

**Committee of the Whole  
June 3, 2025  
Town Council Chambers**

**Present**

Mayor S. Cameron  
Deputy Mayor D. Roberts  
Councillor L. MacLellan  
Councillor, P. McKenna  
Councillor A. Murray  
Councillor J. Pelly  
Councillor J. Sullivan

**Also in Attendance**

R. Delorey, CAO  
M. Fougere, Deputy Clerk  
K. Meisner, P.Eng., Director of Infrastructure and Engineering  
M. Barkhouse, Director of Corporate Services  
S. Long, Acting Director of Community Development  
M. Williams, Marketing and Communications Officer  
D. Dunn, Housing Accelerator Fund Coordinator (HAF)

**Members of the Gallery**

**1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgment**

Mayor S. Cameron called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people and recognized that we are all treaty people.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Item 6.3 Active Transportation (AT) Corridor was added

Moved: Councillor McKenna

Seconded: Councillor Sullivan

Motion: To approve the agenda as amended.

**Motion Carried**

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of May 7, 2025, were accepted as presented.

#### **4. Presentations**

##### **4.1 ABC for Kids Society**

Kathleen Robertson and Heather MacInnis attended on behalf of the ABC for Kids Society. Ms. Robertson took the podium to provide a presentation for Council's information in support of their application to the Town's Community Grants Program. The presentation highlighted the Society's recent work, including the delivery of books to 108 children.

Highlights included the recent launch of the Antigonish Imagination Library website. Council inquired about the funding model, specifically the cutoff amount and the organization's approach to building up funds over a three-year period to ensure program continuity.

The Mayor thanked Ms. Robertson and the ABC for Kids Society for their contribution and ongoing efforts in the community.

##### **4.2 Keep Well Antigonish**

Ann Bigelow and Karen Chun, program organizers, attended on behalf of Keep Well Antigonish, a free wellness program for seniors aged 55–97. Ms. Bigelow provided a presentation to Council for information as part of their application to the Town's Community Grants Program.

The program offers three 10-week sessions annually (Fall, Winter, Spring), with in-person classes held at the Antigonish Library (on the ACTS bus route) and online sessions available for individuals who are isolated.

The program currently has a waitlist of over 30 individuals. Programming includes a wellness bulletin and a 3-part speaker series (Ray Rasmussen – March 14, 21, 28). Participants come from a range of physical and socio-economic backgrounds, including those living in public housing.

Inspired by the North Shore Keep Well initiative in North Vancouver, the local program has been operating for seven years and serves as a hub for both physical activity and social connection.

##### **Council Discussion**

Council members inquired about the reduced funding request, how program costs are allocated, and whether there are opportunities for collaboration with existing Town programming.

Questions were also raised regarding the sustainability of provincial and federal funding sources and the accessibility of the program to all community members, including those with limited income. It was clarified that the program serves both Town and County residents, with funding allocations adjusted accordingly.

The Mayor thanked the presenters for their work and for sharing information with Council.

## **5. Business from Minutes**

### **5.1 Strategic Plan 2025-2029**

Council reviewed the draft Strategic Plan 2025–2029. An amendment will be made to page 9.

Discussion focused on how to effectively communicate the key priorities of the 29-page document to the public in a more accessible format. The CAO noted that communication efforts in the past have primarily relied on media posts, but the Communications Team is now working on presenting core information more clearly. It was noted that the budget includes an allocation under Support Services, with communication identified as Council's top priority.

Suggestions included creating a one-page summary of the plan to improve public understanding.

Questions were raised about the order of priorities listed on page 8, with specific attention to the placement of streets and sewer, as well as the ranking of water at 7.5 versus sewer at 7.4.

The Mayor thanked staff for their work on the document.

## **6. New Business**

### **6.1 Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) Update & Project Funding Contributions**

Council received an update on the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF). Denise Dunn provided an overview of the memo included in the agenda package, highlighting the success of the ACTS fixed transit route pilot, which received positive feedback. A new route is planned for launch in 2026 as part of the Happy Cities three-year plan. A draft grant proposal will be presented at the June Regular Council Meeting in accordance with the federal funding timeline. The draft will be included in the June Council package for review and consideration.

During discussion, questions were raised regarding the HAF budget and whether federal funding is sufficient to cover all commitments. It was noted that funding is provided through annual federal installments and, while no overspending is currently anticipated, some commitments are in place.

