

**Amherst Town Council
Committee of the Whole
Minutes**

Date: May 19, 2026
Time: 4:00 pm
Location: Council Chambers, Town Hall

Members Present Mayor Rob Small
Deputy Mayor Charlie Chambers
Councillor Hal Davidson
Councillor Nic Furlong
Councillor Terry McManaman
Councillor Dwayne Ripley
Councillor Kathy Wells

Staff Present Jason MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer
Aaron Bourgeois, Director, Operations
Andrew Fisher, Director, Planning & Economic Development
Dwayne Pike, Chief, Police Services
Greg Jones, Director, Fire Services
Kim Jones, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Krista Crossman, Director, Human Resources
Sarah Wilson, Director, Finance
Sharon Bristol, Director, Community Living
Jeff Bacon, Economic Development Officer
Mallory Klooster, Manager, Community Well-Being
Sean Payne, Marketing & Communications Officer
Natalie LeBlanc, Municipal Clerk
Cindy Brown, Administrative Assistant

Others Present Dustin Sarson, NSCC Student

1. Call to Order

Mayor Small called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

1.1 Territorial Acknowledgement

Mayor Small gave the Territorial Acknowledgement.

1.2 Approval of Agenda

Moved By Councillor Furlong

Seconded By Councillor McManaman

That the agenda be approved as amended to move item 2.3 to closed session.

MOTION CARRIED

1.3 Approval of the Consent Agenda

Moved By Councillor McManaman

Seconded By Councillor Ripley

To approve the consent agenda as included in the agenda package.

MOTION CARRIED

1.4 Acceptance of Minutes

1.4.1 April 20, 2026

Mayor Small called for any errors or omissions in the minutes. There being none, the minutes of the April 20, 2026, Committee of the Whole meeting were accepted as included in the agenda package.

1.5 Amendment of Minutes - April 13, 2026

Moved By Councillor Davidson

Seconded By Councillor Wells

To amend the minutes of the April 13, 2026, Committee of the Whole meeting previously adopted to correct the grant amount approved for the Fundy Winds Marsh project from \$3,720 to \$3,770.

MOTION CARRIED

2. Council Direction Requests

2.1 Graffiti Bylaw

Moved By Councillor Davidson

Seconded By Councillor Wells

That Council forward to the May 25, 2026, regular meeting, First Reading of the Graffiti By-Law.

MOTION CARRIED

2.2 Amherst Youth Town Council

Moved By Councillor Furlong

Seconded By Councillor Wells

That staff be directed to develop a new Amherst Youth Town Council Policy for inclusion on the June Committee of the Whole agenda which will implement a redesign for the Amherst Youth Town Council Program.

MOTION CARRIED

2.3 Chamber of Commerce Membership for New Businesses

Moved By Councillor Davidson

Seconded By Councillor Wells

That Council forward to the May 25, 2026, regular meeting, approval for the sponsorship for a one-year membership with the Cumberland Chamber of Commerce as part of any business receiving a Town of Amherst Business Certificate presentation.

Against (2): Councillor Furlong and Councillor Ripley

MOTION CARRIED

2.4 Scholarship and Bursary Policy

Moved By Councillor Furlong

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Chambers

That Council forward to the May 25, 2026, regular meeting, approval of the Scholarship and Bursary Policy #10350-19 with the proposed amendments.

MOTION CARRIED

2.5 Patterson and Park Street Intersection

Moved By Councillor Ripley

Seconded By Councillor Wells

That the traffic authority be directed to investigate a potential 4 way stop at the Park Street and Patterson Street intersection in front of the daycare.

MOTION CARRIED

2.6 Nova Scotia Power Rates

Moved By Councillor Ripley

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Chambers

That the Mayor, on behalf of Council, send a letter to Premier Houston requesting a freeze on Nova Scotia Power rates.

Against (2): Councillor Davidson and Councillor Furlong

MOTION CARRIED

3. Information Items

3.1 NSFM 12 Month Notice Letter

Information item only.

3.2 "A" Festival

Information item only.

3.3 Volunteer Committee

Moved By Councillor Furlong

Seconded By Councillor Davidson

That staff does not proceed with a Volunteer Committee and that this item be removed from the list of Strategic Priorities Points to Capture.

MOTION CARRIED

3.4 Cycle NS Active Transportation Assessment

Moved By Councillor Davidson

Seconded By Councillor McManaman

That Council authorize the Cycle NS study and further that they include bike sharrows as part of their assessment of our active transportation routes.

MOTION CARRIED

Moved By Councillor Davidson

Seconded By Councillor Wells

That Council approves of pausing the mobility strategy.

MOTION CARRIED

4. Monthly Reports

The following monthly reports were approved as part of the consent agenda:

4.1 Corporate

4.2 Community Living

4.3 Cumberland Business Connector

4.4 Financial Services

4.5 Fire Services

4.6 Human Resources

4.7 Operations

4.8 Planning & Economic Development

4.9 Police Services

5. Closed Session

Moved By Councillor Ripley

Seconded By Councillor Furlong

That the Committee move to a Closed Session.

MOTION CARRIED

Natalie LeBlanc
Municipal Clerk

Rob Small
Mayor