



Region of Queens Municipality Regular Council

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

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 9:00 a.m. and acknowledged that we have the privilege to live and work in Mi'kma'ki, the traditional and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. We are all treaty people.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

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

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve the April 14, 2026 agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

3.0 Adoption of Minutes

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

THAT Council for Region of Queens Municipality approve the March 24, 2026 Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

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

THAT Council for Region of Queens Municipality approve the March 3, 2026 Special Council Meeting minutes as amended.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

4.0 Public Comment

1. Debbie J. Wamboldt, Milton

Ms. Wamboldt submitted a written letter raising concerns related to labour and workforce matters at the Region. Her comments touched on the recent Council remuneration increases, which she contrasted with ongoing operational pressures she attributed to the IBEW collective agreement. She also raised questions regarding the use of contractors for work she believes could be performed by existing Region employees, citing specific examples including custodial services and seasonal work previously carried out by unionized staff. Ms. Wamboldt requested that cost comparisons between in-house and contracted work be made available to the public and expressed concerns about what she described as project management deficiencies.

2. Keith McDonnell, Liverpool

Mr. McDonnell appeared before Council to provide an update on what he described as ongoing bylaw violations at the neighbouring property of 307 Main Street, which is the subject of the upcoming site plan appeal hearing. He noted that four bylaw complaints were filed approximately six and a half months prior, three of which he stated remain unresolved. Mr. McDonnell outlined a deteriorating relationship with the owners of the adjacent properties and described a number of incidents he characterized as concerning. He requested that Council seek answers to several procedural questions regarding the site plan approval prior to the hearing, including questions about bylaw compliance, the timeline of the approval, and the approval authority exercised.

3. Kelly Young, Moose Harbour

Ms. Young addressed Council on the topics of community engagement, transparency, and the recent Council remuneration increases. She drew on her personal experience as a lifelong resident and senior to speak to what she described as a decline in accessible civic participation and communication from elected officials. She referenced her difficulty in locating publicly available information about the Region and expressed the view that Council members should be more visible and accountable

in their communities. She also raised concerns about the Mount Pleasant Water and Sewer Extension project in relation to its potential cost impact on residents and questioned the Region's land use planning priorities in light of existing municipally owned land.

4. Darryl Arnburg, Brooklyn

Mr. Arnburg spoke specifically about the Mount Pleasant Service Extension project. He raised concerns about what he characterized as a perceived conflict of interest related to the project's advancement and questioned the adequacy of technical planning around water supply capacity and sewer system capacity to support the proposed development. He requested access to feasibility studies addressing these questions and noted that he had not yet received satisfactory responses. Mr. Arnburg expressed that the project represented a significant financial commitment at a time when residents are facing increased costs and indicated that public confidence in the project's justification remains low in his assessment of community sentiment.

5.0 Delegations and Presentations

5.1 Mersey Critical Minerals

Mersey Critical Materials Ltd. is proposing to establish a battery recycling and critical minerals refining facility at the former Bowater Mersey paper mill site in Liverpool, Nova Scotia, with an estimated capital expenditure of approximately \$55 million CAD. The facility would operate through three development phases, beginning with Battery-In-Device Shredding (BIDS) operations serving Atlantic Canada, progressing through thermal processing using a Multi-Hearth Furnace, and culminating in full hydrometallurgical refining capacity. At full operation, the facility is projected to process e-waste and embedded battery devices to produce purified battery-grade metals including cobalt, nickel, lithium, and copper, as well as precious metals such as gold, silver, and palladium. The company projects a 12-year cumulative revenue of

approximately \$2.56 billion CAD and a Phase 3 workforce of 87 employees with an average annual salary of approximately \$112,000.

The proponent identifies several anticipated benefits associated with the project, including the diversion of hazardous batteries from landfills, reduction of battery-related fire risks across the waste management system, and the creation of a domestic North American supply chain for critical minerals currently refined offshore. The facility's thermal processing technology is modelled on a Multi-Hearth Furnace that has been in continuous commercial operation in northern France since 2012. Mersey Critical Minerals has indicated that next steps include securing regulatory approvals and environmental compliance certifications, completing front-end engineering design, finalizing commercial agreements, and conducting ongoing engagement with local communities, First Nations, and other stakeholders.

6.0 Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business today.

7.0 Staff Reports

7.1 Easement Agreement – Queens Home for Special Care Society

Staff presented a report seeking Council direction respecting a request from Queens Home for Special Care Society to obtain an easement over a portion of Dogwood Lane (formally Queens Place Drive) for the purpose of installing and maintaining private infrastructure to connect to the Municipality's storm sewer system. Staff explained that a misalignment was discovered between the Society's on-site storm sewer infrastructure and the Municipality's completed works, as the Society had proceeded with construction prior to the municipal installation, accepting the associated risk. Three options were presented; Staff recommended entering into an easement agreement with the Society, noting this as the most expedient

approach that protects the Municipality from liability, with all costs to be borne by the Society.

