



## Committee of the Whole

Town of Truro

Thursday, February 27, 2025 – 4:00 p.m.

Town Hall – Council Chambers

A Committee of the Whole meeting for the Town of Truro occurred on Thursday, February 27, at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Present: Mayor C. Hinton, Deputy Mayor B. Thomas, Councillors I. McGrath, J. Flemming, A. Graham, D. Pryor, W. Talbot

In Attendance: CAO M. Dolter, Director of Planning J. Fox, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture A. Simms, Manager of Strategic Initiatives & Communications A. Grant, Fire Chief B. Currie

Regrets: Police Chief D. MacNeil, Director of Public Works A. MacKinnon,

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*Mayor C. Hinton called the meeting to order and began with a Land Acknowledgment*

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### **Approval of the Agenda**

1. Mayor C. Hinton noted a change in the circulated agenda with the removal of "Item 3 – Election 2024". By motion of Councillors I. McGrath and J. Flemming, the amended agenda was approved. Motion carried.

### **Approval of Minutes**

By motion of Councillors J. Flemming and I. McGrath, the minutes of January 30, 2025, were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

### **Recover – JP Robicheau**

JP Robicheau and Sebastian Green of Recover, a not-for-profit company specializing in energy-efficient retrofits, spoke to Council about their ideas for the Truro Farmers Market building. Their plan would include project development, technical advice, financing assistance, community engagement support, and a financial contribution of \$118,900 to support the implementation of a deep retrofit plan.

Councillor A. Graham inquired if the Farmer's Market Board had been engaged at this stage. S. Green replied that they had not been engaged at this proposal stage but would be if the project goes forward.

Councillor I. McGrath asked what the timeline would be for such a project. S. Green replied that it would take between 3 to 6 months.

Deputy Mayor B. Thomas expressed his concern for the heritage value of the building. S. Green replied that the professional consultant team would receive an RFP that they must do what they can to preserve the heritage aspect of the building.

Councillor W. Talbot asked what would happen if the consultant proposed a plan that was more than the town was able to afford. S. Green explained that the money is paid directly to the consultant team and that the town can walk away at any time. JP Robicheau pointed out that the plan can be broken out and completed in phases.

Councillor D. Pryor asked if there was funding available from the Provincial or Federal government for this sort of project. S. Green replied that there was funding available and that Recover would help identify such opportunities as part of their services.

CAO M. Dolter explained that Council would be presented with a Request For Decision at the April Public Council meeting to proceed with the project.

4. **Public Health and the Town of Truro**

Lindsay Robertson, Liaquat Shaikh, and Vinita Nair presented to Council about Public Health initiatives and the role Public Health can play in the Municipality.

Councillor W. Talbot asked if this program is a continuation of the Determinants of Health. L. Robertson replied that a lot of their focus is on the social determinants of health; the non-medical factors that determine health.

Councillor I. McGrath asked if the team had made any point in time counts for homelessness in Colchester County. L. Shaikh replied that a count was done three or four years ago in Cumberland County but not in Colchester. V. Nair advised that there has been talk of doing a homeless count in Colchester and East Hants.

Councillor I. McGrath asked for clarification between “transitional housing” and “supportive housing”. V. Nair explained that transition housing is for people who need to transition back to living in society whereas supportive housing provides support for people who may have mental health or addiction issues that require support.

CAO M. Dolter stated that there are many intersections between Town of Truro initiatives and Public Health to be explored.

5. **Victoria Park Clean-up**

Scott Holman, Victoria Park and Urban Forestry Supervisor shared a presentation with Council on the clean-up in Victoria Park and the benefits of Coarse Woody Debris in forest regrowth.

Councillor A. Graham asked if the trees being replanted would be stronger to withstand hurricanes. S. Holman replied that they are not planting hemlocks, instead, they are planting a mixture of softwood and that all trees are at risk in a hurricane.

Councillor I. McGrath asked if there can be too much coarse woody debris. S. Holman explained that there can never be too much and that areas where too much is removed do not have successful regrowth.

Deputy Mayor B. Thomas asked S. Holman if he had considered overseeding in areas with thin soil. S. Holman replied that he would be looking further into the practice.

6. **Adjournment**

Mayor C. Hinton adjourned the meeting at 5:24pm.

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Cathy Hinton  
Mayor

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M. Dolter  
Chief Administrative Officer