn Recreation Association for each household is \$38.00 per year, which supports the Waterfront Park in Brooklyn, Hank Snow Playground, and the Community Hall. In 2023, a vote was held among the ratepayers of Brooklyn to determine whether they wished to continue contributing to the area rate for the Brooklyn Cemetery Committee and the Brooklyn Recreation Committee. This vote followed a community

meeting designed to inform residents about the roles and responsibilities of both committees. The community voted in favor of maintaining the area rate for both committees.

6.0 Delegations and Presentations

There were no Delegations or Presentations to come before the Council.

7.0 Correspondence

7.1 Royal Canadian Legion Branch #038 Request to Install Signs

Moved by Councillor Wentzell, Seconded by Deputy Mayor Charlton,

THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality receive the letter from Royal Canadian Legion as correspondence, and direct staff to facilitate the request of hanging the signs to commemorate our veterans.

MOTION CARRIED.

7.2 North Queens Active Living Society – Funding Request

7.3 Letter from Greenfield Recreation Association – Funding Request

Mayor Christian determined that, due to the similarity of requests from the North Queens Active Living Society (7.2) and the Greenfield Recreation Association (7.3), a single motion should be made to address both requests.

Moved by Councillor Jenkins, and seconded by Councillor Carver,

THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality accept the letters from North Queens Active Living Society and Greenfield Recreation Association as correspondence and request for staff to engage with those organizations and provide advice to council about the appropriate funding levels and duration for referral back to the budget process.

MOTION CARRIED.

7.4 Letter from Attorney General and Minister of Justice – Municipality of Queens County Police Association

Moved by Councillor Amirault, Seconded by Deputy Mayor Charlton,

THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality provide a copy of the letter to Councillor Amirault as Council Committee Chair of the Police Advisory Board for their April 16th meeting, and direct staff to set up a link on our website to the provincial application process.

MOTION CARRIED.

8.0 Committee Reports

Deputy Mayor Charlton attended the Planning Advisory Committee meeting on April 7th, 2025, where the roles and responsibilities of the committee were reviewed. New members were provided with copies of the Municipal Land Use By-law. The committee will meet monthly, on the first Monday of each month.

Mayor Christian attended a Fire Services meeting to address urgent issues. The chairs of the Fire Service Committee, along with Mayor Christian, Interim CAO Dan McDougall, and Councillor Jenkins, who represented his district, discussed matters related to the decommissioned fire trucks for the Greenfield Fire Department. They are working with staff to ensure effective correspondence and communication regarding the next steps for the fire trucks.

9.0 Unfinished Business

9.1 Attendance of Council Members at Spring NSFM Conference

Moved by Councillor Amirault, Seconded by Councillor Jenkins,

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens approve attendance for the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities 2025 Spring Conference for Mayor Christian and Deputy Mayor Maddie Charlton.

MOTION CARRIED.

10.0 New Business

There was no new business discussed at this meeting.

11.0 Mayor's Report

11.1 Mayor's Report

On March 26th, Mayor Christian attended the South Queens Chamber of Commerce's Annual General Meeting at the Quarterdeck with Deputy Mayor Charlton, Councillor Fancy and Councillor Jenkins, where an engaging keynote speaker addressed the attendees. Mayor Christian expressed his gratitude for the group's ongoing efforts to support and advance the business community in South Queens.

On March 28th, Mayor Christian and Tara Druzina participated in the Municipal Leaders Table hosted by the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA), a virtual meeting focused on substance abuse and addiction issues in smaller municipalities. Mayor Christian will be traveling to Lethbridge, Alberta next week, funded by the CCSA, to participate in a three-day series of in-person meetings aimed at advancing this initiative.

On April 1st, the CAO Selection Committee interviewed five highly qualified candidates. The committee will proceed with the next phase of the selection process throughout this week. Additionally, two staff members conducted interviews for the newly created HR position, Director of People and Culture.

Lastly, on April 5th, the Thomas H. Raddall Library held its Grand Opening Ceremony. Mayor Christian was pleased with the turnout and acknowledged the need to continue efforts to make the location more accessible to the broader Queens County community. He emphasized the importance of removing barriers to the existing site while considering what a different potential location might look like in the future.

12.0 Business from Members of Council

12.1 Updates from District 3

Councillor Wentzell reported receiving complaints regarding speeding, reckless driving, and improper parking in several areas. In response, members of Council discussed implementing the speed radar signs purchased in 2024, which were last in place in the summer months, while there were summer students in the Department of Infrastructure. Speed radar signs are a known deterrent to excess speed and could be deployed in areas for extended periods. There are many areas throughout Queens that could benefit from their use, and many residents identified areas to place them in 2024. Councillor Amirault mentioned that she and the Police Advisory Board had been awaiting a report based on the readings from the speed radars, but due to staff changes, the report had not yet been provided.

Councillor Wentzell also noted that he has received flooding complaints and

acknowledged that this was a difficult issue before he became Councillor.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Amirault

THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality direct staff to redeploy the speed radar signs, and continue to do so on a regular basis.

MOTION CARRIED

13.0 Closed Session

Mayor Christian asked if there were any objections to moving to the Closed Session of the meeting. Hearing none, the meeting moved to Closed Session at 9:59am

Moved by Councilor Carver and seconded by Councillor Amirault

THAT Council move to the Closed Session of the agenda to discuss Item 13.1 Personnel and Item 13.2 Property Matter.

MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Amirault

THAT Council return to the Open Session of the agenda at 11:52am

MOTION CARRIED.

14.0 Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was **moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Councillor Roy at 11:53 a.m.**

MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Scott Christian, Chair

Heather Cook, Acting Municipal Clerk

Kate Wong, Recording Secretary

Date Approved: April 22, 2025