Minutes

Village Commission Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, Sep 16, 2026 @ 6:00 pm
In-Person & Virtual Meeting
Village/Library Boardroom, 63 Regent Street, Chester
Video Archive https://www.youtube.com/@villageofchesterns

Present: Geraldine Pauley, Chair
Randall O'Malley, Vice-Chair
Laura Mulrooney, Commissioner
Tom Mulrooney, Commissioner
Gloria Nauss, Commissioner

Staff: Heather McCallum, Clerk/Treasurer (C/T)
Maxine Veinot, Recording Secretary

Guest: Councillor Tom Bremner, District 3, Municipality of the District of Chester (MODC)

1.0 Call to Order/Land Acknowledgement

Chair Pauley called the Chester Village Commission Monthly Meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

She stated the Land Acknowledgement:
As we meet today, we acknowledge that we live in Mi'kma'ki, the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people. We are all treaty people with a responsibility to each other and to this land.

2.0 Public Forum – Nil

3.0 Approval/Amendment of Agenda

Motion #26-057 Commissioner Nauss moved; Vice-Chair O'Malley seconded: That the Agenda of the Chester Village Commission's Sep 16, 2026 Regular Monthly Meeting be approved as presented.
Motion carried unanimously.

4.0 Approval/Amendment of Minutes

4.1 Monthly Commission Meeting: Aug 19, 2026

Motion #26-058: Commissioner T. Mulrooney moved; Commissioner Nauss seconded: That the Minutes of the Chester Village Commission's Aug 19, 2026 Monthly Meeting be approved as presented.
Motion carried unanimously.

5.0 Business Arising

5.1 ANSV Annual Conference & AGM: Update

C/T McCallum reviewed the status of planning for the Association of Nova Scotia Villages (ANSV) Annual Conference & AGM taking place in Chester the end of this week.

- She described the room layout and audio-visual plans, and recapped the session content.
- Doug Boudreau, the ANSV Coordinator, is coming Thursday afternoon to help set up.
- Commissioner L. Mulrooney has been a huge help with two of the speakers, catering planning, supply runs for food & beverage, and securing the Golf Course for the Friday evening dinner. She will lead food & beverage coordination at the meeting.
- Chair Pauley has contributed to meeting content, catering planning, and will assist Laura during the conference. She is also organizing the welcome open house on Thursday evening, and hosting the sessions.
- Commissioner Nauss will help with set-up and assembling the giveaway bags, and assist Laura during the conference.

6.0 Correspondence

6.1 NSFM: Message re Cape Breton Flooding

A message from the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) was circulated to municipalities and villages for information *(Sched 6.1)*.

6.2 Seniors' Safety Program: The Helping Tree

This document was shared by Ellen Johnson, the Lunenburg County Accessibility Coordinator *(Sched 6.2)*.

Commissioner Nauss spoke of benefits of the Seniors' Safety Program such as helping seniors become aware of 'spamming' via phone and online.

7.0 Reports

7.1 Report from the Chair

ZVML Civic Centre: Chair Pauley reported that the Chester Merchants Association are resuming their meetings, after the summer hiatus. Other groups meeting at the Library include Our Health Centre, a parenting group, and a book club.

ZVML: The Library has seen approximately 2,850 visitors since opening and continues to draw folks to see it and take-out/reserve books.

VIC: The Visitor Information Centre has seen a significant decline in visitors this year. Approximately 1,200 in 2025 and 700 to date in 2026.

The Chester Merchants did not notice a considerable increase in shoppers with the VIC being opened, but noted they weren't specifically looking for it. They are interested to see what happens in 2027 and asked that the Village maintain the VIC for another year.

Chair Pauley noted that roadside signage is still an issue.

ZVML Accessibility project: A letter was received from NS Public Works stating a road permit was not needed. The Municipality needed this letter to proceed with their variance.

7.2 Clerk/Treasurer Report

C/T McCallum presented her monthly administration and financial update *(Sched 7.2)*.

The EHS driveway in front of building has a large pothole. Prices have been collected to pave the full area, and the figure works within the EHS capital budget. The Commissioners discussed repairing the pothole vs. repaving.

