

Region of Queens Municipality Regular Council

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

9:00 a.m.

Minutes

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

Staff: Willa Thorpe, Chief Administrative Officer
Angela Green, Municipal Clerk

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, and that we all have responsibilities as treaty people.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Councillor Amirault and seconded by Councillor Carver:

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve the September 9, 2025 agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

3.0 Adoption of Minutes

3.1 August 12, 2025 – Regular Council Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Roy:

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on August 12, 2025 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

4.0 Public Comment

1. Francine Cosman, Annis Lake

Ms. Cosman stated that solid waste management is a divisive issue but emphasized that it is not the responsibility of the lot owners. She acknowledged that illegal dumping occurs but asserted that it is not the role of volunteer lot associations to police such activity, particularly given the increasing difficulty in recruiting volunteers. Ms. Cosman noted that the area contributes significant tax revenue to the Municipality and urged Council to defeat the proposed bylaw at first reading, reiterating her view that waste management is not the responsibility of the lot owners.

2. Laura Methot, Molega

Ms. Methot, speaking on behalf of the Greater Molega Lot Owners Association (representing more than 100 properties), expressed opposition to the proposed bylaw and policy changes. She stated that the bylaw does not address the long-term management of garbage sites and contradicts assurances previously given by

Mayor Christian and Councillor Jenkins. Ms. Methot reported that residents are frustrated, particularly with requirements in the staff report that property owners maintain clear grey box areas. She expressed concern that this would divert resources from the Association's core mandate of ensuring safe and passable roads. She further observed that garbage at collection sites is generated by both lot owners and the broader public. Ms. Methot clarified that residents are not requesting curbside collection, but rather equitable and sustainable solutions to the long-term challenges of waste management. She urged Council to defeat the proposed bylaw and undertake meaningful public consultation to develop practical solutions in collaboration with residents.

3. Al White, Molega

Mr. White, who has owned property in the area for 30 years and resided in Queens full time for 27 years, commented on the difficulties faced in managing solid waste. He commended the bylaw officer for her efforts but described the unsightly state of some collection areas as detrimental to homeowners. Mr. White recommended that Council consider relocating collection boxes to more suitable areas, with the capacity for security cameras, in order to improve aesthetics and reduce nuisances for nearby property owners.

4. David Brown, Labelle

Mr. Brown expressed disappointment that the collaborative approach to waste management, as promised by the Mayor, has not occurred. He stated that the proposed changes would undermine lot owner associations, as few individuals are willing to assume responsibility for garbage management. He cited the Labelle Road supersite as an example of heavy use, noting that under the proposed changes multiple sites would be required, potentially necessitating the reopening of garbage contracts, which could potentially be costly to Region of Queens. Mr. Brown also stated that this represents a downloading of responsibilities to volunteer associations. He further expressed concern that residents

in the area receive fewer services while paying comparatively higher taxes, noting that residents must fund their own dry hydrants and that no capital budget allocations have been directed to their area despite millions being spent elsewhere. Mr. Brown reported that residents are discussing the possibility of de-amalgamation from the Region of Queens, explaining that the process would require a public meeting and a petition with 100 signatures. He urged Council to defeat the bylaw and instead establish a committee of Council, staff, and residents to develop equitable and practical solutions, emphasizing that waste management is a collective responsibility. He concluded by encouraging residents to contact their Mayor and Councillors respectfully, noting that elected officials are undertaking a difficult role and should not be subjected to abuse.

At the suggestion of Mayor Christian, Deputy Mayor Charlton moved that Item 8.1, Bylaw #13 – Solid Waste Management, First Reading of Amendments, be brought forward for discussion at this time due to the number of gallery members in attendance for that specific matter. The motion was seconded by Councillor Jenkins and carried unanimously.

8.1 Bylaw #13 – Solid Waste Management, First Reading of Amendments

It was moved by Councillor Jenkins and seconded by Councillor Fancy:

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality accept the proposed bylaw amendments as presented and direct staff to schedule the Second Reading of Bylaw #13 – Solid Waste Management.

MOTION DEFEATED unanimously.

