

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL DRAFT MINUTES

April 28, 2026

Council Chamber, 3rd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax

Present: Mayor Andy Fillmore
Deputy Mayor Patty Cuttell
Councillor Cathy Deagle Gammon
Councillor David Hendsbee
Councillor Becky Kent
Councillor Sam Austin
Councillor Tony Mancini
Councillor Laura White
Councillor Virginia Hinch
Councillor Shawn Cleary
Councillor Kathryn Morse
Councillor Janet Steele
Councillor Nancy Hartling
Councillor John Young
Councillor Jean St-Amand

Regrets: Councillor Trish Purdy
Councillor Billy Gillis

Staff: Brad Anguish, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
John Traves, K.C., CD, Municipal Solicitor/Chief Governance Officer
Karen Brown, Managing Solicitor
Krista Vining, Team Lead, Legislative Assistants
Andrea Lovasi-Wood, Legislative Assistant
Dorothy Maponga, Legislative Assistant
Olawumi Odeyinka-Apantaku, Legislative Assistant

These minutes are considered draft and will require approval by Regional Council at a future meeting.

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting. The agenda, reports, supporting documents information items circulated and video (if available) are online at halifax.ca.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Fillmore called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people, and that we are all treaty people.

2. SPECIAL COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Councillors noted special community announcements and acknowledgements.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 14, 2026

MOVED by Councillor Steele, seconded by Councillor White

THAT the minutes of April 14, 2026 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Additions:

- Item 17.5 - PERSONNEL MATTER
- Item 18.1 - Councillor Cleary - Permission under Administrative order 53 to allow Armview Restaurant and Lounge to serve alcohol in a section of Rotary Park

Deletions: None

As provided for in section 37 (1) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, Krista Vining, Team Lead, Legislative Assistants requested that Item 15.1.3 2026-27 Events East Business Plan - Halifax Convention Centre be considered at 10:00 a.m. and Item 17.2 INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS be considered at 1:00 p.m.

MOVED by Councillor Hartling, seconded by Councillor Steele

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

As provided for in section 41 (3) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*:

- Item 15.1.2 The Municipality's Role in a Society-Wide Response to Gender-based, Intimate Partner and Domestic Violence was removed from the consent agenda at the request of Councillor Mancini

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Steele

THAT Halifax Regional Council approve recommendations in the following items:

- **13.1.1 – Fly-past Request - HMCS Sackville Recommissioning Celebration;**
- **15.1.1 – Facility Operating Agreement – East Preston Recreation Centre;**
- **15.2.1 – Sir Sandford Flemming Park – Shoreline Improvements Phase 5; and**
- **15.4.1 – Community Museum Grants Program: Recommended Awards: Fiscal 2026.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Austin, Gillis, St-Amand

6. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

7. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None

8. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION

None

9. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION

None

10. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

None

11. NOTICES OF TABLED MATTERS

None

12. HEARINGS

12.1 VARIANCE APPEAL HEARING

12.1.1 Case VAR-2025-01872: Appeal of Variance Approval – 41 Cowie Hill Road, Halifax

The following was before Halifax Regional Council:

- Staff report dated April 16, 2026
- Staff presentation dated April 28, 2026
- Applicant presentation dated April 28, 2026

Aidan MacFarlane, Planner II, gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from Halifax Regional Council.

Mayor Fillmore reviewed the rules of procedure for variance hearings and invited the appellant to come forward and address Halifax Regional Council. The Mayor noted that appellants Donna Coleman and Amanda Coleman were not present.

Mayor Fillmore invited the property owner to come forward to address Regional Council.

Greg Zwicker, property owner gave a presentation explaining the building dimensions and the required setbacks that would govern the development of the building. Zwicker responded to questions of clarification from Halifax Regional Council.

Mayor Fillmore invited any other speakers who identified as being affected by the decision to come forward and address Regional Council; there were none.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Cuttell, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT Halifax Regional Council allow the appeal.

Deputy Mayor Cuttell noted agreement with the staff recommendation that the appeal be denied.

MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED UNANIMOUSLY.