Motion #26-059: Vice-chair O'Malley moved; Commissioner Nauss seconded: That the driveway in front of the EHS building be fully repaved by DCT Paving for $5,000 + HST.
Motion carried unanimously.

The Lido Pool is closed for the season. This summer went well, and a further report will be provided at a future meeting.

Clerk/Treasurer McCallum is looking into electronic donor management and tax receipting platforms to manage donations for the library more efficiently.

A local resident, with support from Commissioner L. Mulrooney, held a private fundraiser last month for the Library; over $23,400 was raised, with further pledges to come. THANK-YOU!

Commissioner T. Mulrooney asked Councillor Bremner for an update on the snow removal request to Council from the Village. Councillor Bremner noted that a staff report was requested by Council and should be received soon.

7.3 (a) Chester Fire Services Committee (CFSC) & (b) MODC Fire Advisory Committee (FAC)

(a) CFSC Minutes of Aug 12, 2026 are included for information *(Sched 7.3(a))*. [www.chesterfirecommittee.ca]

(b) The FAC Agenda for tonight's meeting, Sep 16, 2026, is included for information *(Sched 7.3(b))*.

7.4 Lunenburg County Accessibility Advisory Committee (LCAAC)

LCAAC Minutes for Jun 17, 2026 *(Sched 7.4(a))* and Draft Minutes for Sep 2, 2026 *(Sched 7.4(b))* are attached for information. [www.accessiblelunenburgcounty.ca]

8.0 New Business – Nil

9.0 Commissioner Roundtable

Commissioner T. Mulrooney suggested that for future meetings, the complete agenda package is not necessary to print, as it gets sent to all Commissioners electronically.

A brief discussion was held, and consensus was to print the agenda,

Financial reports, and other important documents for fine review. If there is anything a Commissioner wishes for in print, they must request it. The Chair of the Commission is to get a full printed package.

10.0 In-Camera – Nil

11.0 Resumption of Public Meeting – N/A

12.0 Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 pm.

Next Meeting(s)

- Monthly: Wednesday, Oct 21, 2026 - 6:00 pm @ 63 Regent St.
- Monthly: Wednesday, Nov 18, 2026 - 6:00 pm @ 63 Regent St.
- Monthly: Wednesday, Dec 16, 2026 - 6:00 pm @ 63 Regent St.

_____	_____
Commission Chair	Clerk/Treasurer
Geraldine Pauley	Heather McCallum

Sched 6.1

From: Municipal Exchange
To: Municipal Exchange
Subject: Message from NSFM: We Stand Together
Date: September 8, 2026 9:01:37 AM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE **
Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Good Morning Listserv,

Sending along this message from Mayor David Mitchell, President, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities, which is being shared on our various communication channels this morning.

We Stand Together

The past Labour Day weekend has been a difficult one for our province and our members, particularly the municipal units in Cape Breton and eastern Nova Scotia. Our thoughts are with the municipalities and their staff and leadership; agencies, personnel, and leadership at all levels of government; service/volunteer agencies; and brave first responders as they deal with the extreme flooding conditions that have again affected our beautiful province.

Our thoughts also extend to all Nova Scotians and their families, friends, pets, and livestock that have been affected by the flooding. We are thankful for the fire fighters and the many volunteers that have provided and continue to provide support. We are inspired by the sense of kindness that exists within our communities. Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities is present to serve our members in any way possible, including as our communities recover from this devastation.

Sincerely,



Mayor David Mitchell
President, NSFM

Ian Morrison | Director of Operations and Communications
NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION OF MUNICIPALITIES

1809 Barrington Street, Suite #1500
Halifax NS B3J 3K8
E-mail: imorrison@nsfm.ca
Phone: (902) 266-2297

Explore our Funding Database: https://www.nsfunding.ca/

nsfm.ca | facebook | twitter | linkedin | instagram | Bluesky



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

Municipal Exchange
A shared space for municipal sector news, resources, and discussion.

