



**Town of Shelburne**  
**Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting**  
**May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**APPROVED**

**Council Members Present**

Mayor Harold Locke  
Deputy Mayor Sheldon Ringer  
Councillor Ben Nickerson  
Councillor Rick Davis  
Councillor Elizabeth Acker

**Staff Present**

Chief Administrator Officer, Sarah Mattatall  
Deputy CAO, Ken Smith  
Executive Coordinator, Jill Webb  
By-Law Enforcement Officer, Dana Nash

**Call to Order**

Mayor Locke called the Council meeting to order at 6pm.

The Town of Shelburne is located on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq, (Mi'kma'ki), in the District of Kespukwitk, home to Acadia First Nation. We are all Treaty people.

We also acknowledge the history, contributions, and legacies of the African Nova Scotian people and communities.

**Approval of the Agenda**

**THAT** Council approves the agenda for May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**Ringer-Davis**

**CARRIED**

**Approval of the Minutes**

**THAT** Council approves the minutes from the regular Town Council Meeting held on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**Acker-Davis**

**CARRIED**

**Proclamations and Announcements:**

a) Canadian Mental Health Week: May 6-12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Councillor Acker read: Canadian Mental Health Week, observed annually from May 6<sup>th</sup> to May 12<sup>th</sup>, serves as a crucial reminder of the importance of mental health and well-being in our communities. This Week provides a platform to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and foster understanding around mental health issues.

The theme for this year’s Canadian Mental Health Week is all about compassion in supporting mental health. Amidst the challenges of daily life, fostering meaningful connections with ourselves and others is essential for maintaining emotional resilience and well-being.

Throughout the week, various organizations, communities, and individuals come together to promote mental health education, provide resources, and encourage open conversations about mental health. From workshops and seminars to social media campaigns and community events, initiatives during Mental Health Week aim to empower individuals to prioritize their mental health and seek support when needed.

As we navigate the complexities of modern life, let us use Canadian Mental Health week as an opportunity to strengthen our connections, cultivate empathy, and advocate for mental health awareness and support for all members of our community.

Together, we can break down barriers, promote understanding, and build a more compassionate and supportive environment for mental health.

b) National Nursing Week: May 6-12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Councillor Davis read: Join us in celebrating National Nursing Week, observed from May 6-12<sup>th</sup>, 2024. This year’s theme, “Changing Lives and Shaping Tomorrow”, recognizes the profound impact nurses have on healthcare and society.

Nurses are not only caregivers but also innovators, advocates, and leaders. They touch lives every day, providing compassionate care and empowering individuals to lead healthier lives. Their dedication and expertise are instrumental in shaping the future of healthcare.

Let's take this week to express our gratitude and appreciation for nurses everywhere. Whether they're on the frontlines or behind the scenes, nurses play a vital role in transforming healthcare and improving lives.

Together, let's show our appreciation for their dedication and impact!

Happy National Nursing Week!

c) International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia – May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Councillor Nickerson read: Established in 2004, the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia aims to highlight the injustices faced by LGBTQ+ individuals, including violence and discrimination. Observed annually on May 17<sup>th</sup>, it aligns with the significant milestone of the World Health Organization's removal of homosexuality from its list of mental disorders in 1990. This day serves as a platform for advocating positive transformation and serves as a poignant reminder of the ongoing journey towards ensuring freedom and safety for all LGBTQ+ individuals.

d) Heart Failure Awareness Week: May 5-11<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Mayor Locke read: WHEREAS over 750,000 people of all ages are living with heart failure, and heart failure is expected to cost the Canadian economy \$2.8 billion per year by 2023, and

WHEREAS people with heart failure experience debilitating symptoms such as shortness of breath, swelling and exhaustion, and people who care for those with heart failure are often overwhelmed and stressed, and

WHEREAS the Canadian Heart Failure Society is an organization of volunteer cardiovascular professionals

and patients who work hard to improve care for patients with heart failure in close collaboration with the Heart \* & Stroke Foundation of Canada, the Canadian Cardiovascular Society, the Canadian Council of Cardiovascular Nurses, the Canadian Association of Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation, the HeartLife Foundation, and the Quebec Heart Failure Society, and

WHEREAS initiated by the Canadian Heart Failure Society and its partner organizations, Canadian Heart Failure Awareness Week is now celebrated across Canada to improve awareness of and education on heart failure, and

WHEREAS Heart Failure Awareness Week is an opportunity to raise awareness of the causes of heart failure and the impact it has on individuals living with heart failure and on their caregivers.

NOW KNOW YE THAT We do by these presents proclaim and declare that May 5-11, 2024, shall be known as “Heart Failure Awareness Week” in the Town of Shelburne.

e) Volunteer of the Month for May – Angie Shand

Councillor Ringer read: Angie Shand is being recognized as the Volunteer of the Month for May for her hard work and dedication to our community.

Angie has been an integral part of Pet Projects in Shelburne County, extending assistance to pet owners in need and supporting private rescuers.

