

**Recreation Committee Meeting
February 11, 2026
Town Council Chambers**

Present

Chair, Councillor J. Pelly
Councillor D. Roberts
Community Member, T. Angustia
Community Member, J. Ruebener
Mayor, S. Cameron

M. Fougere, Municipal Clerk
C. Rankin, Manager of Parks and Recreation

1. Call to Order & Introductions/Welcome

Chair, Councillor J. Pelly, called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Councillor D. Roberts requested that the Former Playground at Greening Drive – MacKinnon Park be added as Item 5.2 under New Business.

Motion: To approve the agenda as amended.

Moved by: Councillor D. Roberts

Seconded by: Community Member T. Angustia

Motion carried.

3. Acceptance of the Minutes from December 9, 2025

Minutes of the December 9, 2025, meeting were accepted as circulated.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1 Application Grants

C. Rankin reported that he has been added to the NSFM (Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities) portal, which provides notifications when new grant opportunities become available. He noted that he is still becoming familiar with the range and eligibility criteria of the various funding programs.

4.2 Applications for Summer Students

C. Rankin reported that applications for summer student positions open in March, with employment commencing in May. The program includes five Summer Camp Leaders, one Summer Camp Coordinator, and one Recreation Summer Intern. Applicants are typically high school and post-secondary students.

The Summer Camp Coordinator position begins earlier to assist with program preparation, while the remaining positions, including the Leaders, generally run from June through August. Clarification was provided in response to questions regarding position timelines and start dates.

4.3 Dr JJ Carroll Awards Policy

This item will be deferred to the next meeting. Staff needs more time to review this.

4.4 Unsightly – Regional Highschool

The item was deferred to the next meeting pending a report from By-Law. Staff will follow up with By-Law and report back.

Discussion included the potential to refer the matter to the Police and License Committee. It was suggested that the issue be revisited in the spring, at which time Mr. Rankin noted that Recreation, through By-Law, will address it again.

Port-a-Potties – Regional Fields

Mayor Cameron noted that additional portable washrooms at the regional fields had been discussed at Council. C. Rankin advised that for large bookings, organizers are responsible for arranging additional servicing as required.

It was agreed that this item be placed on the next agenda for further discussion.

5. New Business

5.1 Moving and Mingling Presentation

C. Rankin presented an overview of the Moving and Mingling program, which runs three sessions per week: Chair Yoga on Monday and Friday, and light aerobics on Wednesday.

Registration moved online this year, with staff support available in-office as required. Applications were accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. At St. Ninian Place, 54 applications were received for 32 spaces; remaining participants were offered satellite locations at Arisaig, St. Andrews, Lakevale, Pomquet, Parkland, and Guysborough.

Average attendance at St. Ninian Place was 18 participants per session in the fall and 29 in the winter. Satellite locations are organized and equipped by their respective communities. The program transitioned from Zoom to Microsoft Teams for delivery.

Plans for spring include potential expansion to Pictou County. Remaining funds from the previous year are being used to provide participant snacks. The program concludes in April and will resume in the fall.

The Chair thanked Mr. Rankin for the presentation.

5.2 Playground at Greening Drive - MacKinnon Park

Councillor D. Roberts noted interest from residents in reestablishing a playground at MacKinnon Park, located near the entrance to Beaver Brook Trailer Court. There was previously a playground in this location, and families with young children would benefit from its reinstatement.

C. Rankin commented that he is unaware of the original reason for its removal of the playground equipment but suggested that the nearby school's new playground may have been a factor.

Councillor Roberts questioned staff on how the committee could obtain statistics on the number of children in the area to determine appropriate playground equipment, while ensuring the community garden remains unaffected.

Action Items:

- Staff to collect demographic data on children in the area and report back to the committee.
- Staff to check with Maintenance regarding why the swings are currently not set up or operational.

6. Next Meeting Date

Mayor Cameron suggested that John's Pass be added as an item on the next agenda.

C. Rankin noted that a Multi-Sport presentation will also be included on the agenda.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 15th at 5:15 p.m.

6. Adjournment

With no further business, Councillor Roberts moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:18 p.m.