

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 Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 6:00 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	
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
 Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services
 Phil Redden, Director of Solid Waste
 Anna-Marie Manley, Municipal Solicitor
 Tracey Veno, Recording Secretary
 Tim Smith, IT Manager
 David Quinn, Project Engineer *(for item 7)*
 Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager *(for items 9&10)*

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Weatherby, seconded by Councillor Kennedy

“That the agenda be approved with the following additions:

- Item 5(4) Colchester Planning Advisory Committee Report from March 24, 2026, meeting; and,
- Item 11b Preservation of Municipal Records.” Carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the minutes from February 26, 2026, 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 reports from the meeting held on March 12, 2026.

Personnel Policy Amendments – 5.11 Exit Interviews

Moved by Deputy Mayor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Martell

“That Council approves the updated Exit Interviews Personnel Policy as presented.” Carried unanimously.

Merging of Municipality of East Hants into Colchester Regional Emergency Management Organization

Moved by Deputy Mayor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Richardson

“That Council approves that the Municipality of East Hants be permitted to join our Colchester Regional Emergency Management Organization. ” Carried unanimously.

Community Event Grants Policy

Moved by Deputy Mayor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That Council approves the amendments to the Community Event Grants Policy as presented. ” Carried unanimously.

Community Event Grant Request – Atlantic Members Conference 2026, 4 H Nova Scotia

Moved by Deputy Mayor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Richardson

“That Council approves funding in the amount of \$5,000 for 4H Nova Scotia’s Atlantic Members Conference 2026. ” Carried unanimously.

Annual Account Write-offs

Moved by Deputy Mayor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Martell

“That Council approves that the 2025/26 property taxes, water utility receivables and interest, totalling \$8,575.46, as presented, be written off. ” Carried unanimously.

Three-Year Cost Sharing Agreement , J Class Roads

Moved by Deputy Mayor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That Council approves entering into the Three-Year (2027-28, 2028-29, 2029-30) Cost Sharing Agreement No. 2026-007 for J Class Roads with the Province; and,

That the Mayor and CAO be authorized to sign Cost Share Agreement No. 2026-007. ” Carried unanimously.

Municipal Fees Policy Revisions

Moved by Deputy Mayor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Weatherby

“That Council approves the changes to the Municipal Fees Policy as presented. ” Carried unanimously.

Tax Exemption Request, Truro Housing Outreach Society

Moved by Deputy Mayor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Weatherby

“That Council approves the request for a tax exemption from Truro Housing Outreach Society for property AAN #'s 00104949, effective 2026-27. ” Carried unanimously.

Contract Negotiations – Debert Airport Operator Agreement

Moved by Deputy Mayor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That Council approves entering into an extension of the Airport Operator Agreement with the Truro Flying Club under the terms as outlined in closed session. ” Carried unanimously.

Personnel Matter – Non-union Salary Increases

Moved by Deputy Mayor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Kennedy

“That Council approves the non-union staff salary adjustments for the next three years as presented in closed session. ” Carried unanimously.

French River Source Water Protection Advisory Committee – February 27, 2026, Minutes

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor Richardson

“That the minutes from the French River Source Water Protection Advisory Committee meeting held on February 27, 2026, be received.” Carried unanimously.

Executive Committee – March 9, 2026, Minutes

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Weatherby

“That the minutes from the Executive Committee meeting held on March 9, 2026, be received.” Carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS**First Reading –
Amendments to the
Land Use By-law, Lands
of Family Acres
Campground Inc.**

Paul Smith, Director of Community Development, indicated that this item relates to proposed Land Use By-law amendments to enable the establishment of a commercial campground in Folly Mountain. The Colchester Planning Advisory Committee met on March 24, 2026, to consider the application and recommend to Council that it be approved. Under requirements of the *Municipal Government Act*, Land Use By-law amendments require two readings for adoption. First Reading essentially announces Council’s intent to consider. If approved at First Reading, Second Reading would be scheduled for April 27, 2026, following a Public Hearing at the same meeting.

Moved by Councillor Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Weatherby

“That Council approves at First Reading the application for the proposed amendment to the Colchester Land Use By-law as presented; and,

That this document be advanced to a Public Hearing with consideration of the proposed amendment being deferred until Second Reading following the Public Hearing.” Carried unanimously.

**Award of Tender –
Front Entrance
Accessibility Upgrades**

David Quinn, Project Engineer, reported on the Award of Tender for the Front Entrance Accessibility Upgrades. Included in the report was background on the project upgrades, tender details, submissions received and budgetary information.

Moved by Councillor Weatherby, seconded by Councillor Kennedy

“That Council approves awarding the tender for the Courthouse Front Entrance Accessibility Upgrades, to Fowler Construction Services, for a total contract price of \$537,639.00 excluding HST, with an anticipated total project commitment of \$650,000.” Carried unanimously.

**Correspondence –
ACTION**

**Jeff Winters, Colchester
Ground Search and
Rescue Association**

A letter to Mayor and Council requesting an increase in funding support.

