

## **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, October 17, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

#### **Attendance**

Deputy Mayor Pam Hubley, District 4, Chair  
Councillor Chasidy Veinotte, District 10, Vice Chair  
Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson  
Councillor Leitha Haysom, District 1  
Councillor Martin Bell, District 2  
Councillor Wendy Oickle, District 3  
Councillor Cathy Moore, District 5  
Councillor Sandra Statton, District 6 (Via Teams)  
Councillor Michelle Greek, District 7  
Councillor Kacy DeLong, District 8  
Councillor Reid Whynot, District 9

#### **Staff**

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

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

Deputy Mayor Hubley 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. Announcements/Acknowledgements/Recognition**

Councillor Oickle recognized the Hebbville Fire Department for hosting a successful Lunenburg County Female Firefighters' Networking Day. Over 60 female firefighters, including seasoned, new, and junior firefighters, attended the event.

Councillor Haysom announced that the Petite Riviere Fire Department would be holding their lasagna fundraiser once again on October 21<sup>st</sup>.

Councillor Moore acknowledged that she and Mayor Bolivar-Getson attended Tollermania2, the duck toller event held on the Conrad Road in New Germany. There were participants from seven different countries, with 325 people in attendance, and 250 dogs. People attended from

as far away as New Zealand, Australia, Sweden, UK, and the US. Mayor Bolivar-Getson commended Dan and Melissa Barnhill, Diesel Dog Ranch, for organizing such a successful international event.

Councillor Haysom acknowledged that in August Council passed a motion to authorize the amendment of Section 4 of Chapter 72 of the Lunenburg Commons Lands Act regarding Cape LaHave Island and a conservation easement. MLA Becky Druhan would be introducing the Bill to Legislature on October 18, 2023.

**3. Public Input – Nil**

**4. Approval of Agenda**

A request was made to add Item 11.1 - Update on Internal Transportation Committee, under Added Items.

**Moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Mayor Bolivar-Getson that the Agenda be approved as amended with the addition of Item 11.1 - Update on Internal Transportation Committee. Carried unanimously.**

**5. Approval Of Minutes – September 19, 2023**

**Moved by Councillor Haysom, seconded by Councillor Moore that the Minutes of September 19, 2023 Policy & Strategy Committee meeting be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.**

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

**7. Presentations/Scheduled Times**

**7.1 LaHave Coastal – Protect East Spectacle Island**

Jim Sunderland, President, LaHave Coastal and Andrew Kimball, Legal Counsel, were in attendance to review the presentation entitled, “Protecting Nature Starts with You, Join LaHave Coastal”. The following topics were discussed:

- About LaHave Coastal
- LaHave Coastal Geographic Focus
- Forest Restoration Initiatives
- Greenhouse Project
- East Spectacle Island, Multiple Habitats
- Purchase for Conservation and Timeline
- Species Surveys Underway
- Lichen and Mushrooms
- Wetlands and Bird Habitat

Mr. Sunderland and Mr. Kimball explained that LaHave Coastal was requesting funding from the Municipality of \$100,000, in support of purchasing East Spectacle Island as a conservation area.

Mr. Sunderland and Mr. Kimball left the meeting.

### **10.1 Adventure Trail Association (Mayor Bolivar-Getson)**

Mayor Bolivar-Getson explained that this item was a request received from the Adventure Trail Association regarding a safety issue on the Cornwall Road in Blockhouse. They are asking that “trail crossing ahead” signs be erected where the Adventure Trail meets the Cornwall Road in Blockhouse because it is a very busy section of road and is a safety concern.

**Moved by Mayor Bolivar-Getson, seconded by Councillor DeLong that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommend to Council that Municipal Council direct the Mayor to write to the Provincial Minister responsible for Public Works, Kim Masland, and copy MLA, Susan Corkum-Greek, and the Chair of the Adventure Trail Association, requesting the installation of “trail crossing ahead” signs on the approaches to the Adventure Trail on Cornwall Road due to the public’s safety. Carried unanimously.**

**8. Referrals from Council – Nil**

**9. Staff Reports**

**9.1 Administration Department**

**9.1.1 Inter-Municipal Regional Anti-Racism and Diversity Agreement**

Tom MacEwan explained that the Inter-Municipal Regional Anti-Racism and Diversity Agreement (included in the agenda package) is similar to Inter-Municipal Service Agreement on Accessibility and is for all five municipal units in Lunenburg County. Three units have already signed the Agreement.

Mr. MacEwan reviewed the terms of the Agreement advising that the Municipality of Chester would be the host municipality meaning that it would be responsible for all the administrative functions including financial, record keeping, minute taking and reporting.

**Moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor DeLong that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommend to Council that Municipal Council approve the terms of the Inter-Municipal Regional Anti-Racism and Diversity Agreement, as presented, and authorize the execution of the same by the Mayor and Municipal Clerk. Carried unanimously.**

**9.1.2 IDEA Action Plan**

Sarah Kucharski, Manager Corporate Services and Communications, reviewed her report “IDEA Action Plan” (circulated with the Agenda) and provided a presentation entitled, “IDEA at MODL” (attached to the minutes) which included the following topics:

- Strategic Priority
- Process
- IDEA at MODL
- IDEA at MODL – Will Create Lasting Change
- Budget Implications

Clarification was provided on the role the municipality’s responsible person will have with the Regional Anti-Racism Co-ordinator, which is like the REMO agreement structure.

