

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Municipal Council Meeting- Minutes

Tuesday March 11, 2025

Following the Committee of the Whole Meeting

Council Chambers

Municipal Administration Building

285 Beech Hill Road

Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

Councillors Present:

Warden Nicholas MacInnis

Deputy Warden John Dunbar

Councillor Mary MacLellan

Councillor Richelle MacLaughlin

Councillor Shawn Brophy

Councillor Wayne Melanson

Councillor Gary Mattie

Councillor Harris McNamara

Councillor Sterling Garvie

Regrets:

Councillor Adam Baden-Clay

Staff Present:

Shirlyn Donovan, CAO

Megan MacInnis, Strategic Initiatives
Coordinator

Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk

Tammy Feltmate, Director of
Sustainable Communities

Others Present:

Gallery (in person and by Zoom)

Matt Draper, XFM

Bailey Randle, Antigonish Rivers
Association

Allison White, Antigonish Rivers
Association

Fenn Martin, Antigonish Culture Alive

Cassie MacDonald, Antigonish Culture
Alive

Call to Order- Warden MacInnis

Warden MacInnis called the meeting to order at 7:39pm

Approval of Agenda

Warden MacInnis called for approval of the Council meeting agenda. Ms. Schumacher asked to add the approval of the February 11, 2025 Municipal Council minutes to the agenda.

Min # 2025-035

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

Approval of the February 26, 2025 Municipal Council Minutes

Warden MacInnis called for any errors or omissions in the minutes of February 26, 2025, included in the agenda package. Hearing none, the minutes were considered approved.

Approval of the February 11, 2025 Municipal Council Minutes

Warden MacInnis called for any errors or omissions in the minutes of February 11, 2025, which was distributed at the meeting. Hearing none, the minutes were considered approved.

Business Arising from the Minutes

An update was requested regarding the motion that was deferred at the February 11, 2025 meeting. Warden MacInnis provided an update noting that he and Mrs. Donovan did meet with the representatives from AROYH as committed, and legal advice regarding the requested motion is still pending.

Delegations

Antigonish Culture Alive

Mr. Martin presented on behalf of the Antigonish Culture Alive (ACA) organization, to provide an overview of the group and introduce Cassie MacDonald, who is their new administrator. Ms. MacDonald provided a summary of their partner groups, the services provided by ACA, and some of the annual programs that happen in the community.

Antigonight Art After Dark Festival and the Mural Programs with the Town and County of Antigonish were both highlighted. Plans for upcoming community partnerships were reviewed, and upcoming community fundraising events were highlighted. Ms. MacDonald noted that ACA would be making an application to the Community Partnership Grant program.

The floor was opened for questions from Councillors, and many offered words of thanks and support to the group for what they do in the community. A question was

asked about whether there was a community movement to look at developing an art centre in the community. Warden MacInnis thanked the representatives from Antigonish Culture Alive for their presentation.

Antigonish Rivers Association

Ms. White and Mr. Randle provided Council with an overview of the operations of the Antigonish Rivers Association (ARA), and reviewed their funding sources in the community, including fundraising initiatives and collaboration with local communities including the Town and St. FX University. The environmental initiatives undertaken by ARA was reviewed, and the economic potential of the local rivers was highlighted. Details regarding several restoration projects were provided, and community outreach programs, including the development of barrier-free infrastructure, were discussed.

The floor was turned over to Council for questions and comments. Questions were asked regarding how to direct public enquiries about the local rivers, and comments of support for the initiatives being undertaken by ARA were expressed, specifically the accessible infrastructure developed at Cameron Lake. Warden MacInnis thanked the presenters for their time.

Correspondence

Council of Regional Librarians – Request to Communities, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage

Mrs. Donovan reviewed the correspondence received from the Council of Regional Librarians and noted that at this time the letter was being shared for awareness. The Council of Regional Librarians has identified a budget shortfall and has reached out to the province for emergency bridge funding. Further updates will be provided when more information is received from Council of Regional Librarians or the province.

Members of Council expressed their concern with the potential for cuts to programming or staffing at the local library branch. A suggestion was made to send a letter of support for the request of emergency funding for the libraries, outlining what services the facility provides to the community.

Min # 2025-036

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council sends a letter to the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage to express their support for the Council of Regional Librarians' request for emergency bridge funding.

Motion Carried

Havre Boucher Community Fridge Thank-you Letter

Representatives from the Havre Boucher Community Fridge sent a thank-you letter to the Municipality to acknowledge the contribution made to the community fridge from Councillor McNamara's Special District Grant.

