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## **Policy & Strategy Committee Meeting Agenda**

**Tuesday, September 17, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.**

**MODL Council Chambers, 10 Allée Champlain Drive Cookville NS**

**1. Call to Order**

1.1. Mi'kma'ki Territorial Acknowledgement

**2. Announcements, Acknowledgements, Recognition**

2.1 Proclamation – Right to Know Week, September 23 to 29, 2024

**3. Public Input (15 Minutes)**

**4. Changes/Approval of Agenda (as circulated)**

**5. Approval of Minutes – July 16, 2024**

**6. Business Arising from Minutes - Nil**

**7. Presentations/Scheduled Times - Nil**

**8. Referral from Council - Nil**

**9. Staff Reports**

**9.1 Recreation Department**

9.1.1 Good Neighbour Builders Society Funding Request..... 1-3

**10. Mayor's/Deputy Mayor's/Councillors' Matters**

10.1 Common Lands at Broad Cove Beach (Councillor Haysom) ..... 4

10.2 Fire Service Agreement between Town of Mahone Bay and (Councillor DeLong) ..... 5  
MODL for Provision of Fire Service to Oakland and Clearland

**11. Added Items**

**12. In Camera**

12.1 Land Negotiation under Section 22(2)(a) of the MGA

12.2 Land Negotiation under Section 22(2)(a) of the MGA

**13. Adjournment**



## Municipality of the District of Lunenburg Request for Decision

**Report to:** Policy & Strategy Committee

**Submitted by:** Trudy Payne, Director of Recreation, Parks, & Tourism

**Date:** September 17, 2024

**Re:** Good Neighbour Builders Society Request

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### Recommendations

That Council award \$8,000 to the Good Neighbour Builders Project from the Council contingency fund and that these funds be contingent upon the Project receiving sufficient funding from other partners to enable the project to be implemented in MODL and approve the in-kind and staff support requested as outlined in the presentation made to Council.

### Executive summary

At the May 14, 2024, Barry Braun with the Good Neighbor Builders Society made a presentation requesting financial, in-kind and staff support for a Happy Community Project in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg.

According to Mr. Braun, the Good Neighbour Method is a comprehensive neighbour connecting program. It's based on the latest science for transforming culture and creating belonging. It recognizes that people are afraid to connect with their neighbours and that people are busy. That is why they designed the program to be safe, fun and easy.

The Vision of the Society is that "it is normal for neighbours to know each other, care for each other and support each other. What we consider normal is embedded in culture. We are committed to changing the culture. We are committed to creating communities where people feel comfortable knowing their neighbours. Communities where trust comes before fear."

The approach of the Society is using to achieve this vision is a 5-step connection process. The steps are:

1. **Find** a buddy, a friend, or a neighbour to help you connect with your neighbourhood.
2. **Create** an event as a neighbourhood connecting opportunity.
3. **Connect** with each other using the good neighbour app.
4. **Discuss** what is a good neighbour, why neighbours are important, and ask for agreement that we want to be good neighbours.
5. **Maintain** and strengthen connections.

The best way to make social connections is face-to-face. This program provides for those face-to-face opportunities.

The effectiveness of the Happy Community Project Tool Kit that was developed has been recognized internationally by several universities such as Yale, Dalhousie, Dundee, Acadia, Mount Saint Vincent, and Saint Mary's. The Project was also recognized in the Nova Scotia Legislature.

Dawn Henwood, PhD, Founder of Clarity Connect stated that "When you get connected with your neighbors and discover their gifts, great things happen!"

The specific ask of the Municipality is:

1. Provide In-Kind Services for event space and audio-visual equipment for any kick-off events and celebratory festivals.
2. Minimize barriers for neighbourhoods to hold neighbourhood events, such as street parties or events in parks.
3. Support communications for the Good Neighbour Project.
4. Someone on municipal staff to be trained to provide long-term management.
5. Co-apply for grants to support the Project in the Municipality.
6. Help them build collaborative relationships with other non-profit organizations
7. Fund 10% of the Project Costs (between \$8-\$10,000)

## **Conclusion**

This project is about bringing neighbours together to build strong and resilient neighbourhoods. It involves working with municipalities, members of communities and non-profit groups to build strong neighbourhoods. Research has shown this helps with social connections. Being socially connected makes for happier, healthier and more productive people. As outlined in the

presentation, “communities that have high levels of social connectedness have lower crime rates, greater volunteerism and more community engagement. As a bonus, they also have greater economic activity”. Former Mayor of Windsor, Mayor Allen, made the following comment, “The Happy Community Project has encouraged a lot of people in our community to get involved and to make things happen. I see a big difference.” Supporting this project through funding, in-kind and staff support would aid in getting communities connected or further connected leading to more social connections being made in the Municipality.

<b>Report Preparation</b>	
<b>Department</b>	Recreation, Parks, & Tourism
<b>Report Prepared by</b>	Trudy Payne, Director of Recreation, Parks & Tourism
<b>Report Approved by</b>	
<b>Date Reviewed by C.A.O.</b>	

## Request for Agenda Items under Mayor's/Deputy Mayor's/Councillors' Matters

TO: Chief Administrative Officer  
FROM: Leitha Haysom  
DATE: Sept 9 2024

1. Agenda Item

Common Lands at Broad Cove Beach

2. On what agenda do you want the item placed?

Soonest Possible

3. Do you have written material to circulate with the agenda? Yes  No

If you do, please attach it to this form. If you do not, please explain.

4. What is its relevance to Council or the committee?

MODL has recieved correspondence from DNRD indicating they will not proceed with the "Owner Unknown" Process for the Broad Cove common lands.

I would like an update on the reasoning, as well as discussion about next steps.

5. What outcome(s) are you seeking?

My hope is that council will move to proceed with other options regarding the common lands as outline by CAO. I'm also hoping that members of the Broac Cove Community Association can be notified and included in the discussion.

Leitha Haysom  
Councillor's Signature

Digitally signed by Leitha Haysom  
Date: 2024.09.08 12:57:46 -03'00'

September 9 2024  
Date

Approval for agenda: Yes  No

Reason for Denial:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor or Chair of Committee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Request for Agenda Items under Mayor's/Deputy Mayor's/Councillors' Matters

TO: Chief Administrative Officer  
FROM: Kacy DeLong  
DATE: Sept. 9, '24

1. Agenda Item

Direction to staff to provide Council a report on cost for fire services from ToMB, covering the need for a formalized agreement between the two municipal units

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2. On what agenda do you want the item placed?

Policy and Strategy, Sept 16, 2024

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3. Do you have written material to circulate with the agenda? Yes  No

If you do, please attach it to this form. If you do not, please explain.

verbal update to be provided

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4. What is its relevance to Council or the committee?

I have heard from a number of concerned residents that there is no formalized agreement between the  
Town of Mahone Bay and MODL for provision of fire services to the communities of Oakland and Clearland.

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5. What outcome(s) are you seeking?

I would like staff to pursue this with the town and provide Council with a report. This might include whether it is possible to  
utilize a fire commission model.

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K. DeLong  
Councillor's Signature

Sept 10, '24  
Date

Approval for agenda: Yes  No

Reason for Denial:

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor or Chair of Committee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date