

TOWN OF AMHERST
Advisory Committee to Reduce Poverty Issues
Minutes

Date: September 21, 2023
Time: 4:30 pm
Location: Council Chambers, Town Hall

Members Present Jennifer Houghtaling, Cumberland County, Councillor
Leon Landry, Town of Amherst, Deputy Mayor
Carla Black, Town of Oxford, Councillor
Helen Read, Town of Oxford, Citizen Representative
Lynne Welton, Town of Amherst, Citizen Representative
Melissa Johnson, Town of Amherst, Citizen Representative

Members Absent Alison Lair, Cumberland County, Citizen Representative
Carrigan Guthro, Citizen Representative

Staff Present Peter McCracken, Cumberland County, Deputy CAO
Linda Cloney, Town of Oxford, CAO
Sharon Bristol, Town of Amherst, Director of Community Living
Mallory Klooster, Town of Amherst, Community Well-Being Manager
Sean Payne, Town of Amherst, Corporate Communications Officer
Natalie LeBlanc, Town of Amherst, Municipal Clerk
Cindy Brown, Town of Amherst, Administrative Assistant

Staff Absent Stanley McDougall, Town of Oxford, Office Assistant
Shelley Hoeg-Eaton, Cumberland County, Municipal Clerk

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

1.1 Territorial Acknowledgement

The Chair gave the Territorial Acknowledgement.

1.2 Approval of Agenda

Moved By Helen Read

Seconded By Councillor Black

That the agenda of the September 21, 2023 Poverty Reduction Advisory Committee Meeting be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

1.3 Approval of Minutes - April 20, 2023

Moved By Lynne Welton

Seconded By Councillor Black

That the minutes of the April 20, 2023 Poverty Reduction Advisory Committee Meeting be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried

2. Presentations

2.1 **Youth Resilience - Hallie Tattrie**

Hallie Tattrie gave an update to the Pathways to Youth Resiliency study. She is currently working on the Ethics Board Application and Approval process. Hallie said she plans to attend the Youth Summit in November. She will attend the December PRAC meeting to give an additional update.

3. Discussion Items

3.1 **Food Security and Mount Allison - Houghtaling**

Councillor Houghtaling discussed the food summit that she attended with Deputy CAO Peter McCracken and Leslie Shumka from Mount Allison. They are working on a Food Assessment document for Cumberland County Municipalities. Any member that is interested in participating please contact Councillor Houghtaling.

3.2 **Food Security Summit Update - Houghtaling**

Councillor Houghtaling discussed her meeting with Maggie's Place staff, CHB Coordinator, Eleanor Eville (NS Health) and Deputy Mayor Landry who have begun a Planning Group to discuss and organize a food security event which they are calling "Cultivating Food Security in Cumberland County". Cumberland County is looking to hire a part time student/intern to assist with the food summit. If any committee members are interested in assisting with the planning committee, please contact Councillor Houghtaling.

3.3 **IOAD Substance Use Presentation - Landry**

Deputy Mayor Landry discussed the International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) presentation by Katie Upham, Atlantic Regional Director on the board of Moms Stop the Harm.

Moved By Deputy Mayor Landry

Seconded By Councillor Black

That the Poverty Reduction Advisory Committee request that the Town of Amherst CAO direct staff in consultation with the other municipalities to develop options for an IOAD Substance Use Presentation to the Committee, staff and other stake holders in the community.

Motion Carried

3.4 **PRAC Strategic Plan Update - Klooster**

Mallory Klooster provided an update to the Poverty Reduction Advisory Committee Strategic Plan. The current plan will be emailed to the Committee for feedback, and must be received by October 1, 2023.

3.5 **Rural Homelessness in Cumberland County Service Based Count - Klooster**

Mallory Klooster discussed how the Cumberland County Service-based Count Advisory Committee is planning to conduct the second study of homelessness in Cumberland County in November 2023. The study seeks to count the number of people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness in the County and collect some key demographic information.

Melissa Johnson arrives at 5:00 pm.

3.6 Youth Summit Planning Committee - Klooster

Mallory Klooster discussed the Youth Summit that is being planned for November 2023 with the support of Hallie Tattre. A planning committee is being organized. If any committee members are interested, please contact Mallory Klooster.

4. Next Meeting - December 14, 2023

5. Adjournment

Moved By Helen Read

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Landry

To adjourn the meeting.

Motion Carried

Natalie LeBlanc
Town of Amherst, Municipal Clerk

Councillor Jennifer Houghtaling
Cumberland County, Chair