The Mayor thanked Ms. Dunn for the update.

### **6.2 AREA Committee Appointment**

The CAO provided a brief overview of the upcoming AREA Committee appointment. Following the fall municipal elections, Past Councillor Willie Cormier's term expired after six months. As a result, the Mayor will transition from Alternate to Full Member on the Committee. Council is now required to nominate a new Alternate Member, with the call for nominations scheduled for June 16 at the next Regular Council Meeting.

It was also noted that with one committee member having recently moved to the County, there will be a vacancy on the Police Advisory Board, which is required under the Town's RCMP contract.

Council discussed the role and structure of the Police Advisory Board, clarifying that it is a joint committee that typically meets four times per year.

### **6.3 Active Transportation (AT) Corridor**

Councillor Murray noted having received numerous phone calls regarding the Active Transportation (AT) Corridor and the perception that the Town is moving forward with Plan D. Concerns were raised about proceeding with the budget without a formal commitment or finalized plan in place.

A discussion followed, focusing on public concerns and the status of the project's phased approach. It was noted that the current direction is to proceed with Plan D as part of the upcoming budget. Questions were raised about the lack of a formal commitment or finalized plan prior to budget approval, and the risk of having to return funding if the project does not proceed.

Staff clarified that the motion passed in January directed staff to prepare for Plan D of the corridor. It was also noted that communications with the public would need to be carefully managed, especially once the budget is passed. Staff confirmed that a meeting is scheduled to review the detailed plan, and it was acknowledged that some elements of the AT Corridor are part of a multi-year initiative. The discussion concluded with a consensus that the current plan reflects the Town's capacity to deliver within the next one to two years.

## **7. Correspondence**

### **7.1 Antigonish Highland Society – letter regarding Highland Games event.**

Information purposes no discussion took place.

### **7.2 Royal Canadian Legion Arras Branch 59 – Thank You Letter**

Councillor Murray, noted that the crosswalk in front of the Legion was very nice and very well received.

### **7.3 Proclamation - Access Awareness Week (May 25 – May 31, 2025)**

Information purposes only as the date has passed. No discussion took place.

## **8. Councillor Reports**

### **Deputy Mayor Roberts**

Reported attendance at the AT Committee, Infrastructure, Audit, and Budget meetings. She also spoke at two public events.

### **Councillor Murray**

Attended a meeting of the Beautification Committee and a proposed AGM for the Museum. Participated in a volunteer appreciation event at the library hosted by ACALA and spoke at the STFX Flag Raising event.

### **Councillor Pelly**

Reported that Antigonish Affordable Housing has selected 17 families out of 173 applicants.

### **Councillor Sullivan**

Attended the Infrastructure Committee meeting and expressed enthusiasm about the progress being made.

**Councillor McKenna**

Attended several meetings and events, including:

- Chamber President's Dinner – described as a great networking opportunity.
- RK Finance Meeting – noted no significant updates.
- RK Steering Committee – announced the groundbreaking is scheduled for June 11 at 10 a.m. on Church Street.
- Beautification Committee – expressed excitement about the work underway.
- Pride Flag Raising – highlighted the strong community turnout.
- Accessibility Committee – reviewing Terms of Reference and welcomed new member Caleb Marshall.
- RK MacDonald Board Meeting – attended.

**Councillor MacLellan**

Provided an update on Waste Management – noted communication challenges and that the Town will exit the recycling business by December. A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow. Asked about the Waste By-law update; CAO advised he is coordinating with the ADM to review this.

**Mayor Cameron**

Reported attendance at several key events and meetings, including the Accessibility and Infrastructure Committees, STFX Graduation, NSFM Autonomy and Spring Conference, and FCM Annual Conference in Ottawa – where he highlighted valuable discussions with senators and informative sessions.

**Recess:** The meeting recessed at 7:53 PM.

**Reconvened:** The meeting reconvened at 8:47 PM.

**9. In-Camera**

Moved: Councillor MacLellan

Seconded: Councillor Sullivan

Motion: That Council proceed to an In Camera session at 8:48 PM.

**Motion Carried**

Meeting came out of In Camera at 9:39 PM

**10. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

  
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Mayor Sean Cameron

  
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Randy Delorey, CAO