

TOWN OF AMHERST
North Tyndal Wellfield Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes

Date: April 8, 2025
Time: 4:00 pm
Location: Council Chambers, Town Hall

Members Present Rob Small, Town of Amherst, Mayor, Chair
Terry McManaman, Town of Amherst, Councillor
Anthony Fromm, Cumberland County, Councillor
Keith Thompson, Town of Amherst, Citizen Representative
Daniela McKay, Cumberland County, Citizen Representative
Justin Waugh-Cress, Cumberland County, Director of Public Works

Members Absent Fred Gould, Cumberland County, Deputy Mayor

Staff Present Aaron Bourgeois, Town of Amherst, Director of Operations
Andrew Fisher, Town of Amherst, Director of Planning & Economic Development
Natalie LeBlanc, Town of Amherst, Municipal Clerk
Cindy Brown, Town of Amherst, Administrative Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Clerk called the meeting to order.

1.1 Territorial Acknowledgement

The Clerk gave the Territorial Acknowledgement.

1.2 Introduce Members

The Clerk introduced the members of the Committee.

1.3 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

The Clerk asked for nominations for the position of Chair. Councillor McManaman nominated Rob Small. The Clerk called for any further nominations, there being none, Rob Small accepted the position of Chair. The Clerk then asked for nominations for the position of Vice Chair. Rob Small nominated Councillor McManaman. The Clerk called for any further nominations, there being none, Councillor McManaman accepted the position of Vice Chair.

1.4 Approval of Agenda

Keith Thompson asked to add General Discussion to the agenda. General Discussion was added as item 5.1.

Moved By Councillor Fromm

Seconded By Daniela MacKay

That the agenda be approved with the addition of 5.1 General Discussion.

Motion Carried

1.5 Acceptance of Minutes - November 14, 2023

The Chair called for any errors or omissions in the minutes. There being none, the minutes of the November 14, 2023 meeting of the North Tyndall Wellfield Advisory Committee were accepted as included in the agenda package.

2. Terms of Reference and Role of Committee

Aaron Bourgeois reviewed the Committee Terms of Reference. Information item only.

3. Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure's Role

Aaron Bourgeois indicated that at the last meeting of the Committee the question was raised as to what Adam Cameron, who is with Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure, role is with the Committee. Aaron indicated that Mr. Cameron does not necessarily have a role unless there is an emergency along the right-of-way of route 366. The Chair asked what was the genesis of the question raised at the previous meeting, Aaron replied that it was around sanding of the road.

Information item only, no direction given or action required.

4. Tyndal Road Sanding vs Salting

Andrew Fisher indicated that when the Protection Strategy was last renewed the issue of sanding versus salting along this particular section of the Tyndal Road came up and that it was recommended by the Hydrologist Colin Walker to not introduce salting along this area. Andrew added this issue came up again 2018 as a safety issue. At that time staff reached out to the RCMP requesting accident statistics in the area, the RCMP responded that accidents in the area were no more significant than along any other stretch of that highway. Aaron Bourgeois will forward a copy of this report to the Committee. Andrew added that in light of the RCMP report that staff are of the opinion to follow the hydrologists recommendation and continue to use sand to protect the water supply.

Daniela McKay stated that she travels the Tyndal Road daily and does have concerns with the continued use of sand noting that it significantly decreases the speed of traffic along this area and has caused damage to her windshield annually. The Chair asked if there are other options to use other than sand or salt. Mr. Bourgeois replied that there could potentially be other options however these have not been recommended or explored, adding that Nova Scotia Department of Transportation strictly uses salt and sand in Nova Scotia, and if there are other options he is not sure of what the environmental repercussions to using something else would be.

Councillor Fromm asked if the Committee has access to the hydrologists report where salting is recommended. Aaron replied staff would look into this. He also asked how far the actual wellfield is from the highway. This can be answered during the tour.

Daniela further asked why salt is permitted after this particular section of the highway, as the residents there are all on private wells. Staff could not speak to this.

5. Wellfield Tour Date

A tour of the wellfield was scheduled for Thursday, April 17th at 1:00 p.m.

5.1 General Discussion

Mr. Thompson asked about the Irving Forest Management Plan and if it's just on their holdings? Aaron confirmed yes. Mr. Thompson asked if there are any other forestry plans or is it "hands-off? Aaron replied it is mostly hands-off. Mr. Thompson is wondering if this is something the Committee should look at, he is concerned about mature trees in the area and what could happen as a result of a potential hurricane or forest fire, and suggested that a risk analysis be conducted. He added water is an asset however sometimes it doesn't get the attention it should.

Moved By Keith Thompson

Seconded By Councillor Fromm

That the North Tyndal Wellfield Advisory Committee recommend staff conduct a risk analysis of the wellfield area outside of the Irving Management Plan and further recommend a plan if required to mitigate any risks.

Motion Carried

Mr. Thompson also asked about wellfield boundary lines and if they are delineated on the ground by zone or drawn on a map? Aaron Bourgeois said he is not sure, could be a little of both, he will get an answer.

Mr. Thompson further asked about property ownership around the wellfield. Andrew Fisher answered that in looking at the map, all of Zone 1 is owned by the Town of Amherst, that a good 3rd of Zone 2 is Crown owned land, and the rest is Town of Amherst and private ownership. Mr. Thompson asked if private property owners have to submit anything or if there is any procedure they need to follow before doing any work on their land. Andrew Fisher replied that he believes that to the south of the road they have to submit any plans for work on their land to this Committee.

Mr. Thompson asked if Irving has submitted an annual plan or if they are required to do so? Aaron Bourgeois said no, they haven't submitted a plan, adding that Nova Scotia Department of Environment (NSDoE) has asked the same question recently, and that he believed that NSDoE may currently be seeking a plan from them.

6. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the North Tyndal Wellfield Advisory Committee was scheduled for Tuesday, October 7, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in Town Hall Council Chambers.

7. Closed Session

Moved By Councillor McManaman

Seconded By Councillor Fromm

That the Committee go into Closed Session.

Motion Carried

8. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

Natalie LeBlanc
Municipal Clerk

Rob Small
Chair