

COUNCIL COMMITTEE – PRESENTATION MEETING

The Council Committee/Presentations Meeting of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was conducted virtually via Zoom Webinars, on Tuesday, March 1, 2022.

In peace and friendship, and in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, Deputy Mayor Stewart acknowledged that the Municipality of Colchester is in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Christine Blair	
Councillor Eric Boutilier	District 1
Councillor Laurie Sandeson	District 2
Deputy Mayor Geoff Stewart, Chair	District 3
Councillor Mike Cooper	District 4
Councillor Tim Johnson	District 5
Councillor Karen MacKenzie	District 6
Councillor Michael Gregory	District 7
Councillor Lisa Patton	District 8
Councillor Marie Benoit	District 9
Councillor Victoria Lomond	District 10
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11

Regrets

Others Present

Rob Simonds, CAO
 Paul Smith, Director of Community Development
 Jennifer Mantin, Economic Development Officer
 Suzanne Graham, Recording Secretary
 Tim Smith, Mgr., Computer and Information Systems (for Technical Support)

Presentations

Protect Wentworth Valley

Presenters: Leslie Dykeman and Heather Allen-Johnson

Ms. Dykeman and Ms. Allen-Johnson appeared before Council to present concerns of the citizens of Wentworth Valley regarding the proposed wind turbine projects in the area.

Included in the presentation was:

- The groups asks to the provincial government: to prohibit industrial wind turbines, to enact protection of the mainland moose core habitat and to designate the area as a wilderness under Nova Scotia's Wilderness Areas Protection Act;
- Colchester's Wind Turbine By-law and the type of protection the group feels is needed: proper setbacks from homes and protected areas such as mainland moose corridors, proper decommissioning plans, maximum noise levels allowed, modeling for shadow flickering, restrictions to avoid disruption of telecommunication services, a set maximum of turbines in a single project;
- A map showing the overlay of the project area and the core habitat of the mainland moose;
- Reasons why they group wants the area protected – wildlife, beauty and solitude, biodiversity, community, recreation, eco-tourism and the ski hill in the area;

- Impact on rural communities – cumulative industrialization, interference with telecommunications, higher utility bills, cumulative effects on water quality, streams, rivers, lakes and bogs

Discussion was held on:

- The meeting the group had with Minister Halman and Minister Rushton and what direction was given on where to start, including what the County could do to support the group;
- Whether it would be up to the Federal or Provincial governments to declare this land as a protected area;
- Environmental Assessments go to the involved Council when they are filed;
- The ask of the County being a letter of support to designate the land as a Protected Wilderness Area and to make the by-law as strong as possible.

Moved by Councillor Gregory

Seconded by Councillor Lomond

“That the presentation be received.”

NSFM Restructuring

Presenters: Amanda McDougall, NSFM President and Juanita Spencer, CEO

Ms. McDougall and Ms. Spencer appeared before Council to provide an overview of the proposed changes to the NSFM structure.

Included in the presentation was:

- The reasons for the proposed restructuring;
- The changes being proposed: creating of guiding principles, recognition of municipal units as members, caucuses, the creating of regional electoral boundaries and resolutions and statements of municipal interest;
- A timeline of when the changes would be implemented.

Discussion was held on:

- What format is used by municipalities in other provinces;
- How removing resolutions will help create a better relationship with the provincial government;
- Having reference to innovation in the guiding principles;
- Ensuring that the new format still allows for the municipalities to decide what issues are most important;
- Term of office

Moved by Councillor Benoit

Seconded by Councillor Lomond

“That the presentation be received.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Closed Session

Moved by Councillor Gregory

Seconded by Councillor Lomond

“That the meeting go into closed session at 8:26 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 9:46 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Patton
Seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the meeting adjourn at 9:47 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Suzanne Graham
Recording Secretary