Her role as the Chair of the Shelburne County Events Committee has been instrumental in orchestrating memorable and successful events. Angie's innovative ideas, meticulous organization, and boundless enthusiasm have consistently elevated these gatherings to new heights, ensuring their resounding success.

Beyond her impactful work with Pet Projects and the Shelburne Events Committee, you can also find Angie assisting with Bingos during the Shelburne Exhibition, as secretary for the Student Advisory Committee at Shelburne Regional High School and assisting the Special Events Committee at the Roseway Hospital.

Angie's past roles with the Shelburne County Basketball Association, 4H and Southwestern Riders Association shows her enduring commitment to our community. This proves her readiness to extend a helping hand and champion causes close to her heart.

For all that Angie has done and continues to do for this community, the CP&V Committee and Town Council recognize her as the Volunteer of the Month for May.

Thank you, Angie!

**Delegations/Presentations:**

**a) Pam Mingo – Fence Art Project**

Ms. Mingo delivered a presentation to the Council concerning various aspects of the Fence Art Project, aimed at honoring the Firefighters and Volunteers of the 2023 wildfire. In addition to addressing follow-up requests from her previous delegation, she proposed changing the name of Atlantic House Park. Ms. Mingo commenced her presentation by outlining several key points for discussion:

1.) The primary agenda item centered on renaming the park from Atlantic House Park to Firefighter Park. Ms. Mingo informed the Council of her consultations with the Shelburne Events Committee, Lewis Jackson, and other stakeholders, who indicated that the Atlantic House holds no historical significance.

2.) Ms. Mingo formally requested the permanent installation of the Firefighters Flag within the park.

3.) She sought clarification on potential street closures, Jill Webb to coordinate on this matter.

4.) Ms. Mingo notified the Council of an upcoming visit from CBC for interviews, inquiring about Council members' interest in participating.

5.) She inquired about the timeline for shrub removal and the possibility of painting benches within the park.

6.) Ms. Mingo proposed the idea of hosting a BBQ event, considering that firefighters would be enroute to a celebratory event in Barrington later that day.

Additionally, Ms. Mingo updated the Council on contributions from Lavendar Hill, Napa, and A1, including plant donations, paint supplies, and pizza for students involved in creating fence decorations.

Councillor Davis expressed reservations about changing the park's name, emphasizing the importance of the Atlantic House despite its perceived lack of historical significance. He also cited the town's flag policy, stipulating that only Town, Nova Scotia, and Canadian flags are to be flown within the park.

*THAT Council does not change the name of the park but allows the firefighters flag to be flown during the anniversary month of the wildfires on the flagpole at Corner Park (park on corner of King and Water Street)*

**Davis-Nickerson**

**CARRIED**

**M24-204**

Additional decisions arising from the delegation included delegating Public Works to remove the bushes, opting against hosting a BBQ event, and asking Ms. Mingo to coordinate with Sarah Mattatall regarding potential CBC interviews on behalf of the Town.

### **Correspondence**

**Action:**

a) Email – Meagan Smith regarding crosswalk lights on King Street

*THAT Council direct staff to refer to our local traffic authority for their opinion.*

**Acker-Ringer**

**CARRIED**

**M24-205**

b) Letter from Gail Jordan regarding Digby Street Maintenance

Councillor Ringer reported on his site visit to Digby Street, along with Councillor Acker, noting concerns about road conditions leading to Graham's Park. Discussions were had regarding a potential water break issue and pending paving.

*THAT Council direct staff to investigate the condition of Digby Street.*

**Ringer-Acker**

**CARRIED  
M24-206**

c) Letter from Ed Benham regarding an art project

Councillor Davis addressed the Council in relation to the correspondence received from Mr. Benham. Among the matters discussed was his proposal to refurbish the signage from the previous year, which Councillor Davis believes was allocated funding in the previous year. Additionally, Councillor Davis outlined Mr. Benham's proposal to install a wind phone along the trail and in Secret Park. These wind phones serve as a medium for individuals coping with loss to communicate with departed loved ones. Councillor Acker expressed her endorsement of the concept, noting personal encounters with such installations and positive feedback from users.

*THAT Council approve the installation of an art project in Secret Park.*

**Davis-Ringer**

**CARRIED  
M24-207**

**Information:**

- a) Firefighters Memorial Fence Project News Article
- b) Town of Shelburne Newsletter
- c) Letter from Daniel MacKay, Wastewater Plant Supervisor, Town of Shelburne
- d) Municipality of Colchester response to letter regarding Service Exchange
- e) NS Municipal Affairs and Housing letter – Canada Community Building Fund agreement

All above items for information only.

Mayor Locke wanted to touch base on the letter from Daniel Mackay and reiterate to residents to please be careful what you flush down the toilet as most products that state they are flushable are not usually and wreak havoc on our system.

