

## **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, July 21, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.

#### **Attendance**

Councillor Chasidy Veinotte, District 10 (Chair)

Councillor Martin Bell, District 2 (Vice Chair)

Mayor Elspeth McLean-Wile

Councillor Morgen Reinhardt, District 1

Councillor Wendy Oickle, District 3

Councillor Pam Hubley, District 4

Councillor Alison Smith, District 6

Councillor Edgar Burns, District 7

Councillor Kacy DeLong, District 8

Vacant, District 9

#### **Regrets**

Councillor Cathy Moore, District 5

#### **Staff**

Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO

April Whynot-Lohnes, Municipal Clerk

Lisa Andrews, Executive Assistant

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

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

#### **2. Announcements/Acknowledgements/Recognition**

Councillor Smith acknowledged the successful launch event at Indian Falls Park and noted the accessibility improvements as they benefit not only individuals with disabilities but also emergency responders.

#### **3. Public Input – Nil**

#### **4. Approval of Agenda**

**Moved by Mayor McLean-Wile, seconded by Councillor Oickle that the Agenda be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.**

#### **5. Approval of Minutes – June 16, 2026**

**The Minutes of the June 16, 2026, Policy & Strategy Committee meeting were approved as circulated.**

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

**7. Presentations**

**7.1 The Riverport Connector Project**

Annabel Westell, Executive Director and Robert Meyer, Board Member, Kingsburg Coastal Conservancy (KCC) presented the Riverport Connector Project (circulated with Agenda) – a link between the Riverport Community Park and the Indian Path Commons.

Highlights of the Presentation

- Goals for the project
- KCC Partnerships
- Proposed Project
- Current Activities

Councillor DeLong arrived at 9:23 a.m.

Discussion

- The connector will consist of natural paths, with accessible trail connections provided through Riverport Community Park where feasible.
- Balancing conservation, recreation, and traditional uses (ATVs and hunting), with an emphasis on coexistence, thoughtful trail design, and ongoing public engagement.
- Highlighted continued collaboration with municipal staff and conservation partners to guide trail planning, environmental stewardship, and community consultation.

**8. Referrals from Council - Nil**

**9. Staff Reports**

**9.1 Recreation, Parks & Tourism**

**9.1.1 PRO Kids and PRO Fund 2025-2026 Recap**

Tissy Bolivar, Program Coordinator provided a recap of the 2025 –2026 PRO Kids and PRO Fund Program (circulated with Agenda).

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Top Activities Funded by Recipients
- Breakdown of Underrepresented Communities
- Recipient Testimonials

## Discussion

- Council discussed differences in Pro Kids program uptake across districts and questioned whether awareness, eligibility, demographics, or access to recreation opportunities contributed to lower participation in some areas.
- Staff advised that both organized programs and private instructors are eligible for funding and suggested population differences may partially explain varying application numbers, but no definitive cause had been identified.
- Transportation was discussed as a potential barrier; staff noted support can be considered when needed, although it has not been commonly identified by applicants.

## **9.2 Administration**

### **9.2.1 Community Development – Discussion Guide for Project Assessment**

Shannon MacKay and Kwan Ki Tsoi, Policy Analyst Summer Students, gave a presentation on Community Development – Discussion Guide for Project Assessment (circulated with Agenda) and distributed a draft Discussion Guide at the meeting (attached to Minutes).

## Highlights

- Rationale for a Discussion Guide
- Overview of the Themes in the Discussion Guide
- Alignment with MODL's Strategic Priorities
- Next Steps

## Discussion

- Council supported the proposed Community Development Discussion Guide and recommended incorporating community development principles, volunteerism, relationship building, and support for emerging community groups.
- The Guide should also include a recognition of both the value of volunteer capacity and the need to consider volunteer demands when evaluating projects.
- Council discussed using the guide as an internal decision-making tool while also developing a simplified public version to help community groups prepare proposals aligned with Council's expectations.
- Importance of allowing adequate time for effective relationship building within community.

**Council recessed at 10:05 a.m. and reconvened at 10:19 a.m.**

## **7.2 Nova Scotia Working Woodland Trust - Request for Letter of Support**

Mary Jane Rodger, Executive Director and Mykal Koloff, Stewardship Coordinator with the NS Working Woodland Trust were in attendance to request a Letter of Support from MODL Council for their proposed water and wildfire resilience project to be submitted to the Nova Scotia Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund (circulated with Agenda).

If approved, the project would be fully funded and would develop wildfire and watershed risk mapping, along with a decision-support tool to support municipal planning and landowner engagement.

Discussion:

- Council expressed strong support for the project and its alignment with MODL's priorities for conservation, climate resilience, and wildfire preparedness.
- Members recognized the value of ACFOR's experience and the project's potential community benefits.
- Council discussed staff capacity for a liaison role and clarified that no financial contribution from MODL was required.
- Council supported providing a letter of support for the grant application and further discussion on project involvement as needed.

The Municipal Clerk explained that procedures dictate that no decisions are made after a presentation; however, as this is a time sensitive matter, Council could suspend its usual procedures by unanimous consent and give direction for a letter to be signed by the Mayor on behalf of Council. The decision would follow at the July 28, 2026, Council meeting where the decision would be ratified.

By show of hands, there was unanimous agreement, by Council, to suspend procedure and provide direction to staff to prepare a Letter of Support.

### **9.3 Planning & Development**

#### **9.3.1 Annual Emergency and Climate Change Impact Survey Results**

Kayla Winsor, Climate Action Coordinator, presented an overview of the Annual Emergency and Climate Change Impact Survey results for 2026 (circulated with Agenda).

The survey was open from March 3 – 31, 2026 and 250 electronic surveys were received. Survey questions were related to demographics, full time versus seasonal residents, age, household composition, and climate change impacts and concerns.

Discussion

- Expanding education and programming, including promoting FireSmart initiatives and Water Supply Upgrade Programs.

Councillor DeLong left the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

- Improvements required to future surveys to increase participation and making the survey more accessible to residents.
- Considering the infrastructure – prevention and regulations in place to minimize risks.

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

**11. Added Items - Nil**

**12. In Camera**

**At 11:19 a.m. it was moved by Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Hubley that the Policy & Strategy Committee go In Camera to discuss the following items:**

**12.1 Contract Negotiations under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA**

**Carried.**

Policy & Strategy Committee In Camera in session.

**At 12:09 p.m., the Policy & Strategy Committee came out of In Camera and returned to open session.**

Policy & Strategy Committee in session.

**13. Adjournment**

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:09 p.m.**

## Community Development Project Discussion Guide – Draft

| Theme                                  | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Community Leadership and Collaboration | Demonstrates strong local leadership and a commitment to long-term ownership and stewardship of the project.<br>Involves meaningful collaboration, with support across organizations, communities, and/or population groups. |
| Alignment and Need                     | Aligns with municipal priorities.<br>Responds to a clearly identified community need, informed by public engagement.                                                                                                         |
| Impact                                 | Clearly demonstrates how well the proposed project would address the identified need.                                                                                                                                        |
| Inclusiveness and Community Building   | Supports social inclusion, including considerations for equity, diversity, and accessibility.<br>Strengthens connections among community members.<br>Builds on existing community assets and volunteer capacity.             |
| Sustainability and Balance             | Reflects a balanced approach by integrating economic, social, environmental, and recreational/cultural considerations.<br>Demonstrates long-term sustainability within available community and organizational resources.     |

### Reflection Questions:

- Does this project advance our community and strategic priorities?
- Is there a clear community benefit that justifies municipal support?
- Is the project positioned for success and long-term sustainability?