

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, May 6, 2025.

In peace and friendship, and in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, it was 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 Paul Weatherby	District 1
Deputy Mayor Laurie Sandeson, Chair	District 2
Councillor Sheldon Richardson	District 3
Councillor Mike Cooper	District 4
Councillor Tim Johnson	District 5
Councillor Nigel Leggett	District 6 (regrets)
Councillor Sherry Martell	District 7
Councillor Lisa Patton	District 8 (regrets)
Councillor Marie Benoit	District 9
Councillor Charlene Fletcher	District 10
Councillor Allan Kennedy	District 11 (regrets)

Others Present

Dan Troke, CAO
 Suzanne Graham, Recording Secretary
 Mollie MacBurnie-Haas, Desktop Support Tech

12 Neighbours

Marcel LeBrun, President

Mr. LeBrun appeared before Council to introduce them to the 12 Neighbours community in New Brunswick.

Included in the presentation was information on 12 Neighbours, a tiny home community made up of 97 permanent, detached homes with private decks, full kitchen and bathroom, shared green spaces and community facility. The community, which has been operating for 3 years, supplies permanent, dignified housing in a supported community focused on person-centric goal setting. They also provide progressive employment through training businesses in four areas: food, retail, construction and entrepreneurship.

Discussion was held on where the funding for this project came from and what the first steps in creating this kind of community would be. The fact that any government money received would come at the end of the build, so seed money would be required. Further discussion was held on the size of the homes, the cost per home and the fact that these are rentals and cannot be purchased.

Moved by Councillor Martell
 Seconded by Councillor Richardson

“That the presentation be received”.
 Motion Carried.

Colchester-East Hants Public Library
Jeff Mercer

Mr. Mercer appeared before Council to provide an update on the regional library.

Included in the presentation was information from their 2023/24 fiscal year which had over 225,000 visits, 3,605 new library cards issued and 20,774 people attending in-person programming. The current funding model for rural library regions has 71% of funding coming from the provincial government, 26% from municipal government and 3% being the responsibility of the library board. A funding review was completed and sent to the province in September, but nothing has been received back. Community surveys show high demand for more open hours, more open days and more evening and weekend programming. Even with a cost-of-living raise, 48.7% of Colchester library employees would be earning below a living wage.

Although little discussion was had on the presentation, Council acknowledged the challenges libraries face with the increasing demand and requested this item be referred to staff to bring back to Council.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Fletcher

“That the presentation be received”.
Motion Carried.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Benoit

“The meeting adjourn at 6:56 pm.”

Suzanne Graham
Recording Secretary