

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Minutes of a Meeting of the Policy & Strategy Committee

Held in Council Chamber, 10 Allée Champlain Drive, Cookville, N.S.
Tuesday, February 20, 2024– 9:00 a.m.

Attendance

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

Regrets

Councillor Leitha Haysom, District 1

Staff

Tom MacEwan, Chief Administrative Officer
Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO (via Teams)
April Whynot-Lohnes, Municipal Clerk
Joanne Powers, Executive Assistant

1. Call to Order

Deputy Mayor Oickle 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. Acknowledgements/Recognition - Nil

Councillor Greek passed along appreciation from the Barss Corner Community Hall and the Parkdale/Maplewood Community Hall Association for the municipal grants they received from the Municipality. She also extended a thank you on behalf of the Parkdale/Maplewood Hall to municipal staff Sandra Challis for her knowledge, patience and kindness in her assistance to the Association.

3. Public Input – Nil

4. Changes/Approval of Agenda (as circulated)

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

5. Approval of Minutes – January 16, 2024

Moved by Councillor Hubley, seconded by Councillor Moore that the Minutes of January 16, 2024, Policy & Strategy Committee meeting be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

6. Business Arising from Minutes – Nil

9. Staff Reports

9.3 Administration Department

9.3.1 NSCC Well Water Quality Pilot Project

Alex Dumaresq, CAO, reviewed the report entitled, “NSCC Well Water Quality Pilot Project” (included in the agenda package). He explained that an interdisciplinary group at the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) are working on a low-cost sensor and data analysis system to measure groundwater water table quality and quantity and explore the predictive value of the data.

They are looking for municipal partners to help recruit residents to host these devices in their wells over a three-year period. There would be no financial contribution required from the Municipality or participating homeowners. NSCC would cover the cost of installing the devices, and monitor, collect and analyze the data. Municipal staff time would be required to recruit homeowners and participate in discussions.

Moved by Councillor DeLong, seconded by Councillor Bell that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the proposed Well Water Resource Management under Climate Change Pilot Project with the Nova Scotia Community College. Carried unanimously.

Councillor DeLong declared a Conflict of interest and excused herself from the table.

7. Presentations/Scheduled Times

7.1 AIM Network – MODL Regional AT & E-bike Share Network Study

Ian Tenhaaf, AIM Network Service Provider, attended the meeting virtually and provided an overview of the presentation entitled, “AIM Network – MODL Regional AT & E-bike Share Network’ (included in the agenda package). The presentation included the following:

- Who We Are
- The Grant – Connect2
- Goals and Outcomes of Feasibility Study

- Why MODL
- Synergy and Opportunity
- Draft Program Outline
- Request of MODL
- Deliverables & Benefits

He explained that MODL is a leader and aligns with the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies (AIMS) and community goals/needs. The hope is to identify eight to ten potential hubs for docking stations and bike share libraries. MODL is asked to provide a letter of support and funding to a maximum of \$9,500.

Mr. Tenfaaf left the meeting at 9:54 a.m. and Councillor DeLong returned to the Council table at 9:54 a.m.

The meeting recessed at 9:54 a.m. and resumed at 10:04 a.m.

8. Referrals from Council – Nil

9. Staff Reports

9.1 Recreation Department

9.1.1 Re-create Parks Update

Marta Selassie, Trails & Open Space Coordinator, and Maria Butts, Project Coordinator, reviewed the Re-create Parks Update (included in the agenda package). The update included the following topics:

- Park Categories
- Regional Park
- Destination Park
- Neighbourhood Park
- Parkette
- Conservation Land
- Sport Park
- New Steps
- Maintenance Standards
- Park Engagement Survey Results

Councillor Whynot left the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

There were questions and discussion including the survey results, design and size of washrooms, lack of playgrounds throughout MODL, and maintenance and repair to park equipment.