You are currently subscribed to nsfm as:
heather.mccallum@villageofchesterns.ca
To unsubscribe send a blank email to leave-797114-8932251.2b0454b70a544a82e3c817be4dfd8e84@lists.gov.ns.ca

Sched 6.2

Lunenburg County
SENIORS'
Safety Program

THE HELPING TREE

Community Support & Services.....
211

Emergency.....
911

Suicide Help
Line.....988

Non-Urgent Health concerns.....
811

Hearing & Speech Impairment Relay.....711

Directory
Assistance.....411

NS Road
Conditions.....511

Senior's Safety Program Coordinator

Lisa Bennett.....902-543-3567

Lisa.Bennett@bridgewaterpolice.ca

MENTAL HEALTH

24/7 MH Crisis line.....1-888-429-8167

27/7 Domestic Violence.....1-855-225-0220

Crisis Text – Text 'Talk' to:.... ..... .686868

CDN Suicide Prevention..... 988

Mental Health/Addictions..... 902-543-5400

Geriatric Psychiatry.....902-473-7733

ADDICTIONS

Smoking Help Line.....1-877-513-5333

Gambling Help Line.....1-888-347-8888

Opioid Treatment Program.....1-855-273-7110

SUPPORT GROUPS

Self-Help Connection.....1-844-466-2011

Alcoholics Anonymous..... 902-466-7077

Narcotics Anonymous.....902-789-8323

Lunenburg County YMCA..... 902-543-9622

LOCAL LIONS CLUBS

Bridgewater.....902-543-7415

Mahone Bay.....902-624-0904

New Germany.....902-298-9765

Chester.....902-275-1422

LOCAL LEGIONS

Bridgewater.....902 543-3203

Mahone Bay.....902-624-8449

Lunenburg.....902-634-4215

Chester.....902-275-3315

New Germany.....902-644-2320

OTHER

Access Nova Scotia.....1-800-670-4357

Motor Vehicle.....1-800-670-4357

Service Canada.....1-800-622-6232

Natural Resources Lunenburg.....902-634-7555

POLICE NON-EMERGENCY

Bridgewater Town 902-543-2464

Chester RCMP.....902-275-3583

Lunenburg RCMP.....902-634-8674

Bridgewater RCMP.....902-527-5555

SCAMS / FRAUDS

Canadian Anti Fraud Center....1-888-495-8501

POWER OUTAGES/DOWNED LINES

Bridgewater.....1-844-428-6004

Lunenburg..... 902-634-4410

- After hours..... 902 527-0150

Mahone Bay..... 902-624-8327

- After hours.....902-543-3251

Riverport 902-766-4890

- After hours.....902-543-2502

TAX INFORMATION

TTY (Hearing/speech) 1-800-387-1193

CRA Individual Tax.....1-800-959-8281

Free Tax Prep Clinics.....1-855-516-4405

Tax Info Phone Service.....1-800-267-6999

LEGAL AID & INFORMATION

NS Legal Aid.....902-543-4658

Dalhousie Legal Aid Services.....902-423-8105

Legal Information Society of NS...1-800-655-9779

Free Legal Clinic (HFX).....902-424-3690

SS Community Justice..... 902-543-1841

Mi'kmaq Legal Support..... ...1-877-379-2042

Public Trustee's Office.....902-424-7760

Bridgewater Justice Ctr.....902-543-4679

SEXUAL ASSAULT CENTER

Sexual Assault Center.....902-527-2868

SUPPORT & SERVICES

Caregivers NS.....1-877-488-7690

VON..... 902-624-1897

Red Cross.....902-543-8565

Continuing Care NS.....1-800-225-7225

Second Storey Women's Center.....902-640-3044

Home Support.....902-543-1650

Arthritis Society.....1-800-321-1433

Alzheimer's Society.....1-800-611-6345

Parkinson Society NS..... 902-404-0792

Red Bear Connects.....902-448-4744

MEAL PROGRAMS

Bridgewater Area.....902 543-1525 ext221

Lunenburg & Area.....902-634-8513

Grocery Delivery Program.....902-298-1900

YMCA.....902-543-9622

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Community Café – Wednesdays @ 5:30pm

