Annapolis Royal
Nova Scotia

Environment Advisory Committee Meeting
Approved Minutes
September 9, 2026 at 3:00 pm

1. Call to Order	Chair Bernard called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm
2. Present	Chair Mike Bernard, Climate Lead Genevieve Beaulac, Stephen Hawboldt, CARP Representative Levi Cliche, Geraldine Kenny Kathy Brooks, Deputy Mayor Skinner-Robertson, CAO Sandi Millett-Campbell, and Recording Secretary Laura Bright
3. Regrets	Gillian Kerr
4. Absent	None
5. Additions to Agenda	**New Business** iii) Wildfire Risk from Spruce Plantations
6. Approval of the Agenda	**MOTION #EAC2026-09-09-01** Regularly moved and seconded to approve the agenda as amended by unanimous consent. **Motion carried.**
7. Disclosure of conflict of interest issues	None
Edits to the Minutes	
8. Approval of Minutes	**MOTION #EAC2026-09-09-02** Regularly moved and seconded approval of the minutes of July 8, 2026 as presented by unanimous consent. **Motion carried.**

9. Presentations

None

10. Public Input

None

11. New Business

i. Joint Climate Action Plan – Draft for Review

Climate Lead Genevieve Beaulac advised that the Joint Climate Action plan includes 42 joint actions and 10 actions that are specific for the Town of Annapolis Royal. They are requesting feedback from EAC on which items are a priority for the committee.

Geraldine Kenny asked for clarification and examples of what kind of feedback is being requested.

Climate Lead Beaulac responded that they are looking to identify priorities among the proposed actions. They noted that if EAC feels strongly about land conservation that information should be included so that it can inform the final report.

CAO Millett-Campbell clarified that part of the assignment is to reduce the number of actions to a more manageable number, especially given there is no dedicated Staff work on the actions. They suggested identifying 3 or 4 Town specific actions and identifying 8 to 10 joint actions that can be accomplished in the next 3 years.

Climate Lead Beaulac noted that the final report will include all the proposed actions in the appendix so they won't be lost for future reference.

CAO Millett-Campbell advised that the deadline for EAC to submit feedback is the end of September. The goal is to have the Joint Climate Action Plan go to the three municipal Councils for approval in November.

Chair Mike Bernard suggested striking a Task Team to consolidate feedback given the tight timeline. CARP Representative Cliche suggested that the working group create a short list and ranking system.

Geraldine Kenny suggested that all EAC members provide a short list of long-term and short-term actions ranked 1 to 5. They offered

to collect all responses by September 21 and pass them along to the Task Team.

ACTION: Collect responses from EAC members ranking short and long term actions from 1 to 5.
NAME: Geraldine Kenny
DUE: September 21, 2026

Chair Bernard suggested discussing who will be on the Task Team by email. The Task team would be responsible for consolidating the rankings and sharing the results with Climate Lead Beaulac.

CARP Representative Cliche asked what level of feedback they should be providing on behalf of CARP. Climate Lead Beaulac asked that the CARP review take into consideration the full report and joint actions, and that the feedback be sent directly to them. CARP Representative Cliche is also welcome to provide personal feedback on the Town specific rankings to the Task Team.

ii. **Annapolis County – Flood Visualization Tool**

CAO Millett-Campbell reported that the Municipality of the County of Annapolis recently shared access to an online Flood Visualization Tool. They advised that the County had not yet made a public announcement about the availability of the Tool.

CAO Millett-Campbell advised that the purpose of the project was not to instill fear but raise awareness of the flood zone so residents can prepare.

Geraldine Kenny asked when the tool would be released to the public. CAO Millett-Campbell responded that the Town had shared a link to the Tool was included in the Mayor's Message in the September edition of the Town Crier.

Geraldine Kenny asked if the Town had an obligation to ensure that people looking to move to Annapolis Royal were aware of the potential flood risk.

CAO Millett-Campbell replied that if someone were to ask the Town they would be provided with information and Tools but ultimately it is up to the individual to do the research.

Stephen Hawboldt noted that the Tool shows projections for 2050 and beyond, but given the right conditions with storm surge there could be a flooding event much sooner.

Deputy Mayor Skinner-Robertson shared that the NS Federation of Municipalities had reported that people are purchasing property regardless of the risk of flooding.

CAO Millett-Campbell advised that the responsibility for coastal protection had shifted from the province to municipalities. They reported that the majority of the Town's waterfront has already been developed and is privately owned. There is little that the town can do at this point to establish setback limits and discourage development.

Geraldine Kenny asked if the topic of flooding would be addressed in the upcoming Emergency Preparedness Workshop. Chair Bernard advised that REMO does not have specific hazard-based presentations at this time.

