

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Minutes of a Special Meeting of Municipal Council

Held in Council Chamber, 10 Allée Champlain Drive, Cookville, N.S.

Thursday, January 23, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.

Attendance

Mayor Elspeth McLean-Wile
Deputy Mayor Chasidy Veinotte, District 10
Councillor Morgen Reinhardt, District 1
Councillor Martin Bell, District 2
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 Kacy DeLong, District 8
Councillor Ben Brooks, District 9

Staff

Tom MacEwan, Chief Administrative Officer
Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO
April Whynot-Lohnes, Municipal Clerk
Tina Robichaud-Bond, Executive Assistant

1. Call to Order

Mayor McLean-Wile 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.

Mayor McLean-Wile explained that the Special Council meeting was to review the parks strategic priorities, to establish priorities for the development, and to provide staff with direction on which projects to include in budget considerations.

2. Staff Reports

2.1 Recreation, Parks & Tourism

2.1.1 Development of Parks & Recreation Areas

Trudy Payne, Director of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism, Martha Selassie, Trails & Open Space Coordinator, Marie Butts, Project Coordinator, and Kelly Cunningham, Active Living Coordinator, were in attendance.

The Parks & Open Space Standards and Guidelines, the Parks & Recreation Engagement Report, the 2024 Parks Accessibility Audit Report, and the Parks Strategic Priorities presentation were circulated with agenda.

A map showing the parks and trails located in the Municipality was circulated at the meeting and is attached to the Minutes.

Ms. Payne presented on the Parks and Open Space Standards and Guidelines providing an overview of the guidelines adopted by Council in 2023 and details on the following:

- Classification System
- Intended purpose of classifications
- Minimum amenity requirements for each category
- Accessibility considerations

The following concerns and comments were heard:

- How Conservation land fits into zoning and long-term planning strategy.
- Draft policy for conservation land coming forward
- Community consultation regarding conservation status

Ms. Butts presented on the Maintenance Standards providing an overview of the park and trail maintenance categories and risk management. A question was raised as to whether we use a climate lens.

Ms. Selassie presented on the Park Engagement Survey Results providing details and results of the in person and online survey conducted in 2024. It was noted that Sherbrooke Lake was listed as a visited park even though the property was not developed.

Ms. Butts presented on the Parks Accessibility Audit conducted in 2023, and accepted by Council in June 2024, providing recommendations costs to bring the following parks to acceptable accessibility standards:

- Hirtle's Beach
- Mushamush Beach Park
- Miller Point Peach Park
- River Ridge Common
- Indian Falls Park

Ms. Butts explained that the Rick Hansen Certification and Accreditation tool was used to apply an accessibility score based on the amenities and conditions of each park. She noted that a universal design was not possible due to different challenges that each park provided and that the goal was to eliminate or minimize as many barriers as possible.

Concerns were raised regarding costs to make all parks accessible. It was suggested that one park be completed before moving to another.

Kelly Cunningham, Active Living Coordinator, presented on the Active Transportation Plan recommendations prepared by Urban Systems Limited in 2024.

The following concerns and comments were heard:

- Connection between Victoria Ridge to the Town of Bridgewater was not in the recommended plan;
- High costs of each project;
- Cross departmental consideration; and
- Paved shoulders and public transport preferred.

Council recessed at 10:24 a.m. and resumed at 10:35 a.m.

Ms. Payne reported on both the re-create parks capital projects that were completed and those that were in progress.

Discussions followed on the following:

- SawPit Wharf process and outcome
- Partnership with MICA

Ms. Payne further presented on the following topics, providing details of each:

- 2025-2026 capital project recommendations
- 5-year capital plan project recommendations
- current management/stewardship agreements
- contributions to the Rail to Trail organizations

Staff was directed to focus on regional parks and develop criteria for long term strategies. It was noted that the following parks should be considered once criteria for evaluating park upgrades had been developed and could be applied to proposed projects:

- a) Molega Lake – public boat launch
- b) Sherbrooke Lake – development of park/access
- c) Oxner Beach - reconsideration of conservation area designation & public consultation
- d) Pine Grove Park – public consultation

Discussions followed regarding the future of the MARC, including options to refurbish the buildings and the associated costs, and the use of buildings. It was noted that the Re-Imagine MARC project would determine the needs.

Staff was also directed to prepare costing and a timeline for public engagement for Mushamush Beach before proceeding with vault washrooms.

3. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

MODL Parks and Trails

Park Category

- Regional
- Destination
- Neighborhood
- Parklike
- Conservation
- Spot

Trail

- Adventure Trail
- South Shore Annapolis Valley Trail
- Lunenburg Back Harbour Trail
- Lunenburg River Trail Association
- Bay Run Trail
- Cassin's Trail
- Bay to Bay Trail
- Dynamic Trail
- Openy Connector Trail
- Central Nova Trail
- Promontory Road
- Private Road
- Municipal from Boundary
- Parks with Agreements

Scale: 0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

North Arrow

Legend:

- Council Districts
- Trails
- Adventure Trail
- South Shore Annapolis Valley Trail
- Lunenburg Back Harbour Trail
- Lunenburg River Trail Association
- Bay Run Trail
- Cassin's Trail
- Bay to Bay Trail
- Dynamic Trail
- Openy Connector Trail
- Central Nova Trail
- Promontory Road
- Private Road
- Municipal from Boundary
- Parks with Agreements

Disclaimer: Information compiled from numerous sources and may not be complete or accurate. Elevation representation only.

Source: Digital Base Map Data from the Nova Scotia Geomatics Centre, Amherst, NS

Prepared By: Planning & Development Services Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Date: October 7, 2024

File: modl_parks_and_trails_2024_10_07.mxd