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Bridgewater

Seniors Café – Wednesdays 9:30am-11:30am

Calvary Crossroads, Mahone Bay

Free Lunch – weekdays 12:30-2:30pm

Soul's Harbour, Bridgewater

Free Café – Thursdays 9am-11am

St John's Church, New Germany

Salvation Army.....902-543-0356

St Vincent de Paul.....902-527-6431

TRANSPORTATION

Bridgewater Transit.....902-543-4386

Lunenburg County Wheels....902-523-4455

Chester Wheels.....902-273-2440

Maritime Bus.....1-800-575-1807

HOUSING SUPPORT

South Shore Open Doors (SSODA) 902-521-0994

Out of the Cold..... 902-830-4821

Western Regional Housing.....1-888-845-7208

Housing Support Program..... 902-521-5596

Red Cross Disaster Relief.....1-800-222-9597

Residential Tenancies.....1-800-670-4357

Efficiency Nova Scotia.....1-877-999-6035

INCOME ASSISTANCE

Employment Solutions Society.....902-543-2479

Income Assistance.....1-877-424-1177

Canada Pension Plan.....1-800-277-9914

Benefits Inquiries.....1-800-387-1193

Guaranteed Income Supp.....1-800-277-9914

Veterans Affairs Canada.....1-866-522-2122

The Rose Fund (Cancer patient)..... 902-543-8065

NS Heat Fund..... 902-422-3435

MUNICIPAL- Agencies/Municipalities

Town of Bridgewater..... 902-543-4651

Town of Lunenburg.....902-634-4410

Town of Mahone Bay.....902-624-8327

Municipality of Lunenburg..... 902-541-1329

Municipality of Chester.....902-275-3554

REBATES

Energy Rebate/Access NS.....1-800-670-4357

Heating Assistance Rebate.....1-800-670-4357

Seniors Property Tax Rebate.....1-800-670-4357

RECREATION

YMCA.....902-543-9622

MARC (Dayspring) 902-543-8181

LCLC (Bridgewater).....902-530-4100

HB Studios.....902-543-5348

ADULT LEARNING

Lunenburg County Adult Learning

- 902-543-2479. Ext 29

SS Public Library-Senior Digital Literacy Support

- 902-543-9222

Flourish Center 902-572-7697

PETS

Elder Dog.....1-855-336-4226

SPCA NS..... 1-844-835-4798

SHAID Tree.....902-543-4849

SHELTERS

Shelter NS..... 902-406-3631

Harbour House..... ..902-543-3999

The Landing.....902-521-3874

Salvation Army Ctr of Hope..902-422-2363

Metro Turning Point.....902-420-3282

VICTIM SERVICES

Victim Services.....1-800-565-1805

Harbour House.....902-543-3999

Child Protection..... 902-543-4554

Adult Protection.....1-800-225-7225

COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLNESS

Public Health..... 902-543-0850

SSRH Walk-In Clinic.....902-527-5239

SSRH.....902-543-4603

Blood Collection Services.....1-833-998-2722

OUR Health Center..... 902-275-4414

OHC Walk-In Clinic.....902-273-2098

Fisherman's Hospital.....902-634-8801

Hubbard's Medical.....902-857-3335

"Lunenburg County is stronger when our seniors feel safe, valued and supported – their experiences and wisdom enrich our communities"

FUNDING PROVIDED BY:

Lunenburg County Seniors' Safety Program

Is a project of

Lunenburg County Senior's Safety Partnership Society

45 Exhibition Drive

Bridgewater, NS B4V 0A6

902- 543- 3567

www.bridgewaterpolice.ca

www.facebook.com/lunenburgseniorssafety

Want to volunteer in your community?

Call Lisa at LCSSP 902-543-3567 to discuss

Sched 7.2

Village of Chester Commission
Clerk/Treasurer Monthly Report
Sep 16, 2026

Scotiabank

- The August 2026 bank statement is reconciled. The Village main operations account opened the month of August with $424,095 and ended with $364,377.

- Snapshot: Village account balances as of Monday, Aug 31 at close of business were:

Banking Accounts	
Village Operations account	$364,558
Investment Accounts	
Village Operating reserve (excluding Visa $5K cash security)	$110,829
Village Lido Pool reserve (excluding GRID funding $242K)	$214,978
Village Utilities reserve	$44,946
Village EMC Building reserve	$29,200

Financial

- Progress on separating what ZVML bills need reimbursement back to the Village is ongoing.

Capital Projects

- Public Washroom: NS Public Works determined we did not need a "Work Within Highway Right-of-Way Permit" from them. The MODC development and building permits were received on Sep 11th. Our supplier for the exterior work, All Outdoors Landscaping, has been updated and we will coordinate dates asap.

  Gippy is assisting with the supplier for the new door and mechanism: Bridgewater Glass, hopefully. This may have to be subcontracted through All Outdoors (they would not do this piece themselves), but to be determined.

- Library: As reported last time, we were successful in our amended application for GRID funding to be applied to this project. The RFP for the exterior piece has been drafted (necessary for a cost over $10K, which the Class D indicates it will be), but we are still awaiting word on a variance for the walkway at time of writing.

  NS Public Works determined we did not need a "Work Within Highway Right-of-Way Permit" from them, since we are not paving and will put up a courtesy accessible parking sign only.

- Jib Lot: Standing by on supplier availability.

- EHS Building: As directed at the last meeting, Commissioner T. Mulrooney copied me on the quote for full paving last week, and I've contacted the supplier to asked for an alternative quote for patching. I've also contacted a second supplier recommended by MODC to ask for a quote for both. At time of writing, these had not yet been received.

Lido Pool Operations

- It's over for another year! The Swim Program picked up their equipment this past week.

- Nevaeh and I will be meeting after the upcoming ANSV conference to review 2026 operations for a full report.

- I have all the raw data on daily pool use for public swims and lessons, and will include in the report.

MODC Community Wells

- I included a Sep 8th social media post from the Municipality for information on the community well program, since the Commission has discussed it in the past. Church Memorial Park is one of the locations.

ZVML Financial

- Snapshot: Library account balances as of Monday, Aug 31 at close of business were:

Banking Accounts	
ZVML Fund account	$84,563

Investment Accounts	
a) ZVML CHUMS reserve	$5,001
b) ZVML Capital reserve	$50,265
c) Community Foundation of NS: ZVML Charity reserve	$60,000 transferred
d) BMO Mutual Funds	$4,243

- The main account includes deposits of $8,516 in donations received this month: from Canada Helps for the period from Apr 1-Aug 31, a DAF (donor-advised fund) donation, and part of the proceeds from a fundraiser held Aug 26th. More will appear in the Sep statement.

- Note: To date, the Aug 26th fundraiser has netted $22,059, with some pledges pending.

- As you can see, the investment transfers have been made per the Commission's instruction. The BMO account is still to be liquidated.

- Staff will work on developing a database and electronic tax receipting for donations to streamline the process.

- In other news, the Library website has been migrated to our new URL "zoevallelibrary.ca". Anyone using the old URL will automatically be bounced to this one.

Other

- Furniture Sale: Staff have not had time to follow up on this item.

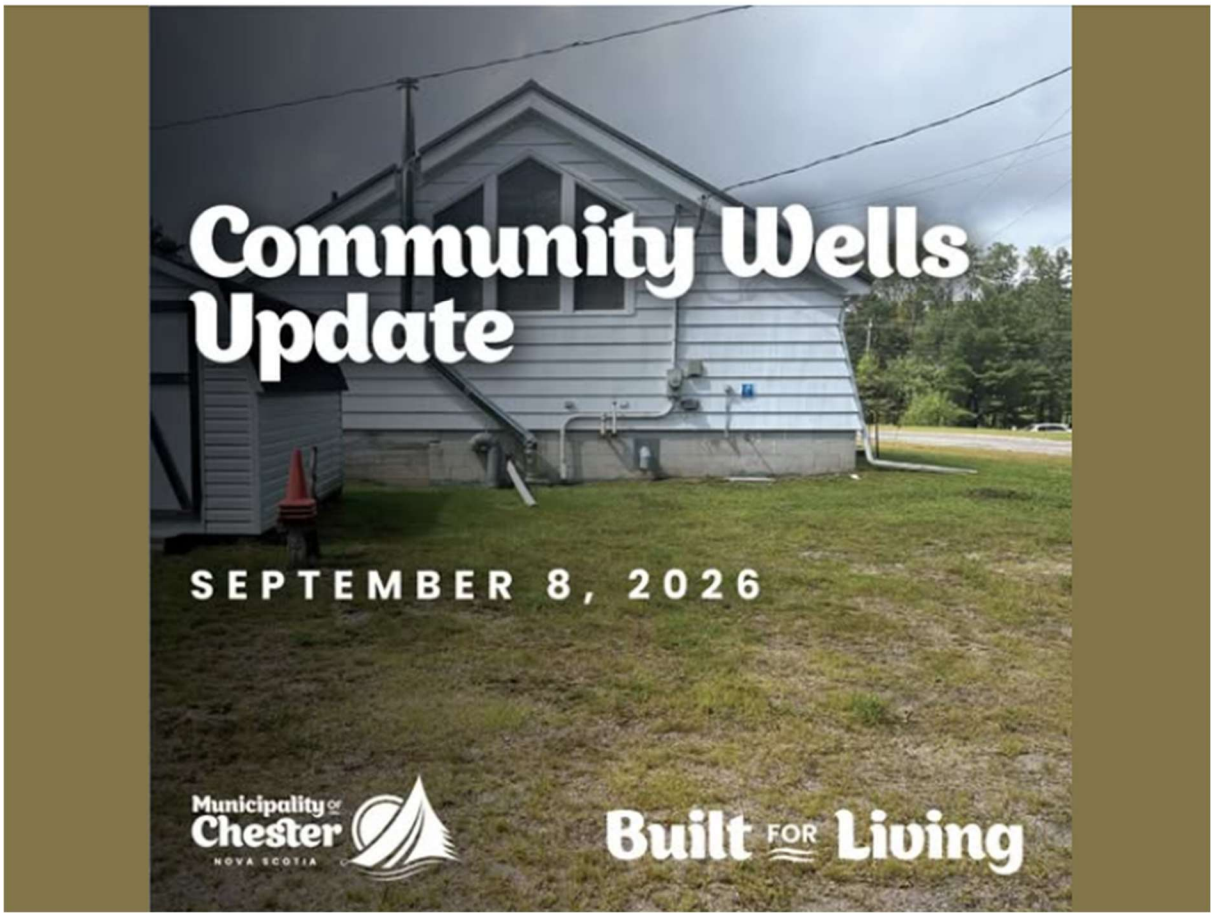
Looking forward to the ANSV Conference starting tomorrow evening!

Report completed by:
Heather McCallum, Village Clerk/Treasurer

Municipality of Chester
19h ·

COMMUNITY WELLS UPDATE:
Four of our community wells are currently operational: Grace Anglican Church in Chester Basin, East Chester Recreation Hall, Western Shore Fire Station, and Church Memorial Park in Chester.

We expect the other three locations to come online shortly: Hubbards Fire Station, Ross Farm, and the Municipal Public Works Facility (Windsor Road) **See less**



Sched 7.3(a)

Chester Fire Services Committee

Minutes

Chester Fire Services Committee (CFSC) Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, Aug 12, 2026 at 5:00 pm

Library/Village Boardroom, 63 Regent Street, Chester

Present	Colin MacDonald, Chair Kirk Collicutt, Treasurer-Secretary Wilson Fitt Nancy Hatch James Robert
Ex-officio	Nick Hirtle, Acting Fire Chief, Chester Volunteer Fire Dept (CVFD)
Staff	Heather McCallum, Recording Secretary
Regrets	Norm Countway, Vice-chair
Guest(s)	Tom Bremner, Municipal Councillor, District 3 Randy O'Malley, Chester Village Commissioner