Councillor Acker asked to address a letter from Mr. Rafuse regarding Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF) This fund allows Municipalities access to funding for housing. Councillor Acker noted that they look at the Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) that was done by the province to grant funds. Councillor Acker noted that the Housing Needs Assessment done for the Town of Shelburne said we did not need housing, which isn't accurate. She is not happy and would like staff to write a response letter to Mr. Rafuse stating our concerns on the HNA and the Town of Shelburne.

**Council Items:**

a) Library Funding Review

This is for information only, however, Councillor Acker wanted to let Council know that there has been no increase in provincial funding for libraries for the last five years. A committee comprising of Chief Administrative Officers and Executive Directors of libraries convened in April 2024 to address this issue. The provincial government did allocate funding for this year. Libraries are vital to our communities and are hoping we can obtain a reasonable funding formula and the province can forward with more funding.

b) Impact of Deer in the Town of Shelburne

Councillor Acker explained to Council that she hears people complaining about the deer in town. Some points she brought up are:

1. No feeding of the deer – there should be a fine as there are people who continue to feed them.
2. Some town residents have taken down gardens – a hobby they enjoyed doing but are putting too much work and money into a hobby that is getting destroyed. Others can't afford to install fencing.
3. Gardening: Due to high food costs, people would like to plant gardens to offset costs, however they can't because of the deer
4. Residents are seeking "deer resistant" plants, however, deer are now eating plants they have never eaten before.
5. Ground water and dug wells are a concern for residents due to deer fecal matter. This is a real concern noting the South Shelburne Water Testing done back in 2018. Wells were tested for bacteria and 92% found to have coliform and 36% e coli. The causes were decaying organic matter and animal waste.

Councillor Acker wanted to reiterate that it's the homeowner's responsibility to do regular water testing and well cleaning, however, it is still a concern.

6. Ticks on the deer cause hard financial restraint on homeowners who own dogs and cats and continually buying tick medications.

Councillor Acker explained we are not the only community that deals with this. Truro and Yarmouth are also having problems. The deer do not have any natural predators, there's little hunting now and an abundant of food sources.

She explained to council that she is not sure what the solution is.

- Birth control and sterilization have been tried but hasn't been successful and is very expensive.
- Would a planned culling work?
- Contraceptives in feed aren't successful as you can't control dosage.
- Relocation of the deer?

Councillor Acker would like staff to send a letter to Tory Rushton, Minister of Natural Resources in Nova Scotia to attend a meeting regarding the deer and outlining our concerns.

c) 194 Rodney Street Municipal Planning Strategy and Land use By-Law Amendment

Michael Khan, Senior Planner for the Town of Shelburne updated Council on the above. He noted he is working with the landowner and hopes to have more information soon.

d) Notice of Updates to Public Participation Policy

Michael spoke to his report in the package.

*THAT Council give notice of its intent to amend the Public Participation Policy with respect to placing advertisements on the Town's website and changing how the public is engaged on Land Use By-Law amendments.*

**Acker-Nickerson**

**CARRIED**

**M24-208**

**Committee Reports: NONE**

**Staff Reports**

a) Building Inspector Report – April

b) Accessibility Coordinator Report

*THAT Council approve Alyssa Adams to be appointed a member of the Eastern Shelburne County Accessibility Advisory Committee.*

**Nickerson-Acker**

**CARRIED**

**M24-209**

c) Road Trails By-Law

Dana Nash, By-Law Enforcement Officer for the Town of Shelburne explained to Council. Currently, we have the initial reading of the Road Trail by-law on record, as introduced by the former By-law officer. However, considering the revised route, it is imperative to rescind this by-law in order to progress with the updated version as this would be a substantial change. Mr. Nash provided an overview of the proposed new route. Councillor Acker inquired about the regulatory framework for the operation of the vehicles. It was clarified that enforcement will be carried out by the RCMP and DNR. Operators will be required to adhere to a maximum speed limit of 25 km/hr, with nighttime driving prohibited.

***THAT** Council rescind the motion of June 19, 2023, Appendix A (M23-081).*

**Davis-Ringer**

**CARRIED**

**M24-210**

**New Business:**

Councillor Nickerson brought up the topic of a dog park. With public use closed at the high school field, residents have been asking. He asked if there was a piece of land we could use for the dog park. CAO Mattatall suggested utilizing land designated for future green space development, although such allocation is not expected for several years.

Councillor Acker told council about her attendance at a meeting of the Shelburne County Housing Coalition, highlighting concerns about homelessness in rural Nova Scotia. She mentioned a project initiated by a professor from Acadia University, aimed at engaging community groups to identify and assist homeless individuals in rural areas. A survey is slated for release in November.

Deputy Mayor Ringer, representing the Eastern Shelburne County RCMP Advisory Board, announced a vacancy for a town resident position on the board and requested staff to advertise the opportunity.

No further new business.

**Upcoming Meetings/Events**

- a) Town Council Budget Meeting, Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 6pm, Shelburne Community Centre
- b) Next Council Meeting, Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024, 6pm, Council Chambers.

**Adjournment**

***THAT** the Regular Town Council Meeting of May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, be adjourned at 6:50pm.*

**Davis**