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sandeson

“That the funding request from Colchester Ground Search and Rescue Association be referred to budget deliberations.” Carried unanimously.

**Chelsea Weatherbee,
Truro Colchester
Welcome Network**

A letter to the Mayor dated March 9, 2026, requesting funding support for the Truro Colchester Welcome Network.

Moved by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the funding request from the Truro Colchester Welcome Network be referred to budget deliberations.” Carried unanimously.

**Mayor Mike Bartlett,
Town of Digby**

Copy of a letter to the Premier dated March 17, 2026, concerning support for the Coalition to End Poverty.

Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Richardson

“That the letter from Mayor Bartlett, Town of Digby, concerning the Coalition to End Poverty be received for information purposes.” Carried unanimously.

**Wade Jennings,
President, CFFA**

A letter to the Mayor and Council requesting the Municipality cover costs associated with the lamResponding app.

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Kennedy

“That the request from the CFFA for the Municipality to cover costs associated with the lamResponding app be referred to staff.” Carried unanimously.

**Pam Macintosh,
Manager of Planning
Services**

A memo to Council concerning a municipal heritage property designation application by Ulrich vom Hagen for PID 20106803.

Moved by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That the memo to Council concerning a municipal heritage property designation application by Ulrich vom Hagen for PID 20106803 be referred to the Colchester Planning Advisory Committee.” Carried unanimously.

**The Honourable Fred
Tilley, Minister of Public
Works**

Councillor Martell declared a conflict of interest and recused herself from discussion on this matter.

A letter received March 25, 2026, concerning the provinces approved list under the Cost Shared Program for JClass Roads for 2026-27.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Kennedy

“That Council approves the pre-allocation of funds in the 2026-27 budget for the Municipality’s portion of paving costs under the 2026-27 Cost Shared Program for the paving of Ice Pond Drive; and,

That the CAO be authorized to execute of the Notice of Acceptance.” Carried unanimously.

Correspondence - INFORMATION

Development Officer A copy of Development Activity Report for February 2026.

Building Inspector A copy of Building Permit Statistics for February 2026.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Weatherby

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

**Mark Langille, Chief,
Tatamagouche Fire
Department** Letter to Dave Westlake, Protective Services Coordinator, concerning a fire area rate increase for the Tatamagouche Fire Department.

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the letter from Mark Langille concerning a fire area rate increase for the Tatamagouche Fire Department be received.” Carried unanimously.

**Nigel Leggett, Chief,
Valley-Kemptown Fire
Brigade** *Councillor Leggett declared a conflict of interest and recused himself from discussion on this matter.*

Email concerning a fire area rate increase for the Valley-Kemptown Fire Brigade.

Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Kennedy

“That the email from Chief Nigel Leggett concerning a fire area rate increase for the Valley-Kemptown Fire Brigade be received.” Carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

**Community Event
Grants – Summary of
Applications for
2026/27 Budget** Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager, provided an overview of the four applications received for Community Event Grants (CEG) Policy. Information included the name of the organization, requested amount, and staff recommendations and rationale for these recommendations.

Recommendations will be advanced to, and given final approval, during budget deliberations. It was noted that applications for CEGs can be considered throughout the year as there is no deadline for these applications.

**Grants to Non-Profit
Organizations –** Similar to the previous item, the Recreation Manager provided a report on the 32 Grants to Non-Profit applications for the 2026/27 fiscal year. Included in his report was a summary of

**Summary of
Applications for
2026/27 Budget**

all requests with name of the organization; amount requested and intended use of the funds; and staff's recommendations and rationale for the recommendations. Copies of each application were included in the package for this evening's meeting.

Discussion was held on a number of applications including:

- Mattatall Lake Stewardship Association – additional information requested prior to budget deliberation
- Central Nova Horse & Pony Association – concerns around property being owned by the Department of Natural Resources
- Cobequid Society for Athletic Excellence (Cougar Dome) – additional request for annual funding
- Funding for Cemeteries – Council historically not providing support to cemeteries vastly due to the extensive number of cemeteries throughout Colchester.
- Colchester Community Support Society – questions around recommended amount being lesser than requested
- Creamery Square Association – concerns of recommended support being 50% of request and possibly revisiting this during budget deliberations,

Further discussion took place regarding the number of applications and the funding amounts, with both noted to be comparable to those of the previous year.

Staff recommendations will be advanced to budget deliberations in April for consideration and final approval.

**Elimination of Frontage
Culverts**

The Director of Public Works provided an overview of staff's decision to eliminate permits for frontage culverts on County owned roads. The report included information on current processes, approximate number of culverts issued annually, and reasons for discontinuing this practice.

**Preservation of
Municipal Records**

The CAO provided a briefing on plans to work with the Colchester Historeum to preserve and protect the Municipality's records dating back to the late 1800s. The Historeum has offered to digitize these records, providing copies to the Municipality and retaining the originals for proper storage and preservation.

**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 Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Benoit

"That the meeting go into closed session at 6:59pm." Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Cooper

"That the meeting reconvene in open session at 7:25pm." Carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councillor Weatherby, the meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary