



Public Council Meeting

Town of Truro

Monday July 7, 2025 – 1:00 p.m.

Town Hall – Council Chambers

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

In Attendance: CAO M. Dolter, Director of Public Works A. MacKinnon, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture A. Simms, Fire Chief B. Currie, Director of Corporate Services T. Russell, Manager of Strategic Services A. Grant, Town Solicitor C. Thompson, Inspector B. Lake, Senior Planner/Development Officer C. Connolly

Regrets: Police Chief D. MacNeil

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**

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

2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion of Councillors J. Flemming and A. Graham, the minutes for the June 2, 2025, Public Council Meeting were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

3) **PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

a) **Request for Support: Nourishing Communities Food Coupon Program**

The Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia Cooperative Ltd. requested a letter of support from Truro Town Council to Premier Tim Houston, advocating for increased provincial funding for the *Nourishing Communities Food Coupon Program*. This program provides coupons to families for use at local farmers' markets, helping them access fresh, locally grown produce. Without the additional funding, more than 200 families across Nova Scotia stand to lose access to this essential program. Council agreed to provide a letter of support for this important initiative.

b) **Petition – Trees on Mount Pleasant**

Council received a petition from resident Heather Beattie requesting that the Town halt the planned tree planting on the municipally owned green space located on Mount Pleasant Boulevard. The petition was signed by 25 people.

4) **OLD BUSINESS**

a) **Request for Decision: 199 Willow Street**

By motion of Councillors J. Flemming and I. McGrath, it was moved to approve the applicant's request to amend the existing development agreement, as amended, (Document # 90350720) to replace the Schedule B Elevation drawings. Motion carried.

b) **Request for Decision: West Prince Street Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law Amendments**

By motion of Councillors W. Talbot and B. Thomas it was resolved that Town Council approve amendments to the Town's Planning Documents, as described in the Final Staff Report (Revised) dated June 18, 2025, that will implement new land use policies and regulations in the West Prince Street Area designed to ensure the integrity and stability of the Island neighbourhood. Motion carried.

c) **Request for Decision: West Prince Advisory Committee Policy**

By motion of Councillors I. McGrath and J. Flemming it was resolved that Council adopt the West Prince Area Advisory Committee Policy. Motion carried.

d) **Request for Decision: IAFF Collective Agreement**

By motion of Councillors I. McGrath and J. Flemming it was resolved to approve the new IAFF Collective Agreement for November 1, 2024 to October 31, 2029. Motion Carried.

5) **IN-CAMERA SUMMARY REPORT**

CAO M. Dolter advised there was an in-camera session held on July 7, 2025 regarding a labour issue. There are no items to discuss with Council in-camera following today's meeting.

6) **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **CAO Report**

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

Deputy Mayor B. Thomas asked if the Solar Project will be successful and if the consultant will provide a solid recommendation. CAO M. Dolter responded that the consultant stands by the work completed to date. However, a third-party has been engaged to evaluate portions of the work to ensure alignment with industry standards.

Deputy Mayor B. Thomas inquired whether a deer pellet count would be conducted within the town limits, expressing concern that the deer population appears to be increasing. CAO M. Dolter responded that some sample data is already being collected from areas further within the town, and that hunting efforts are currently focused on the town's perimeter. He added that the resulting data will help support the town's request to the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables (DNRR) to allow hunting closer to the town limits. Additionally, he noted that the

County is also exploring the possibility of organizing a deer hunt, which could further benefit the town.

b) **Corporate Services Report**

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

c) **Fire Service Report**

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

Fire Chief B. Currie also noted that the DNRR has donated a wildfire truck to the Truro Fire Service and they will be taking possession of the truck soon.

Deputy Mayor B. Thomas asked whether residents are able to obtain burn permits. Chief B. Currie responded that individuals must follow the guidelines outlined on the provincial website. If conditions permit, fires are allowed in approved burning appliances. However, for the burning of debris, a permit is required and can be requested through the fire department.

d) **Planning & Development Report**

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

e) **Police Service Report**

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

f) **Public Works Report**

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

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

The Parks, Recreation & Culture report for the month of June was presented to Council.

By Motion of Councillors J. Flemming and A. Graham, it was moved to approve the department reports. Motion carried.

7) **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

Councillor A. Graham thanked council for the letter of support Council sent to NSFM requesting that public libraries become an advocacy issue.

Councillor W. Talbot provided a brief report on the FCM Conference he attended in Ottawa. He recommended that more members of Council consider attending in the future, noting that the conference offers valuable opportunities to exchange ideas and experiences with representatives from other municipalities.

Deputy Mayor B. Thomas asked Director of Parks and Recreation A. Simms if the west side of Lepper Brook would be repaired. A. Simms replied that they are in the planning stages of cleaning up the area.

Deputy Mayor B. Thomas asked if the final figures are available for the TAAC Revitalization project. CAO M. Dolter replied that the numbers have not been finalized but a report would be presented to Council in September.

Councillor I. McGrath requested an update on the pigeon situation at the library. Director of Public Works A. McKinnon explained that there have been spikes installed to discourage nesting, but he is still waiting to hear if the Optica Gel deterrents would be safe for the chimney swifts.

Councillor I. McGrath asked if committee reports will be provided to Council. CAO M. Dolter replied that Committee minutes could be provided in the Council Package or added to the website and that staff will explore options.

Councillor I. McGrath asked if the Committee of the Whole meeting date could be changed from the third Thursday of the month to the Thursday before the Public Council meeting. CAO M. Dolter replied that he would discuss the idea with Council and staff.

Councillor W. Talbot requested an update on the plan to fill in the pond at the ballfield, citing residents' concerns about the safety of local children and the presence of insect breeding around the pond. CAO M. Dolter explained that the cost of fill may require adjustments to the Capital Budget to accommodate the expense. He also noted that the Town currently does not have access to the site. Director of Public Works A. McKinnon added that he is awaiting the start of a large development project in August, which could potentially supply fill material for the pond. It was agreed that a Special Council meeting may be called to explore available options once more information becomes available.

Councillor I. McGrath asked for an update on the Farmers Market Advisory Committee and the Active Transportation Committee as neither is active. CAO M. Dolter advised that he would review that Terms of Reference for the Farmers Market Advisory Committee and that there is currently no agenda for the Active Transportation Committee.

8) **NEW BUSINESS**

a) **Request for Decision: Appoint Traffic Authority**

By motion of Councillors J. Flemming and I. McGrath, it was resolved that Council Town Council appoint Jared Bent, P.Eng., Traffic Authority for the Town of Truro. Motion carried.

b) **Request for Decision: Investigator Appointment - Code of Conduct for Elected Officials of the Town of Truro Policy**

By motion of Councillor I. McGrath and Deputy Mayor B. Thomas it was resolved that Council appoint both Noella Martin of Burchell Wickwire Bryson and Jonathan C. Cuming of Taylor McLellan Cochrane as the Town's investigators under the Town's Code of Conduct for Elected Municipal Officials Policy. Motion carried.

13) **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:59 p.m.

Cathy Hinton
Mayor

M. Dolter
Chief Administrative Officer