

## 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 6, 2026.

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
Councillor Sherry Martell	District 7
Councillor Marie Benoit	District 9 (virtual)
Councillor Lisa Patton	District 8
Councillor Charlene Fletcher	District 10
Councillor Allan Kennedy	District 11

### Others Present

Phil Redden, Acting CAO  
 Suzanne Graham, Recording Secretary  
 Tim Smith, Manager of Computer and Information Systems  
 Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works

### Presentations:

#### **Cougar Dome**

#### **Luanne Schenkels and Silvano Laboni**

Ms. Schenkels and Mr. Laboni appeared before Council to request a five-year recurring grant in the amount of \$50,000/year.

Included in the presentation was:

- Information on the dome, which is run by the CSAE (Cobequid Society for Athlete Excellence);
- They have over 30,000 visitors per year;
- Host 15 tennis/pickleball events a year;
- They have a construction loan from the Town of Truro that they make payments on. The Town also provides them with an annual tax exemption;
- A financial overview from the facility along with their financial plans for the future to become more financially sustainable.

Discussion was held on:

- The drop in donations and whether it was due to losing one large donor or less donations coming in overall? A couple of large, one-time donations, were made last fiscal year which upped the usual donation funds. A reasonable annual amount for donations would be \$30,000-\$40,000.

- How will it affect the bottom line if the Town of Truro does not provide annual funding? Not having these funds would put a lot of pressure on them to have reserves.

**Moved by Mayor Blair  
Seconded by Councillor Patton**

**“That the presentation be received”. Motion Carried.**

**Moved by Mayor Blair  
Seconded by Councillor Weatherby**

**“That the presentation be referred to staff”. Motion Carried.**

**The Creamery Square Arts Society  
Amanda Gillis – Programming and Operations Manager**

Ms. Gillis appeared before Council to request an annual grant in the amount of \$15,000.

Included in the presentation was their three-year plan showing where the grant money would be spent:

- \$5,000 a year would be for youth camps/musical theatre productions.
- \$10,000 a year would go towards capital upgrades like theatre lighting, heat pump, framing/drywall, studio flooring and bathroom upgrades.

Also included was reasons why the facility is important to the area:

- It's a cultural hub and community gathering place;
- Economic development;
- Tourism;
- Rural development.

Finally, included in the presentation was information from the last year, including the types of events and activities held at the Ice House Gallery and Betty Murray Theatre and funding information for 2025/2026.

Clarification was sought regarding the amount being requested and if it was an additional \$15,000 or if it was in total with the grant amount they have previously been given.

**Moved by Councilor Kennedy  
Seconded by Councillor Martell**

**“That the presentation be received”. Motion Carried.**

**Moved by Councillor Martell  
Seconded by Weatherby**

**“That the presentation be referred to staff”. Motion Carried.**

**J Class Roads  
Troy Webb, Nova Scotia Public Works**

Mr. Webb is here to present an overview of the J Class Roads and a history as to how they came to be such a discussion point.

Included in the presentation was:

- What are J Class roads? They are residential, subdivision type streets owned and maintained by Nova Scotia Public Works. They are typically unpaved, located in higher dwelling density areas with slow travel speed. They may or may not have curbs and stormwater drainage.
- An explanation of the 1995 Municipal Service Exchange where municipalities took responsibility for local roads, including J Class. They were used as a tool to balance the municipal funding equation. An annual maintenance fee of \$3,500/km was established. Due to inflation, that fee is \$10,276 for 2026. Each municipality could assume ownership of the road or pay the annual fee.
- The J Class road program has a 50/50 cost-share model. Annual funding has remained unchanged at \$2 million.
- The program has been extended to include local and village streets.

Discussion was held on:

- The fact that the funding amount has not changed over the years, but the cost of paving has increased so much.
- How many municipalities participate in the program? Participation is currently around half of the municipal units in Nova Scotia, but it used to be much lower.
- If it was possible to roll the J Class roads in with the RIM program to save money? The roads can be tendered together to have the same contractor do all the work, however the financing would still need to be separate.
- What happened to the J Class roads being fully turned over to the municipalities? Talks on this have been put on hold as some proposals were not widely accepted.

**Moved by Councillor Johnsons**  
**Seconded by Councillor Kennedy**

**“That the presentation be received”. Motion Carried.**

**Adjournment**

**Moved by Councillor Martell**

**“The meeting adjourn at 7:23 pm.”**

Suzanne Graham  
Recording Secretary