

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

The Regular Session of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was conducted in-person and virtually combined, on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 5:30 pm.

In peace and in 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	Mayor Christine Blair, Chair	<i>(arrived at 5:40 pm)</i>
	Councillor Paul Weatherby	District 1
	Dep. Mayor Laurie Sandeson	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
	Councillor Charlene Fletcher	District 10
	Councillor Allan Kennedy	District 11

Staff Present

Dan Troke, Chief Administrative Officer
 Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works
 Phil Redden, Director of Solid Waste
 Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services
 Paul Smith, Director of Community Development
 Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Tracey Veno, Recording Secretary
 Jenn Martin, Economic Development Officer
 Devin Trefry, Research Policy and Community Engagement Officer
 Tim Smith, IT Manager
 David Quinn, Project Engineer
 Kaela MacLellan, Project Engineer

Closed Session/In-camera Presentation (re: Property Matter)	Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Cooper
	“That the meeting go into closed session at 5:31 pm.” Carried unanimously.
	Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Martell
	“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 6:02 pm.” Carried unanimously.
Approval of Agenda	Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor Patton
	“That the agenda be approved as presented.” Carried unanimously.
Approval of Minutes	Moved by Deputy Mayor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Cooper
	“That the minutes from May 27, 2025, be approved as presented.” Carried unanimously.
Business Arising from Minutes	None.

**Standing Committee
Reports and
Recommendations**

Deputy Mayor Sandeson, Chair of Council Committee, presented the report from the meeting held June 12, 2025.

Community Event Grant Request – Northumberland Arts Council

Moved by Deputy Mayor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Weatherby

“That Council approves \$2,640 for the Northumberland Arts Council’s Mini Makers Market and Itty-Bitty Buskers Fest, with source of funds being Community Event Grants.” Carried unanimously.

Community Event Grant Request – Bible Hill Garden Club

Moved by Deputy Mayor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That Council approves \$1,000 for the Bible Hill Garden Club’s Provincial Exhibition Flower Show, with source of funds being Community Event Grants.” Carried unanimously.

MacElmon Road Servicing

Moved by Deputy Mayor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That Council approves that the extension of services on MacElmon Road to service three (3) proposed new lots be referred to the capital budget process, with scope of work as described under Option 1 of the June 12, 2025, Action Item.” Carried unanimously.

Property Matter – Acquisition of Chignecto Central Regional Centre for Education Land

Moved by Deputy Mayor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Martell

“That Council proceed with the acquisition of the portion of PID # 20455531 in Tatamagouche from the Chignecto Central Regional Centre for Education for use as parkland for the Village of Tatamagouche.” Carried unanimously.

Negotiations – Marketing Levy Administration Services Agreement

Moved by Deputy Mayor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That Council approve the Services Agreement as presented in closed session and direct the Mayor and CAO to execute the Agreement.” Carried unanimously.

French River Source Water Protection Advisory Committee – minutes of meeting held on May 22, 2025

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the minutes of the French River Source Water Protection Advisory Committee meeting held on May 22, 2025, be accepted.” Carried unanimously.

Nominating Committee – report and recommendation of meeting held on June 17, 2025

Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council appoints Robert Monk to serve as a citizen representative on the Flood Advisory Committee.”

AND

“That Council appoints Chris Verge to serve as a citizen representative on the Debert Source Water Protection Advisory Committee.” Carried unanimously.

Flood Advisory Committee – minutes of meeting held on June 17, 2025

Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the minutes of the Flood Advisory Committee held on June 17, 2025, be accepted for information.” Carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

**Feeding Wild Animals
By-law – First Reading**

Devin Trefry, Research, Policy, and Community Engagement Officer, provided a brief overview of the *Feeding Wild Animals* By-law. It was noted that, as part of efforts to address the deer population, the Department of Natural Resources has indicated that implementing a by-law prohibiting the feeding of wild animals would give the Municipality an additional tool to help manage the growing urban deer population. Such a by-law would discourage unlawful feeding and provide a mechanism to penalize individuals who persist in doing so.

During debate, key points raised included having the by-law specific to deer rather than all wild animals; by-law being more clearly written and defined, current provincial legislation in place on feeding wildlife, and concerns about enforcement.

Moved by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Kennedy

“That Council opt not to approve Chapter 60 Feeding of Wild Animals By-law.” Motion DEFEATED (*Mayor Blair, Deputy Mayor Sandeson, Councillors Weatherby, Richardson, Johnson, Leggett, Benoit, and Fletcher opposed*).

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Richardson

“That Council approves, by way of First Reading, Chapter 60 Feeding of Wild Animals By-law.” Motion DEFEATED (*all opposed with the exception of Councillor Benoit*).

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Richardson

“That the draft Feeding of Wild Animals By-law be referred back to staff to specifically address feeding of deer.” Carried unanimously.

The CAO confirmed that based on this evening’s discussion, the review will include developing a more comprehensive by-law, examining provincial regulations, considering enforcement, and focusing specifically on deer.