CARP Representative Cliche asked if it is possible to see the full report and modelling that was used to build the Tool. CAO Millett-Campbell suggested Dillon Consulting built the tools and that questions should be directed to the County's Director of Planning & Inspection Services Linda Bent.

iii. Wildfire Risk from Spruce Plantation

Stephen Hawboldt advised that 25 years ago the Department of Natural Resources had warned that there were pockets of even aged spruce on the North Mountain what were reaching maturity. Nothing was done about it and now these pockets are all dying off, increasing the risk of wildfire. The potential impact to the Town would be the spread of fire, smoke and the water system.

Chair Bernard noted that while the potential risk and impacts to the Town are real, EAC and the Town do not have any jurisdiction over the North Mountain. CARP Representative Cliche noted that the area in question is mostly private land and it's really a matter of raising awareness about the issue, which is something the County could do. They also noted in addition to the dying spruce there are issues with disease and pests impacting other trees like ash and hemlocks.

Geraldine Kenny asked if it would be appropriate for the Town to share concerns regarding fire issues with the County. Deputy Mayor Skinner-Robertson suggested they could reach out to the County through the REMO Advisory Committee rather than a formal letter from Council.

12. Unfinished Business

i. Emergency Preparedness Workshop – Update

Chair Bernard reported that the workshop will be held on Saturday, October 17 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm in the Dugua Room at the Annapolis Royal Library. Information booths and tables will be setup in the Library foyer. Presentations from REMO include Fire Smart and General Emergency Preparedness, and Donna Crossland has confirmed as a guest speaker. Chair Bernard is working on confirming a presentation by Red Cross and an Animal Rescue group.

Chair Bernard will create the agenda once the final presenters have confirmed. The agenda will be used for the poster and will be advertised in the Town Crier, Bridgetown Reader, Saltwire and the Town's website and social media.

Kathy Brooks suggested having coffee, tea and snacks available during the session, and suggested scheduling a break in between sessions to give people an opportunity to stop by the information tables.

Geraldine Kenny asked if the Town had hosted a similar Emergency Preparedness Workshop in the past. Deputy Mayor Skinner-Robertson noted that there have been elements of Emergency

Preparedness incorporated into a previous event. They also noted that REMO Brian Orde has been doing presentations throughout Annapolis County, including the June Council Engagement Session.

Deputy Mayor Skinner Robertson suggested reaching out to Intact Insurance as they may be able to attend with an information booth. Chair Bernard asked for contact information for Intact Insurance. Deputy Mayor Skinner-Robertson will provide the contact information for Intact to Chair Bernard.

Chair Bernard suggested changing the name of the event as a workshop implies active participation. All agreed to change the name to Emergency Preparedness Information Session.

CAO Millett-Campbell suggested that Chair Bernard test out the connection to any laptop that will be used prior to the session.

ii. Shoreline Restoration Project – Update

CAO Millett-Campbell advised EAC members that the Shoreline Restoration Project would not be moving forward as not all the required easements could be secured. They noted that several alternatives were explored but nothing was viable and without the easements in place the project had to be cancelled.

CAO Millett-Campbell reported that Staff are working with funders to see what money can be redirected to climate adaptation and mitigation projects. There are lots of project ideas, however the one major consideration for redirecting funds is that the proposed project needs to be "shovel-ready" which is proving to be a challenge.

Kathy Brooks asked why easements had not been secured earlier on in the process.

CAO Millett-Campbell explained that the grants required the Town to spend money on the design before working to secure the easements. They noted that the design concept was shared with the landowners in 2025 and at the time they all agreed with the project, except for one person. The plan was adjusted and then Staff started working on securing the easements with all the other owners, and

making arrangements with Parks Canada. Unfortunately, since then one of the owners has changed their mind about the project and refused to sign the easement.

Geraldine Kenny asked what the impact was of the owner changing their mind. CAO Millett-Campbell replied that the project will not be moving forwards.

Stephen Hawboldt suggested looking into a project that had been proposed in the past to restore the salt marsh on Prince Albert Road.

CAO Millett-Campbell advised that Staff are in discussions with funders at how to redirect funding to work on the wharf.

Deputy Mayor Skinner-Robertson asked the CAO to pass along thanks to the Staff for their all their efforts and for pivoting.

13. Correspondence:

i. NS Department of Natural Resources - Notice of Geophysical Survey

CAO Millett-Campbell shared the letter from DNR notifying the Town that a province-wide airborne geophysical survey program is currently underway and residents may observe low-flying aircraft. The intent of the survey is to gain a better understanding of the geology to support mineral exploration.

14. Next Meeting

October 14, 2026 at 3:00 pm

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Chair
Mike Bernard

Recording Secretary
Laura Bright