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

THAT Council for Region of Queens Municipality enter into an easement agreement with the Queens Home for Special Care Society for the purpose of installing and maintaining infrastructure to connect to the Municipality's storm sewer system;

AND THAT any costs incurred in this transaction be borne by the Queens Home for Special Care Society.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

7.2 Road Naming in Hunts Point

Staff presented a report seeking Council approval for the naming of a new private road off Beech Hill Road in Hunts Point. The applicants have submitted the required petition in accordance with Operational Policy No. 6 – Naming and Renaming of Roads, with a first name choice of Patricias Way. Staff confirmed that the proposed name does not exist elsewhere in Queens County and that the application meets all policy requirements. Staff noted that a one-time cost of approximately \$350 to purchase and install a road name sign would be incurred by the Municipality in accordance with Operational Policy No. 69, after which maintenance of the signage becomes the responsibility of the road owner.

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

THAT Council for Region of Queens Municipality approve the naming of a new private road in Hunts Point as Patricias Way.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

The meeting recessed at 10:06 a.m. and resumed at 10:16 a.m.

7.3 Equipment Reserves

Staff presented a report providing an overview of the purpose and history of equipment reserve funding at Region of Queens Municipality, in response to Council direction at the March 31, 2026 Special meeting. Staff outlined that two equipment reserves, a general equipment reserve and a landfill equipment reserve, have been funded from the operating budget since 1999, with current combined annual contributions totalling \$450,000. Staff noted that current funding levels are insufficient to cover the full cost of equipment purchases approved in the Capital Investment Plan, with a \$130,000 shortfall budgeted for 2026-2027. Four options were presented, including maintaining current funding levels, borrowing, leasing, or deferring purchases. Staff confirmed the potential to defer the replacement of the Waste Handler this year, and the ability to utilize existing equipment to backfill that need. Staff recommended maintaining current funding levels and returning to Council with a Reserve Policy linked to a completed Fleet Asset Management Plan prior to 2027-2028 budget deliberations.

Mayor Christian requested that Deputy Mayor Charlton take the Chair at 10:29 a.m.

It was moved by Mayor Christian and seconded by Councillor Carver:

THAT Council for Region of Queens Municipality direct staff to remove Item #303 (Waste Handler - Landfill) from the 2026-2027 replacement schedule and remove the \$200,000.00 allocation to the Landfill Reserve from the Draft 2026-2027 Operational Budget.

MOTION CARRIED with seven (7) in favour and one (1) against.

Mayor Christian resumed the Chair at 10:39 a.m.

7.4 Active Transportation Trail

Staff presented a report providing an update on the proposed active transportation trail connecting Dr. John C. Wickwire Academy to the Thomas H. Raddall Library and The Lot and seeking Council direction following the discontinuation of the Connect2 grant program. Staff advised that the Connect2 grant, to which the Municipality had applied with Council's approval at the February 10, 2026 Regular meeting, was cancelled in the Province of Nova Scotia's 2026-2027 budget, and the corresponding \$25,000 matching funds contribution was subsequently removed from the operating budget. Three options were presented: continuing to seek alternate grant funding, proceeding with trail design without grant funding, or extending the existing land use agreement with the South Shore Regional Centre for Education to enable community-led trail development. Staff recommended that Council direct staff to continue actively seeking grants aligned with the project, with any identified opportunity to be brought back to Council for consideration.

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

THAT Council for Region of Queens Municipality direct staff to continue actively seeking grants that would align with the trail project connecting Dr. John C. Wickwire Academy to "the Lot"/ Liverpool Library, and that any identified grant opportunity be brought back to Council for consideration.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

7.5 Council Implementation Report

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

THAT Council for Region of Queens Municipality receive the report titled 'Council Implementation Report' for information.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

The meeting recessed at 11:02 a.m. and resumed at 11:08 a.m.

7.6 Operational Budget Fiscal 2026-2027

Staff presented the sixth draft (V6) of the 2026-2027 Operating Budget for Council review and discussion. Staff provided an overview of the budget's development through six successive drafts since the initial presentation at the March 3, 2026 Special meeting, which had reflected a proposed tax rate increase of 21.2 cents per \$100 of assessment. Through a series of Council-directed revisions and staff adjustments at subsequent Regular and Special meetings, the proposed increase was reduced incrementally to the current draft figure of 3.0 cents per \$100 of assessment, representing a deficit of \$446,922. Changes from V5 to V6 include two *In Camera* HR adjustments and a reallocation of cleaning supplies and training costs resulting in a saving of \$11,800, for a net reduction in the deficit of \$3,360. The accompanying Reserve Activity Report and Reconciliation of Changes Report were also presented for information.

