



Public Council Meeting

Town of Truro

Monday March 3, 2025 – 1:00 p.m.

Town Hall – Council Chambers

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

In Attendance: CAO M. Dolter, Director of Public Works A. MacKinnon, Director of Planning J. Fox, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture A. Simms, Police Chief D. MacNeil, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Communications A. Grant, Town Solicitor C. Thompson

Regrets: Fire Chief B. Currie

Mayor C. Hinton called the meeting to order, beginning with a Land Acknowledgement. She recognised that we are gathered on Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq People, and acknowledged the significant contributions of the African Nova Scotia Community to our province over the past 400 years, despite enduring generations of inequality due to systemic racism.

1) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

CAO M. Dolter announced that *Item 4a Request for Decision: MPS/LUB Follow-Up Review/Amendments* has been removed from the agenda and will be revisited next month.

On motion of Councillors J. Flemming and I. McGrath, the agenda was approved as amended. Motion carried.

2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion of Councillors I. McGrath and D. Pryor, the minutes for the Public Council Meeting on February 3, 2025, were approved. Motion carried.

3) **PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE** – N/A

4) **OLD BUSINESS**

b) **Request for Decision: Expropriation of Storm Sewer Easement**

CAO M. Dolter explained that the town plans to improve the stormwater system in the areas of Cobequid Drive, Fundy Drive, Clifton Court, and Harris Drive. This project will include the installation of a new by-pass stormwater system that would run from the intersection of Fundy Drive and Cobequid Drive, via an easement over 15 and 25 Clifton Court, extending into the stormwater detention system at Truro Elementary School.

Motion #1

It was moved by Councillors I. McGrath and D. Pryor that the Town of Truro expropriate an easement interest for the purpose of constructing and maintaining a storm sewer line and related storm sewer infrastructure over and under the parcel of land identified as Storm Sewer Easement "25-E1" shown on an Easement Sketch prepared by Darren Trevors dated February 21, 2025, over the lands at 15 Clifton Court, Truro, PID 20164661. The rights of the easement are substantially in the form set out in Schedule "1". By vote of 5 to 1, the motion was carried.

Motion #2

It was moved by Councillors I. McGrath and D. Pryor that the Town of Truro expropriate an easement interest for the purpose of constructing and maintaining a storm sewer line and related storm sewer infrastructure over and under the parcel of land identified as Storm Sewer Easement "25-E2" shown on an Easement Sketch prepared by Darren Trevors dated February 21, 2025, over the lands at 25 Clifton Court, Truro, PID 20164653. The rights of the easement are substantially in the form set out in Schedule "1". By vote of 4 to 2, the motion was carried.

c) **Request for Decision: Regional Strategic Plan for Tourism**

CAO M. Dolter reviewed the Regional Strategic Tourism Plan (STEP), which was previously presented to Council at the January 30 Committee of the Whole meeting. STEP would be a collaborative initiative with Colchester County, Stewiacke and Millbrook First Nation to produce a unified tourism strategy for the region.

By motion of Councillors I. McGrath and D. Pryor, it was moved that Truro Town Council adopt the Regional Strategic Tourism Plan (STEP) as presented and authorize staff to proceed with the development of a detailed short-term implementation plan. Motion carried.

d) **Request for Decision: Renaming the TAAC Grounds**

CAO M. Dolter explained that in 2022, Town Council committed to renaming the TAAC Grounds upon completion of its revitalization in the spring of 2025. The goal of the renaming project is to honor the No. 2 Construction Battalion, an all-Black battalion that used the TAAC Grounds for training during World War I.

A subcommittee of Truro's African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee met in February, reviewed the 45 submissions, and put forward its recommendation to rename the TAAC Grounds as the No. 2 Construction Battalion Athletic Facility.

By motion of Councillors A. Graham and I. McGrath, it was moved to adopt the new name for the TAAC Grounds as recommended by the sub-committee. Motion carried.

B) IN-CAMERA SUMMARY REPORT

CAO M. Dolter advised there was an in-camera session held February 20, 2025 to discuss one land matter and two legal matters. An in-camera session will be held after the March 3, 2025 Public Council meeting to discuss three matters.

6) **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **CAO Report**

The CAO report for the month of February was presented to Council.

Mayor C. Hinton noted after the CAO report that a delegation of Cambodian municipal workers had visited Truro and presented to Council on initiatives taking place in their regions of Cambodia.