Letter from Hon. John Lohr – Minimum Planning Requirements – Wind Regulations

Mrs. Donovan reviewed the correspondence from Minister Lohr and summarized the potential impact of the changes to regulations outlines in the letter relative to the Municipality's Wind Turbine regulations. Questions were asked regarding enforcement of the regulations proposed by the province, communication of requirements with the public, lifespans of infrastructure, and the location of turbines in protected areas. Discussion followed. Staff noted that the next step will be to update the Municipality's Wind Turbine By-law.

Committee Reports

February 26, 2025 Asset Management Committee Report

Min # 2025-037

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approve adding a sidewalk along the east side of the Church Street Extension from Trunk 4 to the new R.K. MacDonald Nursing Home Facility to the municipality's capital plan.

Motion Carried

February 26, 2025 Committee of the Whole Report

Min # 2025-038

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council utilizes the results of the first phase of the 2023/24 boundary review and proceeds with ten districts for the second phase of the review.

Motion Carried

Min # 2025-039

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approve a sponsorship for the 2025 Football Canada Cup & Eastern Regional Challenge in the amount of \$5,000.

Motion Carried

March 3, 2025 Planning Advisory Committee Report

Min # 2025-040

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council gives First Reading and set a Statutory Public Hearing regarding entering into a Development Agreement to construct a Gas Station with a Convenience Store and Restaurant on Lot 9, PID 10140010, Beech Hill Road, Beech Hill, Antigonish County.

and,

That the Development Agreement be amended to include a clause to require that the sidewalk adjacent to the proposed building meet any accessibility requirements and be kept free of any obstructions.

Motion Carried

Min # 2025-041

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approve the application to demolish the Rectory at St. Margaret's of Scotland Church in Arisaig.

Motion Carried

March 11, 2025 Committee of the Whole Report

Min # 2025-042

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves leasing a five-acre section of PID 10073716 to the Antigonish Area Fire & Rescue Training Centre Committee for a term of ten years, for the creation of the Training Centre, and allow the Antigonish Area Fire & Rescue Training Centre Committee to mark out and clearcut this section of land by the end of March utilizing ACOA funds.

Motion Carried

Min # 2025-043

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council sends a letter to Minister Thompson, Minister Morrow, Minister Tilley, Premier Tim Houston and NSFM regarding their concerns over Bill 24.

Motion Carried

Min # 2025-044

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council appoint the following SPCA staff members as By-law Enforcement Officers for the Municipality of the County of Antigonish for the

purpose of enforcing the By-law Respecting the Responsible Ownership of Dogs:
Jillian Videnova, Haley Doyle, and Earl Lattie.

Motion Carried

Reports from Individual Council Members on Outside Boards, Conferences, and Community Activities

- Deputy Warden Dunbar noted that from February 11-13 he attended the FCM Sustainable Communities Conference in Fredericton with the Municipality's Director of Sustainable Communities, Tammy Feltmate. He also shared that the Arena Board met on Tuesday, March 4th, where Antigonish Minor Hockey presented a cheque for \$25,000 to the Arena Board. Minor Hockey also donated new nets to the Antigonish Arena, and the old nets were donated to the Heatherton outdoor rink.
- Councillor MacLellan provided an update from the ACALA Board, which met earlier in the month and are working on a strategic plan. A request was made to add this committee to the list of committees noted during the Committee of the Whole meetings.
- Councillor Brophy attended a Board meeting for the Heritage Museum, where some human resources issues were discussed and an update was provided regarding the Peace by Chocolate building project.
- Councillor McNamara gave an update from the R.K. MacDonald regarding budget exercises. The plan is to have shovels in the ground for the new building in April. Councillor McNamara also provided an update regarding his involvement on the EDPCC Personnel Committee.
- Councillor Garvie provided an update from the Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management regarding extended producer responsibility and upcoming scholarships.
- Warden MacInnis provided an update from the Physician Navigator Committee regarding staffing and a possible committee name change under consideration.

Motions

Purple Day Proclamation

Min # 2025-045

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approve the resolution proclaiming March 26, 2025 as Purple Day for Epilepsy Awareness in Antigonish County.

Motion Carried

Miscellaneous Business

Ms. MacInnis provided members of Council with an update on the success of the Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser in the community, and shared the thank-you received by the County's team for their involvement in the fundraising initiative.

Mrs. Donovan shared that applications for summer jobs with the Recreation Department were advertised online today. Members of Council were asked to share the posting in their communities.

Councillor Garvie asked if a letter could be sent to the Department of Public Works to address a concerning pothole in front of 27 Beech Hill Road.

Adjournment

Min # 2025-046

Moved

That the Council meeting adjourns at 9:03 pm.

Motion Carried

Warden Nicholas MacInnis

Shirlyn Donovan, CAO