

# APPROVED MINUTES

## *Regular Council Meeting*

### *February 18, 2026 @ 6:30 pm*

### *North Shore Community Centre*

**PRESENT:**

Chair Mayor Watts, Councillor MacKinnon, Councillor Paquet, Councillor Sheehan, Councillor Doyle, Councillor McLaine, Interim CAO-Marie McInnis

Absent: Councillor Cook

Public: 26

**1 Call to Order**

6:40 pm by Chair Mayor Watts.

**2 Approval of the agenda**

**It was duly moved and seconded to approve the agenda as presented.**

*Moved by Councillor Paquet, seconded by Councillor Doyle.*

*All in Favor*

*MOTION CARRIED*

*Unanimously*

*2026-02-07*

**• Disclosure of Pecuniary or other Conflicts of Interest**

None.

**3 Approval of the minutes from January 21, 2026**

**It was duly moved and seconded to approve the minutes from the January 21, 2026, meeting as presented.**

*Moved by Councillor Sheehan, seconded by Councillor MacKinnon.*

*All in Favor*

*MOTION CARRIED*

*Unanimously*

*2026-02-08*

**• Business Arising from the Minutes**

- Playground equipment is being researching for quotes for Grand Tracadie and North Shore.
- Quotes for Surveyors on Grand Tracadie Commons.

**4 Delegations, Speakers, and Public Input**

**Dr. Kyle Kynysh- surface water biologist from Dept. of Environment, Energy and Climate Action  
Covehead Bay and waterways**

- Kyle is handling the Parsons Creek situation wherein blue green algae (commencing June, 2025) is recognized and projected to continue as a hazard until the end of October. In part, this is due to the fall season turn-over which exacerbates algae proliferation and is influenced by a mix of fresh and

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saltwater mixing. He noted that the significance of blue green algae is in “neurotoxin generation” and to which direct exposure can impact humans and companion animals.

- Kyle has been the Department spokesperson for this issue.
- Cause of Parsons Creek blue green algae is recognized as a combination of increasing water temperatures and phosphate run-off into the feeder stream.
- Nitrogen is also involved and unlike phosphate this generally sourced from groundwater.
- Residential septic tanks are a contributor to both nitrogen and phosphate input to the system (One acre lots do not stop the flow of these nutrients through the underground watercourse).
- Dr Kynsh observes the situation of Covehead Bay eutrophication issues as complex because there are a series of inlet streams (4) as well as the agricultural hinterland and golf course and residential developments - all feeding into the overall system.
- His work has focussed more on Stanley River and Wheatley River, as these systems are “straight run” rivers with less complexity and data collection is easier. He indicated that DF&O is responsible for tidal water issues and is doing a good job; CFIA is responsible for toxin monitoring (domoic acid, etc.) among the shellfish resource and has a comprehensive system in place and Dept. of Environment is involved in nutrient inputs monitoring etc., and is short staffed.
- Public records on the nutrient loading data of the river systems is available and operates on a two year delay cycle. In part, this because the data has to be collected late into the season and then analysed and publication and dissemination follows this process. Data is available for Covehead Bay input streams (to be sourced).
- In discussion of elevated water temperatures, Kyle acknowledges this is the case (28oC, etc.) and occurring earlier and in combination with nitrogen and phosphate inputs, supports the sea lettuce issue and overall eutrophication events in the Bay. The situation is getting worse with climate change.
- High summer temperatures and sea lettuce proliferation removes oxygen from the water. The sea lettuce dies (August) sinks and then rots on the bottom and generates noxious gases (H<sub>2</sub>S).
- Sea lettuce overgrowth occludes the eel grass which is vital to the Bay ecosystem in providing the breeding grounds for the various species of the Bay. (Sarah Stewart Clarke, Dalhousie works on this aspect).
- Summer temperature elevation drives up the metabolic rate of both micro and macroalgae; the potential for toxin production also elevates. We must then assume that CFIA monitoring can pick up these situations within the shellfish resource.
- The oyster and shellfish resource metabolic rate increases with temperature and the physiologic impacts are not fully understood. Disease risks elevate with increasing metabolic rate.
- Black oyster cages could have a localised impact on surface water temperatures.
- With increased water temperatures approaching 30oC, the oxygen level in the water reduces.
- Kyle stated that when trees and deep roots are available, the flow of nutrients into watercourses is significantly reduced. Hence, following Fiona and tree removal, the potential for groundwater contamination and flow through to the watercourse has increased.

- Kyle stated that salt marshes are very important for the health of these PEI coastal ecosystems. Why? Because they actively “denitrify” incoming nitrates in groundwater and release N2 gas to the air. Hence it is important to retain and protect salt marsh systems in place.
- He talked about 15 meters buffer zones in PEI and the work underway in Alberta. In PEI, the 15m buffer zone originated in the pesticide run-off era and has continued to be adopted from that mitigation. It is insufficient. In Alberta, 100-200m buffer zones are required as an effective buffering distance.

## 5 Reports

### CAO Report

- Fireworks & Technician ordered for Canada Day (Feb 5)
- Have a consultant work on a few development files.
- Public Finance meeting was held Feb 9<sup>th</sup> for 2026/27
- EMO showers, sinks, and taps have been installed
- I have contacted PSB regarding signage for school buses and reached out to Transportation & Infrastructure -Mike Stewart on the speed limits within the Municipality.
- Signed the RGI amended agreement.
- Completion of “funding for planning report “through Municipality Affairs.

### Finance & Infrastructure Report

- Finance Public meeting was held Feb 9, 2026
- **Planning Board and Development Permit Report**
- **Emergency Measures Organization Report**
- **Recreation and Community Engagement Report**

(Approval of Reports)

**It was duly moved and seconded to approve the reports as presented.**

*Moved by Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor McLaine  
All in Favor  
Motion Carried  
Unanimously  
2026-02- 09*

## 6 New business

- **North Shore Oyster Co- Establishing an oyster hatchery**

There will be no public meeting required. We will have a public information meeting for the North Shore Oyster Co the opportunity to answer any questions or concerns.

## 7 Next meeting

March 18, 2026

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**8 Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

**It was duly moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 pm.**

*Moved by Councillor MacKinnon, seconded by Councillor Paquet  
All in Favor  
MOTION CARRIED  
Unanimously  
2026-02-10*

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SIGNED: NAME, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE:

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SIGNED: NAME, CAO

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DATE: