

**Committee of the Whole Meeting
 Approved Minutes
 March 5, 2025 at 6:00 pm**

1. Call to Order	Deputy Mayor Sybil Skinner-Robertson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm acknowledging that the meeting was being live streamed.
2. Present	Councillor Adele MacDonald, Councillor Lynn Myers, Councillor Heather Sadkowski, Deputy Mayor Sybil Skinner-Robertson, Director of Finance (DoF) Melony Robinson, and Recording Secretary Kim Dunning Presenter: Nina Newington, (left at 6:20 pm) Eleven representatives attended on behalf of Save Our Old Forests (SOOF) (left at 6:20 pm) Members of the Public: Stephen Robertson and Roger Lindala
3. Regrets	Mayor Amery Boyer and CAO Sandi Millett-Campbell
4. Absents	None
5. Additions to Agenda	None
6. Approval of Agenda	MOTION #CoW2025-03-05-01 It was regularly moved and seconded to approve the agenda as presented by unanimous consent.
7. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest Issues	None
Edits to the Minutes	None
8. Approval of Minutes	MOTION #CoW2025-03-05-02 The February 5, 2025 minutes were approved as presented by unanimous consent.

9. Presentation

Save Our Old Forests (SOOF) – Nina Newington

Nina Newington gave an overview of what the Save Our Old Forests Association has and is currently working on to protect areas in Nova Scotia. They would like Council to write a letter of support to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change requesting that the Goldsmith Lake Wilderness Area be advanced as a candidate area for permanent protection as part of the 15% interim target established by the Canada-Nova Scotia Nature Agreement. Nina Newington will draft a letter and send it to the Town.

Deputy Mayor Skinner-Robertson thanked Nina Newington for their presentation.

10. Public Input

A member of the public asked how many hours volunteers are currently dedicating to help save these forests. Nina Newington responded that they couldn't give a clear number of hours.

11. Unfinished Business

i. Meet and Greet Council

DoF Robinson advised that the cost to book the Legion is \$75.00 and suggested Mondays as the Legion doesn't have any bookings on that day. It was agreed to keep having these meetings as it is an ideal opportunity to hear what the public has to say. April 14, 2025 from 4:15 pm to 6:15 pm was agreed for the next Meet and Greet Council.

ACTION: Book the Legion for April 14, 2025, 4:15 pm to 6:15 pm

NAME: Recording Secretary

DUE: March 7, 2025

ii. Request for Decision – Repeal and Replace the Policy on Meetings, Procedures and Presentations #2025-05

MOTION #CoW2025-03-05-03

It was regularly moved and seconded to recommend to Council the repeal of Policy on Meetings, Procedures and Presentations #2023-06 and its replacement with Meetings, Procedures and Presentation Policy #2025-05 dated March 2025. **Motion carried.**

iii. Community Solar Program

Councillor Sadkowski stated that this does require a lot of work and money upfront, and there should be the opportunity to explore other options. Councillor MacDonald suggested exploring partnerships with other municipalities. Councillor Myers watched the presentation and contacted them directly with some questions; she suggested looking at this in a year's time due to staffing concerns, etc. Councillor MacDonald asked about having a table at the Meet and Great Council and Councillor Sadkowski suggested that participating at the Climate Fair could be a possibility.

12. New Business

i. Nominations to the Order of Nova Scotia

DoF Robinson advised that Council has until April 18, 2025 to decide if it would like to nominate someone. Councillor MacDonald advised that they have personally been involved with four nomination packages from the community. There are two ways of tackling this: the Town provides a name; or the community/residents putting a name forward. It was agreed to add this to the Town's newsletter.

ACTION: Add to the April's newsletter

NAME: Recording Secretary

DUE: March 27, 2025

ii. Appoint New Committee Members for Environment Advisory Committee

DoF Robinson advised that the Environment Advisory Committee has received four submissions, and there are currently only three spaces available. It was agreed to change the policy to increase the number of committee members. After further discussion, it was agreed to appoint three of the four people and appoint the fourth once the policy has been updated.

ACTION: Add Environment Advisory Committee Policy to Committee of the Whole April meeting

NAME: Recording Secretary

DUE: March 20, 2025

MOTION #CoW2025-03-05-04

It was regularly moved and seconded to recommend to Council the appointment of Gillian Kerr to the Environment Advisory Committee for a term of one year until December 31, 2025. **Motion carried.**

MOTION #CoW2025-03-05-05

It was regularly moved and seconded to recommend to Council the appointment of Lachlan MacDonald to the Environment Advisory Committee for a term of one year until December 31, 2025. **Motion carried.**

MOTION #CoW2025-03-05-06

It was regularly moved and seconded to recommend to Council the appointment of Geraldine Kenny to the Environment Advisory Committee for a term of two-years until December 31, 2026. **Motion carried.**

- iii. Request for Decision - Repeal and Replace Equipment Replacement Policy 2025-06
DoF Robinson advised that the only change is the removal of the appendix dealing with vehicles. This part will no longer be included in the policy so that the policy will not have to be reviewed/updated on an annual basis.

MOTION #CoW2025-03-05-07

It was regularly moved and seconded to recommend to Council the repeal of Equipment Replacement Policy #2016-03 and its replacement with Equipment Replacement Policy #2025-06 dated March 2025. **Motion carried.**

- iv. Request for Decision - Repeal Accessibility Policy 2019-06
DoF Robinson advised that the Accessibility Policy is no longer needed as this committee has been replaced by the regional Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) Committee.

MOTION #CoW2025-03-05-08

It was regularly moved and seconded to recommend to Council the repeal of Accessibility Advisory Committee Policy #2019-06 dated December 16, 2019, as of March 20, 2025. **Motion carried.**

- v. Joint Climate Action Survey
For information only to ensure everyone is aware that the Joint Climate Action Survey is available and only takes roughly five minutes to complete. Councillor Myers asked if there was a deadline to complete this, and Council wasn't sure if there was a date. Suggestion to add this to the Meet and Greet on April 14, 2025.
- vi. Save Our Old Forest (SOOF) Request

DoF Robinson advised that SOOF would send a draft letter to the Town for its review and submission.

13. Correspondence
None

14. In-camera
Under Section 22(2) of the Municipal Government Act:

MOTION #CoW2025-03-05-09

It was regularly moved and seconded to move into camera at 6:44 pm to approve the in-camera minutes of February 5, 2025. **Motion carried.**

MOTION #CoW2025-03-05-11

It was regularly moved and seconded to move out of camera at 6:48 pm. **Motion carried.**

15. Next Meeting
April 2, 2025

16. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 pm.



Deputy Mayor Sybil Skinner-Robertson



Recording Secretary Kim Dunning