

## COUNCIL COMMITTEE – PRESENTATION MEETING

The Council Committee/Presentations Meeting of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was conducted virtually via Zoom Webinars and in person, on Monday, November 6, 2023.

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 Tim Johnson	District 5
Councillor Karen MacKenzie	District 6
Councillor Michael Gregory	District 7
Councillor Lisa Patton	District 8
Councillor Victoria Lomond	District 10
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11

### Regrets

Councillor Mike Cooper	District 4
Councillor Marie Benoit	District 9

### Others Present

Dan Troke, CAO  
 Suzanne Graham, Recording Secretary  
 Craig Burgess, Manager of Recreation Services (for Item #3)  
 Jeanette Himmelman, Systems Analyst (for Technical Support)

### Presentations

#### **Colchester-East Hants Public Library Tiffany Bartlett and Sarah Wood**

Ms. Bartlett and Ms. Wood appeared before Council to provide an update on library operations.

Included in the presentation was

- Information on their pandemic response which included new/revised programs such as borrowing by mail, curbside pick-up, take and make activities, virtual programming, rapid test distribution and more
- Information on their new digital resources including a new website, cardholder access to Same Page, PressReader, Hoopla and Rocket Languages
- Regional highlights which included over 200,000 in-person visits, almost 3,500 new library cards issued and almost 185,000 online visits
- Local highlights for the Stewiacke, Tatamagouche and Truro libraries
- Funding Priorities which include staffing, collections, operations, technology, accessibility and programming

Discussion was held on the wifi connection as well as the wifi hotspots, their cost and what provider is used; what sort of funding increase the library is looking for; and if security is required at the libraries.

Moved by Mayor Blair  
 Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the presentation be received”.

**Creamery Square Arts Society (The Grace Arts Centre)**  
**Kathleen Hicks and Heather Scott**

Ms. Hicks and Ms. Scott appeared before Council to request an annual grant for the Grace Arts Centre.

Included in the presentation was

- Why they feel the facility is important to Colchester, including it only being one of two Arts Centres in the Colchester area
- A breakdown of where patrons are travelling from to visit the Centre
- Details on upgrades the Centre would like to complete including the addition of a canopy over the front entrance and a deck
- Funding amounts they are expecting for the next 4 fiscal years
- Recent shows and classes held at the Centre

Discussion was held on turnout for the recent shows; upcoming programs; the level of support they receive from the community; their plans for a new manager.

Moved by Councillor Sandeson  
 Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the presentation be received.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Mayor Blair  
 Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the matter be referred to budget deliberations.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre**  
**Tim Bernard**

Mr. Bernard appeared before Council to provide information on the Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre (MDCC) and request a Memorandum of Understanding with the Municipality.

The MDCC will be a 28,500 square foot facility with extensive trails and outdoor education areas. Mandated by all 13 First Nations in Nova Scotia, the facility aims to achieve some of the Nation's longest standing goals including protecting the ancestral sites; creating a permanent access to cultural objects and archival materials; supporting Mi'kmaw healing journeys and national reconciliation Calls to Action; providing year-round educational programming for people of all ages and to prove a gathering space within their ancestral lands.

Discussion was held on when the plan to break ground; where they building would be located on the land; if they intend to have digs on the property and how they intend to make the building net zero.

Moved by Councillor Patton  
Seconded by Councillor Lomond

“That the presentation be received.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier  
Seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the matter of creating a Memorandum of Understanding be referred to staff.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

### **Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor Gregory  
Seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the meeting adjourn at 7:51 pm”.

Suzanne Graham  
Recording Secretary