Deputy Mayor Charlton moved that Item 8.2, Operational Policy #17 – Private Road Solid Waste Collection Boxes, be brought forward for discussion at this time. The motion was seconded by Councillor Carver and carried unanimously.

8.2 Operational Policy #17 – Private Road Solid Waste Collection Boxes, Amendment

It was moved by Councillor Jenkins and seconded by Deputy Mayor Charlton:

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve Operational Policy #17 – Private Road Solid Waste Collection Boxes as amended.

MOTION DEFEATED unanimously.

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

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality direct staff to consult with the lot owners' associations, the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Councillor Jenkins to workshop ideas around potential amendments to address garbage collection respecting private roads.

It was moved by Councillor Carver and seconded by Councillor Jenkins that the motion be amended to read:

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality direct staff to consult with the lot owners' associations and Council to workshop ideas around potential amendments to address garbage collection respecting private roads.

MOTION TO AMEND carried unanimously.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

5.0 Delegations and Presentations

5.1 Dr. Nick Hill, Coordinator, Southwest Nova Biosphere Region

Dr. Hill delivered a presentation on the Lakeshore Restoration Project; an Environment and Climate Change Canada initiative aimed at protecting Species at Risk of the Coastal Plain Flora. He extended an invitation to Council to attend an upcoming workshop on lakeshore protection scheduled for October 22, 2025, at Ponhook Lodge Campground, emphasizing the importance of maintaining healthy lakes through restoration efforts.

6.0 Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

7.0 Staff Reports

7.1 Financial Review – 2025 Quarter One

It was moved by Councillor Jenkins and seconded by Councillor Carver:

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality receive the report titled 'Financial Review – 2025 Quarter One' for information.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

7.2 Quarter Two Capital Project Implementation Update

It was moved by Councillor Carver and seconded by Councillor Jenkins:

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality receive the report titled 'Quarter Two Capital Project Implementation Update' for information.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Wentzell:

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality direct staff to come back with options to expedite the sidewalk construction from Millard to Harley Umphrey.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

7.3 Cameron's Corner Intersection Safety

It was moved by Councillor Wentzell and seconded by Councillor Carver:

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality receive the report titled 'Cameron's Corner Intersection Safety' for information.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

8.0 Bylaws and Policies

Items 8.1 and 8.2 were discussed prior to Item 5.0.

9.0 Correspondence for Action

There was no correspondence for action.

10.0 Correspondence for Information

There was no correspondence for information.

11.0 Report From In Camera

There was no report from In Camera.

12.0 Mayor's Report

Mayor Christian reported on activities undertaken since the last meeting.

On August 15, a meeting was held with a representative of the NS Guides Service to discuss enhancements to the pond at Pine Grove Park. Topics included fish stocking, learn-to-fish programming, and accessibility improvements, with potential funding support through the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

On August 16, the Mayor attended several community events, including the Memorial Auto Show in Privateer Park, the Cardboard Boat Races at Brooklyn Marina, and the Hank Snow Tribute Country Music Festival. At the festival, a certificate of achievement was presented to Joe Wood in recognition of his upcoming induction into the Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame.

On August 19, Council members and staff participated in a workshop facilitated by Municipal Advisors from the Department of Municipal Affairs, focusing on best practices in governance and improvements to Council processes. On August 26, Council met with MP Jessica Fancy-Landry to initiate discussions on collaboration and federal funding opportunities. Regular meetings with MLA Hon. Kim Masland also continued during this period.

On August 29, the Mayor attended the celebration of life for community volunteer Devin Whynot. On the same day, a meeting was held with the Principal of South Queens Middle School, along with the CAO and Director of Recreation, to begin discussions on collaborative recreational and social programming between the Municipality and local schools.

Throughout the month, meetings were also held with community organizations and residents, including the South Shore Chronic Pain Support Network, Astor Theatre Society, Queens Association for Supported Living, Privateer Farmers Market, Queens Community Health Board, and Protect Liverpool Bay. In addition, discussions were undertaken with business representatives regarding potential investment in housing development and job creation within the Region.