**Balefill Excavator
Replacement**

Phil Redden, Director of Solid Waste, reported that this item concerns a capital purchase to replace an excavator recently destroyed by fire at the Balefill site in Kempton. Included in his report were preliminary estimates of insurance coverage, current excavator rental costs, details of the procurement process through the Canoe program, the cost and estimated delivery timeline for the replacement unit (2025 Caterpillar 320GC), budgetary implications, and options for consideration. Staff recommend proceeding with the accelerated

expenditure of the approved capital budget funds for the purchase of the replacement excavator.

A detailed discussion followed regarding the procurement process, concerns with using the Canoe program, the evaluation process, policy consideration on local preference, need for transparency, supporting local, and equipment specifics. Concern was also raised regarding information brought forward by a member of Council from a local supplier that had not been shared with all members of Council. A suggestion was made that Council be provided with education on the Canoe Program.

Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Fletcher

“That Council approves the accelerated expenditure of the capital resources from the approved five-year capital budget in the amount of \$240,000 for the purchase of the replacement excavator as presented.” Motion carried (*Councillors Cooper, Johnson and Leggett opposed*).

Front Entrance Re-Design, Authority for August Committee to Approve

David Quinn, Project Engineer, provided Council with details on the planned accessibility upgrades to the front entrance of the Municipal Building. The upgrade will improve accessibility as mandated by the province, level of service to residence, as well as address security and traffic flow through the building. Also included was approved budget information and timelines for the tender. Staff is requesting that Council grant authority to August Council Committee to award the tender for this project if bids exceed the approved budget.

Brief discussion was held on future plans for the municipal building as per past discussions of Council. The CAO advised that a number of things need to be taken into consideration for the long-term plans of the building including the provinces recent decision on building/location for a new Courthouse. This evening’s item deals with the more pressing issues to address accessibility and security.

Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Kennedy

“That Council authorizes August Council Committee to approve awarding the tender for the planned accessibility upgrades to the front entrance of 1 Church Street, if bid prices exceed the allocated budget.” Carried unanimously.

Pumping Station Replacement, Authority for August Committee to Approve

Similar to the previous item, Mr. Quinn indicated that staff is requesting authority be granted to August Council Committee to award the tender for the replacement of the two sewer pumping stations, # 7 on Robie Street and #9 in Hilden, should bid prices exceed the approved budget. A brief overview was provided on the scope of the project, approved budget, and tender timelines.

Moved by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That Council authorizes August Council Committee to approve awarding the tender for the replacement of two sewer pumping stations, more specifically: Pumping Station 7 on Robie Street, and Pumping Station 9 in Hilden, if bid prices exceed the allocated budget.” Carried unanimously.

Tender Award Decision – MacElmon Road Roundabout

Mr. Quinn advised that this item is to provide an update on the status of the proposed new roundabout on MacElmon Road in Debert and to seek a decision on the award of tender for the project. Included in his presentation was a recap of previous discussion and decisions related to the roundabout project; overview of design considerations; findings from archaeological testing; traffic study information; and timelines/results of tendering process.

Post-tender discussions with Nova Scotia Public Works took place on the potential for a phased in approach for the intersection, however no guarantees were provided, and further discussion would be required to assess feasibility. A review of options for Council consideration was provided. Staff's recommendation is to not award the tender at this time, explore options and retender over the winter months in effort to reduce costs.

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sandeson

"That the tender for the new MacElmon Road Roundabout not be awarded at this time, and that staff review and re-tender the work with expanded scope for the 2026/27 construction season." Carried unanimously.

**Fundy Discovery Site
Pedestrian/ AT Bridge –
Award of RFP**

Further to the Information Item provided to Council at the June 12th Committee meeting, Paul Smith, Director of Community Development, presented details on the Request for Proposals (RFP) results for the Fundy Discovery Site Pedestrian/ AT Bridge. Included as part of his presentation was RFP details and submissions received, evaluation process, budget implications, available provincial and federal funding for the project, design concepts for the proposed wooden bridge, project manager requirements and estimated costs, and other costs incurred over the past five years for the project. The Fundy Discovery Site has remained a Strategic Priority of Council, and the bridge will be an attractive and important feature connecting north and south across the Salmon River. Staff recommend awarding the pedestrian/AT bridge project to WRD and TRS and authorize staff to negotiate a contract for same.

During debate, key points of discussion included:

- NS Power lines and poles;
- design details;
- annual maintenance amounts and budget allocations;
- bridge life expectancy;
- benefits of bridge regarding Active Transportation;
- driver for tourism;
- year-round access;
- available funding from other sources;
- municipal funding requirements and resources;
- mixed support from residents;
- safety and liability concerns;
- bridge being a want rather than a need - money could be better spent elsewhere;
- maintenance and snow plowing concerns;
- policing of the bridge; and,
- the need for more comprehensive community engagement.

Moved by Councillor Weatherby, seconded by Councillor Richardson

"That Council approves the award of a contract to WRD and TRS for the design and construction of a pedestrian/ active transportation bridge for the Fundy Discovery Site and authorize staff to negotiate and enter into an acceptable contract for such; and,

That Council authorize the expenditure of \$2,530,903 towards its share of the total project cost." Motion carried (*Councillors Johnson, Leggett, Martel, Patton, and Fletcher opposed*).