Mayor Hinton also mentioned that the Town's Year in Review 2024 publication was being distributed.

Councillor I. McGrath asked whether the upcoming Budget meetings were open to the public. M. Dolter replied that they are open if a member of the public wishes to observe.

Deputy Mayor B. Thomas commented that he was not impressed with the return on investment for the proposed solar project. CAO M. Dolter explained that there is a positive net return, that contingencies are in place if necessary, and that a third-party review will be conducted.

b) **Corporate Services Report**

The Corporate Services report for the month of February was presented to Council.

c) **Fire Service Report**

The Fire Service report for the month of February was presented to Council.

Deputy Mayor B. Thomas asked for clarification on the term "Fire Smart," as referenced in the report. CAO M. Dolter explained that it is a program introduced by the Provincial Government to help residents mitigate wildfire risks by properly maintaining their properties. Social media posts will be shared to provide more information.

d) **Planning & Development Report**

The Planning & Development report for the month of February was presented to Council.

e) **Police Service Report**

The Police Service report for the month of February was presented to Council.

f) **Public Works Report**

The Public Works report for the month of February was presented to Council.

Councillor I. McGrath asked if residents could be informed of street recapitalization work so that issues could be found before the work is done. Director of Public Works A. McKinnon replied that it has been a long-standing issue and that communication in the past has not resulted in much uptake.

g) **Parks, Recreation & Culture Report**

The Parks, Recreation & Culture report for February was presented to Council.

Councillor I. McGrath asked if the Civic Square ice surface will be coming down March 17 or if the season could be extended. Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture A. Simms replied that it would most likely be coming down on March 17.

By Motion of Councillors J. Flemming and I. McGrath it was moved to approve the department reports. Motion carried.

7) **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

Mayor C. Hinton made the following announcements:

- Mayor C. Hinton hosted a Housing meeting on February 4, 2025, and she will invite Ministers Ritcey and Armstrong to the next meeting. Souls Harbour is applying for an extension instead of closing at the end of April.
- The Colchester Sexual Assault Center is celebrating its 25th Anniversary, and a march to end sexual violence will be held on March 29th leaving Commercial Street at 2 pm.
- Congratulations to the Marigold Centre for its nomination for Venue of the Year for the East Coast Music Awards.
- Shoutout to International Women's Day, which is March 8th.

Councillor I. McGrath asked if there could be changes to the minimum standards bylaw regarding naturalization and biodiversity and suggested that a committee could be set up to review the bylaws. CAO M. Dolter replied that it would be beneficial to find some communities with best practices in place before setting up a committee and that public education will be critical. A staff report should be prepared and provided to Council.

8) **NEW BUSINESS**

a) **Request for Decision: Amended Building Bylaws**

Staff have recommended proposed amendments to the Town of Truro's Building Bylaw (Building Code Act) to establish requirements for Construction Site Management. By motion of Councillors I. McGrath and J. Flemming, it was moved that Council give the first reading to amend the Town of Truro Building Bylaws as outlined in the attached document. Motion carried.

b) **Request for Decision: Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee Appointment**

By motion of Councillors J. Flemming and D. Pryor, it was moved to appointment Susan Kolebaba to the Truro Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee as recommended by Mayor C. Hinton and Deputy Mayor B. Thomas. Motion carried.

c) **Request for Decision: Capital Approval – K-9 Purchase for Police Services**

By motion of J. Flemming and I. McGrath, it was moved that Council approve the purchase of a replacement K9 for the Truro Police Service during the 2024-25 fiscal year, not to exceed \$25,000, with funding coming from the capital reserve. Motion carried.

d) **Request for Decision: Temporary Borrowing Resolution**

The Town has requested a loan of \$3,152,300 from the Province of Nova Scotia for three capital projects. By motion of Councillors J. Flemming and I. McGrath, it was moved that Council accept the loan from the Province of Nova Scotia. Motion carried.

e) **Request for Decision: RECC Board Appointment**

The RECC Board has recommended Grace Holmes as a Citizen appointee for the Town of Truro. By motion of Councilors J. Flemming and A. Graham, it was moved that Council appoint Grace Holmes to the RECC Board to represent the Town of Truro. Motion carried.

13) **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:50 p.m.

Cathy Hinton
Mayor

M. Dolter
Chief Administrative Officer