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

THAT Council for Region of Queens Municipality directs staff to fund up to \$40,000.00 from the Accumulated Surplus for the North Queens Board of Trade to create a parking lot at PID #70156120.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

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

THAT Council for Region of Queens Municipality add \$25,000.00 to the QPEC Full Facility Rental revenue line and increase the QPEC Sponsorships/Advertising revenue line to \$55,000.00.

MOTION CARRIED with seven (7) in favour and one (1) against.

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

THAT Council for Region of Queens Municipality direct staff to fund the remaining operational deficit from the Accumulated Surplus, to ensure there is no impact to the tax rate.

MOTION CARRIED with seven (7) in favour and one (1) against.

Mayor Christian requested that Deputy Mayor Charlton take the Chair at 11:47 a.m.

It was moved by Mayor Christian and seconded by Councillor Jenkins:

THAT Council for Region of Queens Municipality direct the Audit & Internal Control Committee to consider and provide Council with a recommended approach to maintenance of the Reserve funds.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Mayor Christian resumed the Chair at 11:51 a.m.

8.0 Bylaws and Policies

There were no Bylaws or Policies to discuss today.

9.0 Correspondence for Action

There was no Correspondence for Action today.

10.0 Correspondence for Information

10.1 Correspondence from South Shore ATV Club

Council received a letter from Nancy Wentzell, President of the Shore Riders ATV Club, expressing appreciation to the Mayor and Council for opening Liverpool to the off-highway vehicle community. Ms. Wentzell advised that 25 club members riding 14 OHVs travelled from Bridgewater to Liverpool to participate in the inaugural Lobster Crawl Rally, noting it was the Club's first sanctioned experience with fully endorsed road travel. The letter expressed enthusiasm for future visits to the area, pending approval of the Brooklyn to Liverpool road travel connection, and commended the hospitality of the community.

11.0 Report from In Camera

There was no report from In Camera today.

12.0 Mayor's Report

The Mayor provided the following updates:

Queens Community Connections Network – Spring Meeting (April 1)

The Mayor attended the Spring Connection meeting hosted by representatives of Public Health and the Queens Community Health

Board. Presentations were received from Nova Scotia Health's Early Years Program regarding supports for young families, and from the Social Hospice and Palliative Care Society regarding end-of-life care capacity in Queens County. The Mayor noted the network as a valuable opportunity for community collaboration. The following community updates were shared from the meeting:

- The South Shore Chronic Pain Group will be hosting *The Art of Resilience* art show at the Astor Theatre from May 5 to 29.
- The South Queens Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting will be held on April 28 at 8:00 a.m. at the Quarterdeck Resort, featuring a presentation on food sovereignty, food security, and opportunities for rural communities.
- The Employment Solutions Society will be hosting a job fair on May 7 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Liverpool Best Western.
- South Shore Sexual Health advised that take-home sexually transmitted infection test kits are now available through library locations.
- Emotional First Aid training, offered free of charge through St. John's Ambulance, was recommended as a professional development opportunity.

NSFM Session – FOIPOP Regulation Modernization (April 8)

The Mayor, along with Councillor Wentzell, attended a Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities session on incoming changes to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy regulations. The Mayor noted the importance of this modernization effort in the context of evolving practices around cloud-based digital storage, data sharing, and information management.

REMO Workshop (April 9)

The Director of Protective Services provided Council with an overview of the Municipality's emergency management functions and responsibilities, and of emerging provincial requirements for all municipal units to participate in a Regional Emergency Management Organization (REMO). Potential partnership options with neighbouring municipalities were discussed. A staff report will be brought forward to a future meeting of Council outlining options and a recommendation for RQM's participation.

Substance Availability Mapping Working Group (April 13)

The Mayor participated in a working group session on substance availability mapping, an initiative led by Public Health. The exercise is intended to inform advocacy and decision-making regarding proximity of points of sale for substances such as alcohol, cannabis, tobacco, and vaping products to schools, social service agencies, and youth support networks.

Wastewater Drug Surveillance Program – Update

The Mayor advised that following a review of the technical requirements for participation in Health Canada's wastewater drug surveillance program, it has been determined that participation is not feasible at this time. The program would require an automated sampler device not currently available at the Municipality's wastewater treatment facility, and participation would otherwise place a significant demand on staff resources.

Closing Remarks

The Mayor expressed appreciation to members of the community who have engaged with Council in respectful and constructive ways and encouraged continued participation in the democratic process.

13.0 Council Business

There was no Council Business to discuss today.

14.0 New Business

There was no New Business to discuss today.

15.0 In Camera

It was moved by Councillor Carver and seconded by Deputy Mayor Charlton that the proceedings move to Closed Session at 12:01 p.m. to discuss the following two (2) items:

15.1 Personnel

15.2 Personnel

The meeting recessed at 12:01 p.m. and resumed at 12:08 p.m.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Carver that the proceedings exit Closed Session at 12:29 p.m.

16.0 Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned at 12:29 p.m.

Mayor Scott Christian, Chair

Angela Green, Municipal Clerk

Date Approved: