

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, April 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 Cathy Moore, District 5
Councillor Alison Smith, District 6
Councillor Edgar Burns, District 7
Councillor Ben Brooks, District 9

Absent

Councillor Kacy DeLong, District 8

Staff

Tom MacEwan, Chief Administrative Officer
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 9:02 a.m.

2. Announcements/Acknowledgements/Recognition - Nil

3. Public Input

Joan Marsh, Concordia Drive, expressed concerns regarding the possible development on William Hebb Road by Haven Hills Development and the impact it may have on the water, sewer and property value.

Lisa Baglole, Meadowbrook Subdivision, asked that Council consider traffic and road conditions, noting the gravel road would deteriorate with increased use, and emphasized that while there was no opposition to the development, it required safe and adequate infrastructure support.

Tom MacEwan, CAO, noted Haven Hills was still in the proposal stage, with a possible application to follow that would include public input through a Development Agreement,

stormwater and septic approvals, and any road upgrades requiring Council approval, with details to be shared on the Engage MODL website if approved.

4. Approval of Agenda

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

5. Approval of Minutes – March 17, 2026

The Minutes of the March 17, 2026, Policy & Strategy Committee meeting were approved as circulated.

6. Business Arising from Minutes – Nil

7. Presentations – Nil

8. Referrals from Council - Nil

9. Staff Reports

9.1 Administration

9.1.1 Proposed Amendments Policy 058

April Whynot-Lohnes, Municipal Clerk, reviewed the report “Proposed Amendments to Policy 058 Fees” (circulated with Agenda), requesting Municipal Council to approve amendments to Policy 058 Fees as outlined in the report.

Moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Brooks that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommend that Municipal Council approve the proposed amendments to Policy 058, Fees as presented and hereby gives 7 days’ notice of its intention to adopt on April 28, 2026. Carried unanimously.

9.1.2 Update on Strategies Priorities Work

Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO, reviewed the information report “Update on Strategies Priorities Work” (circulated with Agenda) and presented an overview (attached with Minutes).

Presentation highlights:

- Reviewed Strategic Priorities and provided a quarterly status update of those items completed, in progress, and highest priority projects
- Next update will September 2026

Discussion on Strategic Priorities:

FireSmart program

Staff advised that a funding request for a Fire Smart coordinator had been submitted and a response was still pending, noting the project depended on funding and may return to Council for direction if unsuccessful.

Seniors' Safety Program

It was noted that the Province did not increase funding for this program; however, advocacy efforts are ongoing

Regional Transit

It was noted that recent provincial news on bus service from Halifax to Bridgewater, would align to ensure opportunities for the Municipality.

Dog By-law

Concerns were raised about the outdated dog by-law and recent incidents and encouraged prioritizing its review. Clarification was sought on its link to animal control services and enforcement. While staff noted the by-law governs regulation, contracts support enforcement, and updates are in progress, timing depends on capacity and public engagement considerations.

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

11. Added Items

12. In Camera

At 9:37 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Oickle, seconded by Mayor McLean-Wile that the Policy & Strategy Committee go In Camera to discuss the following items:

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

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

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

12.4 Personnel Item under Section 22(2)(c) of the MGA

The Motion was carried unanimously.

Policy & Strategy Committee In Camera in session.

At 11:30 a.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 11:30 a.m.



Projects Update

Policy and Strategy Committee

April 2026



Background

- Purpose today:
 - Review completed projects
 - Provide status updates in advance of starting new cycle of strategic planning
 - No decisions required



Background

Council Strategic Priorities (2026-2027)

				
Quality of Life, Affordability, & Social Inclusion Programs that support residents through rising costs and social challenges.	Infrastructure Upgrades, Expansion & Management Supporting a growing municipality through planned investments and asset management.	Regional Economic Development Investing in initiatives that strengthen the regional economy and prepare for future growth.	Climate Change Action Helping residents improve efficiency and building long-term climate resilience.	Communication & Engagement Strengthening engagement and improving resident access to services and information.

Completed by this quarter

- Housing Strategy
- Rec Asset Criteria
- Evaluation of Mobile VIC
- Fire Training
- AT Policy
- E- permitting
- Removal of Criminal Record Check Fees
- Fire Officer Code of Conduct
- Tax portal



In Progress this Quarter

- Advocacy for Improved Cell service
- Draft 2 Engagement (Land-use planning)
- Internal working group for Community Development
- Review of small wastewater systems
- Seniors Safety Expansion



Progress on Highest Priority Projects

- Comprehensive Land-use Planning (1):
 - Extensive public engagement ongoing;
 - Council discussion sessions on priority topics have begun;
 - second draft to be prepared for fall of 2025;
 - Second round of public engagement planned.
- Transit Service (2):
 - MODL submitted route proposals to the Town of Bridgewater;
 - MODL & TOB staff conducting route analysis
 - CAO working to smooth regulatory approval
 - Project currently on track for launching in 2026.



Progress on Highest Priority Projects

- Fixed Route Transit discussions
 - MOU for Capital purchase

- Community Hub
 - MOU with South Shore Libraries
 - Construction



Notes & Next Steps



Further update in September 2026 on projects;
Status report will form basis of strategic priorities planning



Strategic planning will feed 2026/27 budget