Decision of the Development Officer upheld.

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Hinch, Gillis

12.2 PUBLIC HEARING

12.2.1 2025-00728: Amendments to the Eastern Passage/Cow Bay Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law for Site #1 (PID 00374710) and Site#2 (PIDs 00374728 and 00471698), Main Road, Eastern Passage

The following was before Halifax Regional Council:

- Revised staff report dated March 19, 2026
- Extract from the March 31, 2026 Halifax Regional Council minutes
- Correspondence from Liana Tilley, Karen Winfield, Zach K, Sue Lemon
- Staff presentation dated April 28, 2026

Taylor MacIntosh, Planner III gave a presentation.

The hearing opened at 6:34 p.m.

Mayor Fillmore noted that the Municipality was the applicant for this matter.

Mayor Fillmore reviewed the rules of procedure for public hearings and called for anyone wishing to speak on the matter.

Gary Edwards, Eastern Passage, Site #2 property owner spoke in support of the proposed amendment. Edwards outlined their reasons for supporting the change and responded to questions of clarification from Halifax Regional Council.

Logan Brown, Eastern Passage spoke in support of the proposed amendment. Brown noted that the amendment would contribute to the expansion and continued development of the community.

Steve Tilley, Eastern Passage stated that the decision before Regional Council should be straightforward and emphasized that Council needed to carefully consider the concerns raised by members of the community regarding the view plane.

Tris Winfield, Eastern Passage spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment. Winfield raised concerns about the potential environmental impacts of development in proximity to the ocean and responded to questions of clarification from Halifax Regional Council.

Tom Harmes, Eastern Passage spoke in support of the proposed amendment and noted that the amendment would provide opportunities for growth and future development within the community

Liana Tilley, Eastern Passage spoke against the proposed amendment. Tilley stated that the proposed change would increase the land density of the property and could negatively affect the character of the community. Tilley responded to questions of clarification from Halifax Regional Council.

Ian Stanley, Site #1 property owner spoke in support of the proposed amendment and stated that the proposed building would not negatively affect the surrounding community. Stanley responded to questions of clarification from Halifax Regional Council.

MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Councillor St-Amand

THAT the hearing be closed.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The hearing closed at 7:15 p.m.

MacIntosh and Kasia Tota, Manager, Community Planning responded to questions of clarification from Halifax Regional Council regarding the requirement for the elevation to the water side, the amendment process of the number of units approved.

As provided for in section 90 of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the motion was separated for voting purposes.

MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Councillor Steele

THAT Halifax Regional Council adopt the proposed amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law for Eastern Passage/Cow Bay, to allow multiple unit dwellings:

i) to a maximum of 32-units and a maximum height of 3 stories on Site #1 (PID 00374710) Main Road, Eastern Passage.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (13 in favour, 1 against)

In favour: Mayor Fillmore, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Kent, Austin, Mancini, White, Cleary, Morse, Steele, Hartling, Young, St-Amand

Against: Deputy Mayor Cuttell

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Hinch, Gillis

MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Councillor Steele

THAT Halifax Regional Council adopt the proposed amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law for Eastern Passage/Cow Bay, to allow multiple unit dwellings:

ii) to a maximum of 24-units on Site #2 (PIDs 00374728 and 00471698), Main Road, Eastern Passage.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Hinch, Gillis

13. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

13.1 Correspondence

Correspondence was received and circulated for items: 12.2.1, 13.1.1 and 17.3.

For a detailed list of correspondence received refer to the specific agenda item.

13.1.1 Fly-past Request - HMCS Sackville Recommissioning Celebration*

The following was before Halifax Regional Council:

- Correspondence from Greg Cottingham

The following motion was approved as part of the Consent Agenda:

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Steele

THAT the Halifax Regional Municipality grant permission of a flyby by a Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) Aircraft as low as 500 feet, for the HMCS Sackville Recommissioning being held at Sackville Landing for transit, practice and shows on May 15, 2026, between approximately 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Austin, Gillis, St-Amand

13.2 Petitions

13.2.1 Municipal Clerk

Krista Vining, Team Lead, Legislative Assistants submitted a petition from the residents of Halifax Regional Municipality regarding two developments in Eastern Passage, 1407 and 1509 Main Road, with approximately 912 signatures that requested Regional Council uphold the 12-unit limit, reject the applications and that the developments comply with appropriate laws.