**Central Nova Scotia
Tourism Development**

Jenn Mantin, Economic Development Officer, presented background information and progress to date on the establishment of the Central Nova Scotia Tourism Development

**Society Memorandum
of Association & By-
laws Approval**

Society. The next step in the process is to seek approvals of the Memorandum of Association (MOA) and By-laws for the Society from the Municipality of Colchester, Towns of Truro and Stewiacke, and Millbrook First Nation. Included in the presentation was highlights of the MOA including purpose and objectives, asset and financial structure, dissolution clause and geographic scope and location. An overview of the By-laws included information on membership, meetings, Board of Directors, voting and governance, appointment of officers and financial controls.

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That Council approve the Memorandum of Association and By-laws for the Central Nova Scotia Tourism Development Society as presented, conditional upon approval by all municipal and band partners; and,

That Council authorize the CAO and Legal Counsel to make non-material revisions, if required, once review is complete by the regional partners.” Carried unanimously.

**Hilden Sidewalk HWY
#2 Sidewalk – Award of
Tender**

Kaela MacLellan, Project Engineer, presented a report on the tender for constructing a new sidewalk along Highway #2 from Avalon Avenue to Edwards Road. Included in her report was information on approved budget, tender submissions, as well as resource and strategic priorities implications. Because the total project commitment with contingency exceeds the approved budget, Council approval is required to award the tender.

Brief discussion took place on subdivisions without sidewalks and the need for review of the Active Transportation Strategy.

Moved by Councillor Richardson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sandeson

“That the tender for the construction of the Hilden Highway #2 Sidewalk from Avalon Ave. to Edwards Rd. be awarded to Basin Contracting for a total contract amount of \$1,693,000.00 excluding HST; and,

That an internal contingency of \$100,000 be approved, to be spent only on authority of the Director of Public Works.” Carried unanimously.

Bass River Bridge

Councillor Fletcher advised that she has been contacted by citizens seeking support for renaming the bridge in Bass River.

Moved by Councillor Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Weatherby

“That Council write a letter to Nova Scotia Public Works on behalf of citizens of Bass River regarding a new name for the bridge as recommended by the citizens.” Carried unanimously.

**Correspondence –
ACTION**

**Justin Cantafio,
Executive Director,
Farmers’ Markets of
Nova Scotia**

A letter dated May 7, 2025, seeking a letter of support for reconsideration of a recent decision regarding provincial funding for Farmers’ Markets.

Moved by Councillor Leggett, seconded by Councillor Kennedy

“That Council approves a letter of support be written concerning reconsideration of a recent decision on provincial funding for Farmers’ Markets of Nova Scotia.” Carried unanimously.

**Devin Trefry, Interim
Managing Director,
Cliffs of Fundy Geopark**

A letter dated June 11, 2025, requesting a letter of support regarding confirmation of funding commitment through to 2028.

Moved by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Martell

“That Council write a letter to the Cliffs of Fundy Geopark committing to funding, in principle, through to 2027/28.” Carried unanimously.

Andria MacAulay

An email dated June 16, 2025, requesting consideration of a monetary donation toward travel expenses for the CEC Envirothon Team to international competition.

Moved by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sandeson

“That the request for a monetary donation toward travel expenses for the CEC Envirothon Team to international competition be received for information.” Motion carried (*Councillors Johnson and Benoit opposed*).

**Shelley Werk, Donor
Relations, Prostate
Cancer
Foundation Canada**

An email dated April 3, 2025, requesting lighting up our building in September for Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That Council approves lighting the Municipal Building in September for Prostate Cancer Awareness month.” Carried unanimously.

**Katie Price, Chair, EDI
Committee**

Letter to Mayor and Council dated June 20, 2025, requesting a name change for the EDI Committee.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That Council approves that the name of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (EDI) be changed to Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Committee (EDIA). Carried unanimously.

Correspondence - INFORMATION

Development Officer

A copy of Development Activity Report for May 2025.

Building Inspector

A copy of Building Permit Statistics for May 2025.

Moved by Councillor Leggett, seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the reports from the Development Officer and Building Inspector be received.” Carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

**Reports from Council
Members**

Copies of reports from the Mayor and Councillors were circulated in the package and ‘On Table’ for this evening’s meeting

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Deputy Mayor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Weatherby

“That the meeting go into closed session at 8:47 pm.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor Kennedy

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 9:58 pm.” Carried unanimously.

**Negotiations – J Class
Roads**

Moved by Councillor Weatherby, seconded by Councillor Leggett

“That Council approves the repaving of Hillvale Drive and MacCallum Drive under the J Class Road Paving Program based on the tender results provided by the Province.” Carried unanimously.

**Negotiations -
Residential Curbside
Recycling Collection
Transitional Financial
Offer**

Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council authorize staff to finalize agreements with Circular Materials for the residential curbside recycling collection program based on the Opt-In Service model as presented under the Extended Producer Responsibility Regulations and further that Council authorizes the CAO to execute the contract with Circular Materials once finalized.” Carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Deputy Mayor Sandeson, the meeting adjourned at 10:01 pm.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary