

## **Municipality of the District of Lunenburg**

### **Minutes of a Meeting of the Policy & Strategy Committee**

Held in Council Chambers 10 Allée Champlain Drive Cookville  
Tuesday, February 21, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

#### **Attendance**

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

#### **Regrets**

Councillor Kacy DeLong, District 8

#### **Staff**

Tom MacEwan, Chief Administrative Officer  
Alex Dumaresq, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
April Whynot-Lohnes, Municipal Clerk  
Joanne Powers, Executive Assistant

#### **1. Call to Order**

Deputy Mayor Hubley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and began by acknowledging that the meeting was held in Mi'kma'ki, the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

#### **2. Announcements, Acknowledgements, Recognition - Nil**

#### **3. Approval of Agenda**

**Moved by Councillor Oickle, seconded by Councillor Haysom that the Agenda be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.**

#### **4. Approval of Minutes of January 17, 2023 (as circulated)**

**Moved by Councillor Haysom, seconded by Councillor Moore that the Minutes of the January 17, 2023, Policy & Strategy Committee meeting be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.**

## **5. Business Arising from Minutes - Nil**

## **7. Consideration of Correspondence**

### **7.1 Diocesan Environmental Network**

Mr. MacEwan explained that Municipal Council received a letter from Anne Marie Dalton of the Diocesan Environmental Network (DEN) regarding EV charging stations. As part of its commitment to the environment, the DEN (Anglican Diocese of NS and PEI) was interested in offering church parking lots at no cost, in suitable locations, to the municipality for the establishment of EV charging stations.

**Moved by Councillor Oickle, seconded by Councillor Bell that the Policy & Strategy Committee refer the letter from Diocesan Environmental Network (DEN) to staff for consideration once the Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Study is completed, and further, write a letter of response to DEN indicating the actions that will be taken. Carried unanimously.**

## **9. Staff Reports**

### **9.2 Administrative Department**

#### **9.2.1 Canadian Lyme Disease Research Network Request**

Sarah Kucharski, Manager Corporate Services & Communications, recalled the presentation to Municipal Council by representatives of the Canadian Lyme Disease Research Network, who were working to identify science-based interventions to reduce the risk of Lyme disease and are seeking municipal partners to join them in their research.

Ms. Kucharski stated that this work aligns with what MODL has been doing over the past several years in terms of research and connecting with communities. The time required of municipal staff would be between 20 and 30 hours up to July 2023. Ms. Kucharski would be the representative from MODL.

**Moved by Councillor Veinotte, seconded by Councillor Haysom that Municipal Council approve MODL join the Canadian Lyme Disease Research Network as a partner municipality, and that the Manager of Corporate Services and Communications be the Municipality's staff representative. Carried unanimously.**

#### **9.2.2 Municipal Response to Dry Wells**

Mr. Dumaresq reviewed the PowerPoint presentation (attached to the minutes) entitled, "Dry Well Discussion". The following was discussed in the presentation:

- Background
- Southwest NS: Regional Vulnerability
- Issue Statement

- Options
- Criteria
- Investigation
  - Temporary Relief
  - Bulk Supply – Municipal Utility
  - Bulk Supply – Community
  - Water Conservation
  - Water Supply Financing
- Summary

**Moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Veinotte that the Policy & Strategy Committee direct staff to develop a draft private water supply improvement and financing program for the Committee to review, and further that the Committee direct staff to explore possible sites and costs for a non-potable community supply source. Carried unanimously.**

## **9.1 Planning Department**

### **9.1.1 Kingsburg Coastal Conservancy's Shaubac Wetlands Carbon Project & Carbon Offset Credit System**

Abhi Jain, Sustainability Planner, was in attendance to review the report entitled, "Kingsburg Coastal Conservancy's Shaubac Wetlands Carbon Project and Carbon Tax and GHG Offset Credit System."

Mr. Jain explained that the Kingsburg Coastal Conservancy (KCC), recently proposed to Municipal Council to partner on a project to assess and enhance the carbon sequestration capacity of wetlands within Shaubac lands, and to further develop a tangible toolkit that would enable MODL to assess and enhance the carbon sequestration capacity of other wetlands in its jurisdiction.

The report included the following topics:

- Background
  - Climate Emergency and LCCAP2030
  - Natural Assets Inventory and Wetlands Assessment
- KCC's Shaubac Wetlands Carbon Project
  - Project Overview
  - Project Map
  - Project Deliverables
  - Project Benefits
  - Project Timeline
  - Project Management Team
  - Project budget and funding Sources
- Carbon Tax and GHG Offset Credit System
  - Carbon Tax and Cap-and trade
  - Carbon Systems Across Canada

- Nova Scotia's Cap-and-trade
- Impacts of Federal Carbon Tax
- GHG Offset Credit System
- GHG Offset Credit System – Federal Protocols
- GHG Offset Credit System – How it Works?
- Summary

Comments were raised both in favour and against the request.

- Fits within MODL Climate strategy goals and objectives;
- Minimal impact on staff resources;
- Toolkit designed for MODL future use;
- Ongoing requests for financial support;
- Studies already done on evaluating wetlands; and
- Comments received both in favour and against from constituents.

**Moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Haysom that Municipal Council approve the funding of \$60,000 to the Kingsburg Coastal Conservancy's Shaubac Wetlands Carbon Project budgeting \$30,000 in fiscal 2023-2024 and \$30,000 in fiscal 2024-2025 and, furthermore release of this funding is conditional upon the Kingsburg Coastal Conservancy's application being approved by the Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund administered by the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities. Opposed: Deputy Mayor Hubley; Councillors Bell, Oickle, Whynot, Veinotte, and Statton. Motion defeated.**

## 6. Presentations

### 6.1 Accessibility Act Update

Dawn Stegan, Executive Director and Terri Lynn Almeda, Manager, Accessibility Directorate Nova Scotia, were in attendance to provide the presentation entitled, "Accessibility Act Update to the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg". The presentation included the following topics:

- Nova Scotia Accessibility Act
- Since 2017...
- Access by Design 2030
- Standard Development – Built Environment
- Standard Development
- Awareness and Capacity Building
- Collaboration and support
- Compliance and Enforcement
- Accessibility Plans – Cohort 1
- Evaluation and monitoring
- Government of Nova Scotia – Leading by Example
- Questions and Discussion

Clarity was provided that only new structures and major renovations of municipal owned structures were required to meet the Accessibility Act.

Ms. Stegan and Ms. Almeda left the meeting.

### **9.3 Finance Department**

#### **9.3.1 Hydrant Charge Proposed Policy**

Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance, was in attendance to provide more information on hydrant charges, as directed at the March 7, 2023, Finance Committee meeting.

Ms. Wentzell reviewed her report (attached to the agenda) and advised that hydrant charges currently are levied to all properties within 1,000 feet of a hydrant within the Osprey Village area and that they were first put in place in 2005. Because there was never a policy developed for ongoing maintenance fees, staff have continued to bill based on the 2005 Council motion.

Several options were provided to Council for consideration.

**Moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Whynot that the Policy & Strategy Committee direct staff to develop a policy for hydrant charges to start April 1, 2024, based on Option 1(a). Carried unanimously.**

- 8. Referrals from Council – Nil**
- 10. Mayor's/Deputy Mayor's/Councillors' Matters - Nil**
- 11. Added Items – Nil**
- 12. In Camera - Nil**
- 13. Adjournment**

**There being no further business at 11:35 a.m. the meeting adjourned.**