9.1.2 Proposed Amendment to MODL Policy 043 – Community Grants Program/Sponsorship Request

Trudy Payne, Director of Recreation, reviewed the presentation entitled “Community Grants/Sponsorship Request – Policy MODL 043,” (included in the agenda package) and it included the following topics:

- Main Changes Being Proposed
- Status of Grant Categories – Forecast 2023/2024
- Impact to the Budget

Ms. Payne recalled that Council had given direction to review the Community Grants Policy, and bring back potential amendments that included:

- An Adult Subsidy Program similar to the PRO Kids Program and create a separate policy;
- To come back with a better definition of what constitutes a community event and what constitutes a major event; and
- To look at the elite athlete grant criteria.

It was also noted that the caps on dollar amounts should be removed in all categories.

Moved by Councillor Veinotte, seconded by Councillor Greek that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommend that Municipal Council amend MODL Policy 043 Community Grants Program/Sponsorship Request as presented and amended, and hereby gives 7 days’ notice of Council’s intention to adopt the amended policy at the February 27, 2024, Council Meeting. Carried unanimously.

Councillor Statton left the meeting at 11:47 a.m.

Councillor Whynot returned to the meeting at 11:49am.

9.1.3 Proposed MODL Policy 098 – Recreation Subsidy Program

Tissy Bolivar, Program Coordinator, reviewed the report entitled, “Adopt MODL Policy 098 – Recreation Subsidy Program” (included in the agenda package).

Ms. Bolivar advised that Municipal Council directed staff to develop an adult recreation subsidy policy similar to the PRO Kids Program. Staff are recommending that a recreation subsidy policy be created separate from the Grants Policy as the funding provided is a subsidy as opposed to a grant.

Moved by Councillor Greek, seconded by Councillor Hubley that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommend that Municipal Council adopt MODL Policy 098 Recreation Subsidy Program as presented and hereby gives 7 days’ notice of Council’s intention to adopt the policy at the February 27, 2024, Council meeting. Carried unanimously.

Recessed for lunch at 11:55 a.m. and resumed at 12:20 p.m.

9.1.4 Project Volunteer

Sandra Challis, Administrative Assistant, reviewed the presentation entitled, “Project Volunteer” (included in the agenda package). The presentation included the following topics:

- Background
- Project Outline
- Our Partners
- Phase 1 – Survey
- Promotion
- Initial Results
- What Next?

9.1.5 Anti-Racism Charter in Recreation

Andrew LeBlanc, Active Living Coordinator, reviewed the presentation entitled, “Policy & Strategy: Anti-Racism Charter” (included in the agenda package) which included these topics:

- Anti-Racism Charter in Recreation
- Areas of Focus
- IDEA at MODL
- What’s Next?

Mr. LeBlanc reviewed the four actions/commitments outlined in the Anti-Racism Charter in Recreation. He encouraged Council to sign the Anti-Racism Charter in Recreation and to continue to execute actions in the IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equality and Acceptance) at MODL Strategic Action Plan.

Moved by Councillor Hubley, seconded by Councillor DeLong that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommends that Municipal Council adopt and authorize the Mayor to sign the Anti-Racism Charter as presented. Carried unanimously.

9.2 Planning Department

9.2.1 Proposed MODL Policy 097 – Anti-Idling Policy

Kayla Winsor, Climate Action Coordinator, reviewed the report entitled, “Adoption of Policy Modl 097 – Anti-idling Policy (Included in the agenda package). She explained that the creation of an Anti-Idling Policy was outlined in the Local Climate Change Action Plan 2030 (LCCAP2030), specifically Action 6, under Low-Carbon Transportation Category. It aims to establish an anti-idling policy for the municipality within the 2022-2024 timeframe.

The policy strongly encourages all individuals operating vehicles within the municipality, including Idle-Free Zones, to limit idling to one minute or less. It was noted that signage should

be placed at all MODL parks and facilities and that the policy focuses on education rather than enforcement.

Moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor DeLong that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommends that Municipal Council adopt MODL 097 – Anti-idling Policy, as presented, and hereby gives 7 days’ notice of Council’s intention to adopt the policy at the February 27, 2024, Council meeting. Carried unanimously.

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

11. Added Items - Nil

12. In Camera - Nil

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.