13.2.2 Councillor White

Councillor White submitted a petition from the residents of Henry Street in District 7 regarding traffic calming with approximately 83 signatures requesting traffic calming measures between Coburg Street and Jubilee Street.

14. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD - April 14, 2026

14.1 Councillor Steele - Annual Public Safety Strategy Report

The following was before Halifax Regional Council:

- Staff report dated April 7, 2026
- Staff presentation dated April 28, 2026

Amy Siciliano, Public Safety Advisor gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from Halifax Regional Council.

Rachel Boehm, Executive Director, Community Safety and Brad Anguish, Acting Chief Administrative Officer responded to questions of clarification from Halifax Regional Council.

MOVED by Councillor Steele, seconded by Councillor Kent

THAT Halifax Regional Council convene to In Camera (In Private) to discuss Item 17.2 INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

15. REPORTS

15.1 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

15.1.1 Facility Operating Agreement – East Preston Recreation Centre*

The following was before Halifax Regional Council:

- Staff report dated April 20, 2026

The following motion was approved as part of the Consent Agenda:

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Steele

THAT Halifax Regional Council approve a Facility Operating Agreement (FOA) with The East Preston Recreation Centre for the EPRC facility at 24 Brooks Drive substantially in the same form as set out in Attachment 1 of the staff report dated April 20, 2026 and authorize the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to execute the FOA.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Austin, Gillis, St-Amand

15.1.2 The Municipality's Role in a Society-Wide Response to Gender-based, Intimate Partner and Domestic Violence*

The following was before Halifax Regional Council:

- Staff report dated April 20, 2026
- Staff presentation dated April 28, 2026

Amy Siciliano, Public Safety Advisor and Amy Brierley, Social Policy Strategist gave a presentation.

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Hinch

THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), as part of the upcoming renewal of the municipality's Public Safety Strategy, to incorporate a focus area on Gender-based Violence, Intimate Partner Violence and Domestic Violence, with a goal of improving the municipality's internal strategic coordination so that the municipality may better define common outcomes for monitoring and reporting on its role in a society-wide response.

Siciliano, Brierley and Rachel Boehm, Executive Director, Community Safety responded to questions of clarification from Halifax Regional Council.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Gillis

15.1.3 2026-27 Events East Business Plan – Halifax Convention Centre - 10:00 a.m.

The following was before Halifax Regional Council:

- Staff report dated April 22, 2026
- Handout re: Events East Business Plan Overview Factsheet
- Handout re: Scotiabank Centre Business Plan Overview Factsheet
- Presentation dated April 28, 2026

Suzanne Fougere, Events East gave a presentation.

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor White

THAT Halifax Regional Council approve the 2026-27 Events East Business Plan for the Halifax Convention Centre Corporation, submitted to the Municipality on March 31, 2026, as set out in Attachment 2 of the March 16, 2026, staff report.

Fougere and Brendon Smithson, Director, Regional Recreation Services responded to questions of clarification from Halifax Regional Council.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Austin, Gillis, St-Amand

15.2 AUDIT AND FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE

15.2.1 Sir Sandford Flemming Park – Shoreline Improvements Phase 5*

The following was before Halifax Regional Council:

- Audit and Finance Standing Committee report dated April 15, 2026 with attached staff report dated April 8, 2026

The following motion was approved as part of the Consent Agenda:

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Steele

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

1. Amend the multi-year capital plan as described in the staff report dated April 8, 2026 to reflect the projected annual expenditures for capital project account no. CP180002 – Shoreline Improvements/Water Access.