On September 6, the Mayor attended the launch event at the Thomas H. Raddall Library. An open-house engagement session was scheduled for September 9 to provide residents with an opportunity to share ideas for potential future uses of the new outdoor space.

13.0 Council Reports

13.1 Police Advisory Board – Councillor Amirault

The Police Advisory Board met on August 14. Members received orientation training from representatives of the Department of Justice, which provided an overview of the Public Safety and Security Division, the Nova Scotia Police Act and regulations, the process for establishing municipal policing priorities, and RCMP accountability. The role of the Board was clarified as assessing community needs and values, serving as a conduit between the community and the police, and setting priorities, objectives, and goals.

The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act was reviewed, noting that it allows residents to anonymously report problem residences or businesses. Members also discussed the provincial policing review released in June, which will lead to a universal policing system across all Nova Scotia municipalities to ensure consistency.

Sergeant Archibald emphasized the importance of Queens County considering the establishment of an Integrated Street Crime Unit, noting that it is the only municipality in the province without one. He further stressed the need for the public to report ongoing issues, particularly drug-related concerns, to ensure proper documentation.

The Board also addressed recent incidents of vandalism at the splash pad and universally designed play park, as well as continuing parking challenges at Carter's Beach.

13.2 Planning Advisory Committee – Deputy Mayor Charlton

The Planning Advisory Committee met on September 4 to discuss potential amendments to the commercial requirements in the downtown core. Members considered alternatives to the current requirement that 50% of buildings in the commercial zone be designated for commercial use, noting that this has posed challenges for larger developments.

Discussion focused on establishing a minimum commercial depth or square footage requirement to maintain active street-level commercial uses while allowing for additional residential units. Members noted that smaller storefronts could encourage a more vibrant Main Street, reduce vacancies, provide more affordable spaces for small businesses and artisans, and increase residential density to support the commercial core.

The Committee expressed support for establishing a minimum depth of 6 metres across the full width of any building fronting the commercial zone. Planning staff were directed to prepare draft amendments reflecting this approach, to be reviewed by the Committee later this month and subsequently referred to Council for consideration.

13.3 Labour Day Celebration – Councillor Wentzell

Council received an overview of the Labour Day event hosted by the South Shore Labour Council at Privateer Park in Liverpool. Now in its third consecutive year in Queens, the event brought together unions and community organizations from across Lunenburg, Queens, Shelburne, and Yarmouth Counties to celebrate the contributions of organized labour.

Highlights included a free concert by local musician Jonnie Lake and complimentary hot dogs and drinks provided by the Lunenburg Queens Special Olympics. Numerous community groups and organizations hosted information booths, reflecting broad support for the Labour Movement in the region.

The event also emphasized the historical significance of organized labour in Queens County, noting Liverpool's long history of Labour Day celebrations dating back to 1936. The presence of former Premier Darryl Dexter was acknowledged, particularly his past role in securing pensions for families following the closure of the Mersey Mill.

Council noted the importance of the event as a community gathering and expressed appreciation to the South Shore Labour Council for its efforts in reviving and sustaining this annual celebration.

14.0 New Business

14.1 Runway Line Painting

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Carver:

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve \$4,675.00 plus HST for replacement of the painted runway markings at the South Shore Regional Airport, to be funded from the Airport Reserve.

MOTION DEFEATED with 5 against.

14.2 Mount Pleasant Servicing Extension

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Jenkins:

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality accept the bid of \$8,329,000.00 plus HST from Dexter Construction Company for the Mount Pleasant Servicing Extension project.

MOTION CARRIED with 1 against.

15.0 In Camera

It was moved by Councillor Carver and seconded by Councillor Amirault that the proceedings move to Closed Session at 12:23 p.m. to discuss the following:

- 15.1 Property Matter
- 15.2 Personnel

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Roy that the proceedings exit Closed Session at 1:08 p.m.

Council, by consensus, instructed staff to proceed as recommended.

16.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

Mayor Scott Christian, Chair

Angela Green, Municipal Clerk

Date Approved: _____