October 6, 2026

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, October 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	*(virtual)*
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 Lisa Patton	District 8
Councillor Marie Benoit	District 9 *(regrets)*
Councillor Charlene Fletcher	District 10 *(regrets)*
Councillor Allan Kennedy	District 11

<u>Others Present</u>
Dan Troke, CAO
Tracey Veno, Recording Secretary
Amanda Charter, IT Support Technician

Truro/Colchester Welcome Network

Presenting on behalf of the Truro/Colchester Welcome Network were Kanishk Dogra and AJ Bhatt. The organization is requesting financial support in the amount of $7,500 for 2027/28 to help sustain the Welcome Network's work.

Highlights of the presentation included an overview of the organization's mission; understanding the challenges faced by newcomers and efforts to breaking the barriers; details of the welcome guide and buddy system; newcomer retention effect and targeted community impacts; statistical information; various programs and events offered; other funding sources; and proposed investment budget and return on investment information.

During discussion Council credited the Truro/Colchester Welcome Network for the incredible work being done. Other points of discussion were the loss of provincial funding and request of the County being $12,500, the same as what it being requested from the Town of Truro, as well as the need for increasing the frequency of English teaching classes.

Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Martell

"That the presentation from the Truro/Colchester Welcome Network be received and referred to budget deliberations". Carried unanimously.

Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture (NSFA)

Carolyn Van Den Heuvel, Executive Director, appeared before Council to present on engaging with agriculture in Colchester.

Ms. Van Den Heuvel began her presentation providing an overview of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture including their vision, mission and goals; agricultural statistics for Colchester and Nova Scotia; reason for presentation being recent decisions made concerns the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition (NSPE) Grounds; public understanding of agriculture – maintaining connection, community engagement; opportunities community events provide; impacts of displaced agricultural events at the NSPE; and impacts beyond events. Ms. Van Den Heuvel also provided opportunities for engagement moving forward including having an agriculture advisory committee and industry consultations.

Discussion included opportunities for municipal engagement, importance of youth involvement, food security and accessibility, challenges faced by farmers, roles of stakeholders in support of the agricultural sector and the importance of bringing all stakeholders together. The NSPE grounds was also discussed including ownership and what role the County should take, and who should be responsible for the full-time operation. Ms. Van Den Heuvel expressed encouragement regarding the current model in place for the grounds and indicated that the NSFA would welcome opportunities to support future collaboration efforts.

The County's engagement with the agricultural sector throughout the recent County-wide Land Use Planning process was also acknowledged.

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor Leggett

"That the presentation from the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture be received." Carried unanimously.

Scotia Pool

Tim O'Brien began his presentation by acknowledging the tremendous contributions of the late Dwight Giddens to Scotia Pool.

As Chair of the Board, Mr. O'Brien indicated that Scotia Pool is requesting that funding from the Municipality of Colchester remain at $150,000 for the next five (5) years. Highlights of the presentation included an overview of pool improvements - new community room, new stairs, facility becoming fully accessible with help of a grant through the Rick Hansen Foundation; facility ownership; challenges of an aging facility; and workforce challenges. Also included was an overview of the Scotia Pool Business Plan as presented to Council in 2024 – progresses and challenges to date; fundraising efforts and programming; pool attendee statistics; sources of funding; and revenues and expenditures information.

Following the presentation, discussion took place on a number of issues including staffing challenges, assistance from the provincial government in the form of grants for summer employment, the need for sustainable funding, the overall condition of the pool, the need for two pools in the area, financial reporting, prices charged for various programming, and whether the facility would be a proponent for solar panels.

Concern was raised with not all Council members being invited to attend the opening of the new Scotia Pool community room. Mr. O'Brien apologized for the oversight and extended an invite to all members to stop by to visit the facility anytime, either as a group or individually.

Moved by Councillor Weatherby, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the Scotia Pool presentation be received and referred to budget deliberations.” Carried unanimously.

Adjournment

On a motion by Councillor Patton, the meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary