

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 Tuesday, January 7, 2025.

In peace and friendship, and in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, Councillor Cooper 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:

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| Mayor Christine Blair | |
| Councillor Paul Weatherby | District 1 |
| Councillor Sheldon Richardson | District 3 |
| Councillor Mike Cooper | District 4 |
| Councillor Tim Johnson | District 5 |
| Councillor Nigel Leggett | District 6 |
| Councillor Sherry Martell, Chair | District 7 |
| Councillor Lisa Patton | District 8 |
| Councillor Marie Benoit | District 9 |
| Councillor Charlene Fletcher | District 10 |
| Councillor Allan Kennedy | District 11 |

Regrets

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| Deputy Mayor Laurie Sandeson | District 2 |
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Others Present

Dan Troke, CAO

Suzanne Graham, Recording Secretary

Tim Smith, Manager of Computer and Information Systems (for Technical Support)

Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia

Presenter, Hugh MacKay

Mr. MacKay appeared before Council to provide awareness of the Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia and the Dave Gunning Zero Hunger Fund.

Included in the presentation was information on the organization and what they do. The Rural Communities Foundation of NS is one of approximately 200 community foundations across the country that supports residents through convening, fund development and granting. Some of what they do includes:

- Supporting community based local improvements initiatives in rural NS;
- Convene local people to find solutions to problems;
- fundraise to provide grants to community organizations;
- Administer trust funds on behalf of individuals and organizations.
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Information was then provided on the Dave Gunning Zero Hunger Fund. This program supports “free stores” in rural NS schools, providing food for students to take home for their families who are struggling to afford proper nutrition.

Discussion was held on

- Any social media or other links the County could share;
- How they decide which schools get funding;
- Where they get money to hand out as grants.

Moved by Councilor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the presentation be accepted as presented.” Carried unanimously.

**Colchester Ground Search and Rescue
Presenter, Scott Leblanc**

Mr. Leblanc appeared before Council to talk about Colchester Ground Search and Rescue’s (CGSAR) drone program and to request funding to purchase a new drone.

Included in the presentation was information on remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS), the current drone CGSAR owns, and what a new drone could do for the organization. Their current drone is considered a training aircraft. It is a non-thermal unit, meaning it cant fly at night; it is not weather rated, meaning any amount of precipitation would ground the unit; and it only has 15-18 minutes of battery life.

Discussion was held on:

- Does CGSAR get reimbursed if they conduct searches in other counties.
- How many other teams in the province are using RPAS
- Whether they see the province changing their policy about providing funding for drones
- The size of the new drone they want to purchase and the battery life

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the presentation be accepted as presented.” Carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Patton

“The meeting adjourn at 7:04 pm.”

Suzanne Graham
Recording Secretary