

**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

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**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**

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Natalie LeBlanc  
Municipal Clerk

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Rob Small  
Mayor

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