**Moved by Councillor DeLong, seconded by Councillor Haysom that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommend to Council that Municipal Council adopt the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) 2024-2028 Action Plan, and that staff work collaboratively with the Regional Anti-Racism Coordinator on implementing the plan. Carried unanimously.**

## **9.2 Recreation Department**

### **9.2.1 Adult Recreation Subsidy Program**

Tissy Bolivar, Program Coordinator, reviewed the presentation entitled, “Adult Recreation Subsidy Program” (included in the agenda package) which included the following topics:

- Today’s Objective
- Adult Recreation Subsidy Program Concept
- Definitions
- Community Demographics
- Benefits of Adult Recreation Subsidy Program
- Strategic Priority Links
- Best Practices
- MODL Property Tax Rebate Program
- Eligibility
- Procedure
- Possible Funding Partners
- Budget Implications
- Next Steps

There was discussion regarding the need to obtain a reference from a reputable individual rather than providing financial documentation and it was suggested that applicants could be given either option when applying.

**Moved by Councillor Greek, seconded by Councillor Veinotte that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommend to Council that Municipal Council direct staff to develop a policy for**

**Councils' consideration respecting an Adult Recreation Subsidy Program, as presented. Carried unanimously.**

The Committee recessed at 10:10 a.m. and returned at 10:16 a.m.

**7.2 Hemlock Woolly Adelgid – Jeffrey Ogden, Provincial Forest Entomologist, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources & Renewables**

Jeffrey Ogden, Provincial Forest Entomologist, and Dan Lavigne, Manager with the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources & Renewables reviewed the presentation entitled, "Provincial Update – Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA)" (included in the agenda package) via Teams. The presentation included the following topics:

- Hemlock Woolly Adelgid
- Why is HWA a Threat?
- Distribution of Hemlock in Nova Scotia
- HWA Biological Control
- Outreach/Education

Mr. Ogden and Mr. Lavigne provided a detailed account of the HWA problem in Nova Scotia and stressed that outreach and education are an important aspect to the HWA management process. They would be available to assist the Municipality and their park staff in learning how to identify the HWA.

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

**10.2 Request for a Letter to NS Department of Public Works re Public Safety Measures (Councillor Oickle)**

Councillor Oickle requested that to assist with the safety of residents and emergency vehicles during a major rain/flood event that occurred in the Fancy Lake area, she asked that a letter be written to the provincial Department of Public Works requesting assistance by cleaning out ditches, replacing undersized and/or damaged culverts, and installing new culverts.

**Moved by Councillor Oickle, seconded by Councillor Moore that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommend to Council that Municipal Council direct the Mayor to write to the Provincial Minister responsible for Public Works, Kim Masland, and copy the local MLAs, requesting the clearing of ditches, the replacement of undersized and damaged culverts, and the addition of new culverts, specifically where the land topography creates excessive water over roads during storm events including but not limited to the Fancy Lake area. Carried unanimously.**

**11. Added Items**

**11.1 Update on Internal Transportation Committee**

Councillor Haysom provided an update on the Internal Transportation Committee:

- They expanded their door-to-door areas
- Now covering 80% of MODL
- Waiting for 4 more vehicles
- There are volunteers and paid employees
- Ridership is not as high as it could be – looking for more promotion
- MODL could advertise that it is not only for seniors

## **12. In Camera**

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

This item was deferred to another meeting.

## **13. Adjournment**

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.**



## **IDEA at MODL**

**Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility  
2024-2028 Action Plan**

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## **Strategic Priority**

**By selecting Anti-Racism as a Strategic Priority in 2021, Council made a commitment to investing in funding and staff resources to explore anti-racism and inclusion issues in the Municipality.**



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## Process

Staff engaged Nova Scotia's Chrysalis Human Rights Agency to:

- Complete a comprehensive assessment and review of our equity, diversity, and inclusion policies and procedures
- Provide training to staff and Council
- Submitted a recommended Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility 2023-2028 Strategic Plan

Using the consultant's strategic plan as a guiding document, staff have developed an Action Plan entitled **IDEA at MODL**.

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## IDEA at MODL

**IDEA at MODL** reflects the commitment to advance inclusion, equity, diversity, and accessibility of equity-deserving groups. The plan incorporates the principles of:

- Accessibility for Nova Scotians Act
- Dismantling Racism and Hate Act
- Count Us In: Nova Scotia's Action Plan in Response to the International Decade for People of African Descent
- Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action

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## IDEA at MODL will create lasting change

2024: Year One: Foundation Building

- assign a staff member with an add on responsibility for IDEA
- put personnel policies in place,
- develop accountability and governance models,
- make connections and,
- collect data.

The first phase involves planning and allocating resources for IDEA action items and an increased awareness in the workplace and promotion of the benefits and values of IDEA.

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## IDEA at MODL will create lasting change

2025-2026: Years Two and Three: Investment and Implementation

- Prioritizes the investment and implementation of the Plan. This is the phase where the planned programs and activities are carried out.

2027-2028: Years Four and Five: Monitoring, Evaluating, Adapting

- Evaluate and improve the IDEA policies, procedures, and initiatives. Build on successes and improve areas where we fell short.
- Evaluate social changes and opportunities for new approaches to the Plan.

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## Budget Implication

Annual cost of \$5,000 to develop an add on IDEA responsibility for a current staff member (like the Corp. Services Supervisor and AEC roles).

Most actions can be accomplished through the existing staff resources, with the support of the new Regional Anti-Racism Coordinator expected to join the region in 2024. Some of the actions are already being undertaken in one form or another.

Some actions may require the services of consultants with expertise in IDEA, and these requests will be incorporated into the Municipality's annual budget process.

