

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg
Minutes of a Meeting of the Policy & Strategy Committee
Via Audio and Video Conferencing
Tuesday, February 15, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.

Attendance

Deputy Mayor Cathy Moore, District 5, Chair
Councillor Michelle Greek, District 7, Vice-Chair
Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson
Councillor Leitha Haysom, District 1
Councillor Martin Bell, District 2
Councillor Wendy Oickle, District 3
Councillor Pam Hubley, District 4
Councillor Sandra Statton, District 6
Councillor Kacy DeLong, District 8
Councillor Reid Whynot, District 9
Councillor Chasidy Veinotte, District 10

Staff

Tom MacEwan, Chief Administrative Officer
Alex Dumaresq, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
April Whynot-Lohnes, Municipal Clerk
Joanne Powers, Executive Assistant
Sarah Kucharski, Communications Officer
Bill Schurman, Director of Recreation Services
Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance
Dave Waters, Director of Business Development, Tourism & Infrastructure
Jeff Merrill, Director of Planning & Development Services
Angela Veinot, Manager of Finance
Darren Shupe, Senior Planner
Byung Jun Kang, Planner

1. Call to Order

Deputy Mayor Moore called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Nomination & Election – Vice-Chair
[MODL Policy 002 – Committees, Section 3.5]

Nominations for Vice-Chair were received via email. Councillors Statton and Greek were nominated. Councillor Statton declined the nomination and Councillor Greek was declared Vice-Chair.

3. Announcements, Acknowledgements, Recognition - Nil

4. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Hubley that the Agenda be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

5. Approval of Minutes of October 19, 2021 (as circulated)

Moved by Mayor Bolivar-Getson, seconded by Councillor Haysom that the Minutes of the October 19, 2021 Policy & Strategy Committee meeting be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

6. Business Arising from Minutes - Nil

7. Presentations

7.1 Federal Ghost Gear Fund

Michael Ernst of Oakland and Al Munroe, both with Titan Maritime, were in attendance virtually to provide a presentation on the Federal Ghost Gear Fund, formerly known as the Sustainable Fisheries Solutions and Retrieval Support Contribution Program (SFSRSCP).

Ghost gear is abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear. Titan Maritime began removing abandoned ghost gear in September 2021 through a federal grant which is due to terminate on March 31, 2022. Mr. Munroe explained there are four pillars to the program: locate the gear, recover it, recycle it, and educate the public on the process.

The presentation had two objectives:

1. Request that Council write a letter to the Honourable Joyce Murray, Federal Fisheries Minister, supporting the continuation of the fund; and
2. Encourage residents to pick up and recycle any litter found along coastal areas.

Mr. Ernst and Mr. Munroe left the meeting at 9:43 a.m.

8. Referrals from Council - Nil

9. Staff Reports

9.1 Economic Development

9.1.1 2022 Internet Update

A report from Dave Waters, Director of Business Development, Tourism & Infrastructure, titled "Internet Update – February 2022" providing an update on internet connections to date was circulated with the agenda. The report covered the following topics:

- MODL Internet Financial Review
- Internet Project Reviews
- NCS – Sweetland
- Eastlink CTI Project
- TNC CTI Project
- MODL Internet RFP
- DNS Phase 1
- Eastlink Cherry Hill Expansion
- Bell DNS Phase 2
- Bell DNS Phase 3
- DNS Bell Phased Projects
- District Internet Coverage
- District Overview
- Remaining Addresses
- Options
- Recommendation

Mr. Waters reported that the total amount spent on all projects by MODL was \$2,656,034. There are 147 district addresses that are still considered underserved and once they are properly mapped, Councillors will receive a copy of their district's map.

Mr. Waters noted there is no interest by Eastlink to see if any more connections are feasible. Bell was able to cost out only 21 addresses and the average cost per home was \$31,780.15. Develop Nova Scotia indicated that they were exploring options for the remaining 147 addresses.

Moved by Mayor Bolivar-Getson, seconded by Councillor Bell that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council request Develop NS to continue to explore additional options for internet service for the remaining 147 MODL addresses. Approved unanimously.

9.2 Finance Department

9.2.1 Proposed Revisions to MODL Policy 049 Property Tax Rebate

A report from Elena Wentzell, Director of Finance, titled "Proposed Revisions to MODL Policy 049 Property Tax Rebate" outlining recommended increases to the rebate and revising the income threshold was circulated with the agenda.

Ms. Wentzell reported that it had been three years since the income thresholds and rebates in the policy had been updated and she recommended that they be increased by cumulative CPI and annually thereafter.

Staff were directed to reconsider the income thresholds and bring back to a future meeting for consideration.

9.3.1 2022/23 Strategic Priorities

A report from Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO, titled “Strategic Priorities for 2022/23” noting the proposed revisions to the strategic priorities chart, was circulated with the agenda.

Mr. Dumaresq explained that the most significant proposed change was in economic development opportunities in Osprey Village. He also suggested that Council should focus on completing the connection of the multi-use trail between Halifax and MODL and MODL and the Annapolis Valley.

There was discussion about the items on the Strategic Priorities chart, and the process for how they are added and removed. Mr. Dumaresq advised that he would discuss the proposed changes with the Strategic Management Team and bring an updated chart back to Council.

10. Mayor’s/Deputy Mayor’s/Councillors’ Matters- Nil

11. Added Items - Nil

12. In Camera – Nil

13 Next Meeting – March 15, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.

14. Adjournment

There being no further business at 11:15 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Whynot seconded by Councillor Hubley that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.