2. Award Tender No. 2025-0573 Sir Sandford Flemming Park - Shoreline Improvements Phase 5 to the sole bidder, Langes Rock Farm Construction Ltd for a total tender price of \$1,308,274.21 (net HST included) with funding from Project Account No. CP180002 – Shoreline Improvements/Water Access, as outlined in the Financial Implications section of the staff report dated April 8, 2026.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Austin, Gillis, St-Amand

15.3 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STANDING COMMITTEE

15.3.1 Analysis of Costs and Benefits of Halifax Mooseheads Expansion Proposal at the RBC Dartmouth 4-pad – REVISED

The following was before Halifax Regional Council:

- Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee report dated April 16, 2026 with attached staff report dated March 23, 2026, revised April 27, 2026

MOVED by Councillor Steele, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT Halifax Regional Council to direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to negotiate and execute a market rate lease agreement with the Halifax Mooseheads for the existing exclusive use space and the expanded building envelope at RBC Centre in Dartmouth, with terms and conditions satisfactory to the CAO, including: detailed leasehold improvements, owners representative consultant, construction, and public benefit conditions for the proposed expansion.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Gillis

15.4 GRANTS COMMITTEE

15.4.1 Community Museum Grants Program: Recommended Awards: Fiscal 2026*

The following was before Halifax Regional Council:

- Grants Committee report dated April 22, 2026 with attached staff report dated March 17, 2026

The following motion was approved as part of the Consent Agenda:

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Steele

THAT Halifax Regional Council approve five (5) Project Grants as described in the Discussion section of the staff report dated March 17, 2026 at a combined cost of \$60,500 from Operating Account M310-8004.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Austin, Gillis, St-Amand

15.5 MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

15.5.1 Deputy Mayor Cuttell - Administrative Correction for Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board of Directors Term

The following was before Halifax Regional Council:

- Request for consideration form from Deputy Mayor Cuttell

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Cuttell, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

1. Suspend the rules of procedures under Schedule 6 of Administrative Order One, Executive Standing Committee Terms of Reference, requiring the Executive Standing Committee to review nominations and make recommendations to Regional Council;

2. Endorse the extension of Deputy Mayor Cuttell's term on Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM's) Board of Directors, from June 2026 to June 2027; and

3. Assumes all costs associated with Deputy Mayor Cuttell attending FCM's Board of Directors meetings.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Gillis

15.5.2 Councillor White - Prioritizing the Maintenance of Active Transportation Routes During Building Construction

The following was before Halifax Regional Council:

- Request for consideration form from Councillor White

MOVED by Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Hinch

THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare a staff report regarding:

a) policy that maintains the municipal right-of-way (ROW) during building construction projects for pedestrians and/or people cycling/rolling/wheeling regardless of whether the sidewalk or bike lane on the opposite side of the roadway is open or not.

b) developing or refining HRM policy and/or fee structure to deter building construction project footprints from encroachment into the municipal active transportation (AT) ROW.

c) developing or refining HRM policy and/or fee structure to encourage developers to re-open the municipal AT ROW as soon as possible during building construction projects when closing the AT ROW is necessary for a time.

d) developing or refining HRM policy that prioritizes temporary protected pathways for pedestrians and/or people cycling/rolling/wheeling in the vehicular ROW over parking spaces and unnecessarily wide vehicle travel lanes during building construction projects.

Brad Anguish, Acting Chief Administrative Officer responded to questions of clarification from Halifax Regional Council.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (14 in favour, 1 against)

In favour: Deputy Mayor Cuttell, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Kent, Austin, Mancini, White, Hinch, Cleary, Morse, Steele, Hartling, Young, St-Amand

Against: Mayor Fillmore

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Gillis

16. MOTIONS

16.1 Mayor Fillmore

Mayor Fillmore stepped down from the Chair and Deputy Mayor Cuttell assumed the Chair.

MOVED by Mayor Fillmore, seconded by Councillor Steele

THAT Halifax Regional Council directs the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to prepare the 2027/2028 budget by holding expenditure levels flat with the consideration for increases for inflation, contractual commitments, mandatory provincial contributions, and items approved by Council.

Brad Anguish, Acting Chief Administrative Officer and Jerry Blackwood, Chief Financial Officer responded to questions of clarification from Halifax Regional Council.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (14 in favour, 1 against)

In favour: Mayor Fillmore, Deputy Mayor Cuttell, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Kent, Austin, Mancini, Hinch, Cleary, Morse, Steele, Hartling, Young, St-Amand

Against: Councillor White

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Gillis

Mayor Fillmore resumed the Chair.

17. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Steele

THAT Halifax Regional Council convene to In Camera (In Private) to discuss Item 17.1 CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS, Item 17.3 INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, Item 17.4 PROPERTY MATTER and Item 17.5 PROPERTY MATTER

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

17.1 CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS - In Camera (in Private) Information Item brought forward April 14, 2026

The following was before Halifax Regional Council:

- Private and confidential staff report dated April 13, 2026

This matter was dealt with In Camera (In Private).

17.2 INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS - 1:00 p.m.

The following was before Halifax Regional Council:

- Private and confidential presentation dated April 28, 2026

This matter was dealt with In Camera (In Private).

17.3 INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS - Private and Confidential Report

The following was before Halifax Regional Council:

- Private and confidential staff report dated April 16, 2026
- Correspondence

This matter was dealt with In Camera (In Private) and ratified in public as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Steele

THAT Halifax Regional Council adopt the direction provided In Camera (In Private).

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (11 in favour, 3 against)

In favour: Mayor Fillmore, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Kent, Austin, Mancini, White, Steele, Hartling, Young, St-Amand

Against: Deputy Mayor Cuttell, Councillors Cleary, Morse

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Hinch, Gillis

17.4 PROPERTY MATTER - Private and Confidential Report

The following was before Halifax Regional Council:

- Private and confidential staff report dated April 20, 2026

This matter was dealt with In Camera (In Private) and ratified in public as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

1. Adopt the recommendations as outlined in the private and confidential report dated April 20, 2026; and

2. Release the private and confidential report dated April 20, 2026 to the public once the conditions as outlined in the report have been met.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Hinch, Gillis

17.5 PERSONNEL MATTER - Private and Confidential Report

The following was before Halifax Regional Council:

- Private and confidential staff report dated April 27, 2026
- Private and confidential staff presentation dated April 28, 2026

This matter was dealt with In Camera (In Private) and ratified in public as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Young, seconded by Councillor Steele

THAT Halifax Regional Council

1. Adopt the recommendations as outlined in the private and confidential report dated April 27, 2026; and

2. Direct that the private and confidential report dated April 27, 2026 be maintained private and confidential.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Hinch, Gillis

18. ADDED ITEMS

18.1 Councillor Cleary - Permission under Administrative order 53 to allow Armview Restaurant and Lounge to serve alcohol in a section of Rotary Park

The following was before Halifax Regional Council:

- Request for Consideration form from Councillor Cleary

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Morse

THAT, in accordance with section 7 of Administrative Order 53, the Municipal Alcohol Policy, Halifax Regional Council grant permission to the Armview Restaurant and Lounge to serve alcohol in a specifically defined section of the Municipally-owned Rotary Park during park hours and that the serving of alcohol in this park shall be governed by a market value license agreement.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Hinch, Gillis

19. NOTICES OF MOTION

None

20. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

21. INFORMATION ITEMS

21.1 Memorandum from the Chief Administrative Officer dated April 16, 2026 re: Award of Contracts – Quarterly Report January 2026 to March 2026

21.2 Memorandum from the Chair of Audit and Finance Standing Committee dated April 15, 2026 re: Investment Activities – Quarter ending December 31, 2025

21.3 Memorandum from the Municipal Clerk dated April 20, 2026 re: Requests for Presentation to Council - None

21.4 Proclamation - Mental Health Week - May 4 - 10, 2026

21.5 Memorandum from the Chief Administrative Officer dated April 22, 2026 re: Potential for Amending Administrative Order 2015-006-ADM to Raise the \$100,000 Disclosure Threshold

22. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) INFORMATION ITEMS

22.1 Private and Confidential In Camera (In Private) Information Report re: Labour Relations

Iain MacLean Municipal Clerk