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1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 5:00 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Moved by Mr. Fitt; seconded by Mr. Collicutt: That the Chester Fire Services Committee approves the Agenda of the Aug 12, 2026 Monthly Meeting as presented. *Motion carried.*

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1 Monthly Meeting: Jul 8, 2026

Motion: Moved by Ms. Hatch; seconded by Mr. Robert: That the Chester Fire Services Committee approves the Minutes of the Jul 8, 2026 Monthly Meeting as presented. *Motion carried.*

4. Business Arising

4.1 Painting of 149 Central Street Fire Station

Ms. Hatch commented that the CFSC does have an obligation to maintain the property at 149 Central Street. She suggested that the East wall and the entrances to some of the bays could be repainted for a few thousand dollars, much less than $20K. The relative value of structural vs. aesthetic maintenance was discussed.

Ms. McCallum reiterated the legal position that the CFSC maintains the building while it is occupied by the CVFD, and that when the fire department move out the property goes back to the Village. The Village may choose to use the building for another community purpose at that point or, if not, it goes back to the Municipality.

Motion: Moved by Ms. Hatch; seconded by Mr. Robert: That the Chester Fire Services Committee allocate a few thousand dollars to do a partial repaint of 149 Central Street. *Motion defeated.*

5. Chester Volunteer Fire Department

5.1 Activity Report

Acting Chief Hirtle reported that the new rescue boat now has its identifying lettering and they are now just waiting for insurance confirmation.

One of the Province's burn trailers is parked at the new station site 4070 Highway 3, where it is being used for Level 1 firefighter training until the end of August. The CVFD anticipates doing another round of Level 1 training later in the fall.

Call stats for the past month included: 7 medicals, 10 fire alarms, 2 MVAs, 1 propane leak, 1 brush fire, 2 mutual aid calls. Ms. Hatch noted she has had some questions from residents about what medical calls the CVFD is still doing: lift assist, cardiac arrest, MVA with or without extractors… the only thing that has changed is dropping the less urgent calls unless requested by EHS. EHS's response times have improved so they are not needed as a back-up as often. Regardless, residents are to call 911 and they triage.

Chief Hirtle also noted that EHS has changed their mandate and the Chester EHS station next door at 139 Central Street is now being manned 99% of the time. It has been designated as a key base between Halifax and Bridgewater.

Chair MacDonald suggested that the Communications Sub-committee put up a post explaining how the 911 system works in our region to improve the public's understanding.

Action: Mr. Countway to lead the creation of a general public education piece about the 911 system and how the calls are allocated.

5.2 Status of Replacement Truck 541

Chief Hirtle reported that the RFP closed on August 5th with three bids. He, the evaluation team, and Mr. Fitt are meeting with Libby Vant (MODC Procurement) this evening at 7:30 pm to go over the scoring process. Mr. Fitt noted that he is supporting the process only, and is not an evaluator.

6. Reports

6.1 Secretary-Treasurer

Mr. Collicutt presented his monthly report *(Sched 6.1)*.

He reported that the Municipality has re-appointed him and Mr. Countway to the CFSC. The matter comes before the Village Commission next week.

In response to a question, C/T McCallum explained that the Phase 3 Loan arrangements can proceed for the full $20M without waiting for other funding. If the CFSC is successful with the federal "Building Communities Strong" grant, the grant funding offsets the loan so that amount is never drawn down and thus reduces the debt. We are not required to use the entire $20M.

6.2 New Fire Station Project

Mr. Fitt presented Status Report #13 on the Fire Hall project *(Sched 6.2)*.

He reported that all the layout issues have been settled, and he is awaiting the final consolidated set of drawings, which represents 100% of design development. Another round of approval from the CVFD is not required. There will be one set for the Village office, 1 set for CVFD, and 1 set for Mr. MacDonald. These, with the Class B estimate and revised master project budget, are expected the end of the week.

The 50% construction drawings are expected the end of the month. Civil work specifications are needed from the design team for the alternative procurement re: pre-

construction site work. Mr. Fitt estimates we are running approximately one month behind schedule to get the construction tender out, but Grey Cardinal think some catching up is possible.

6.3 Communications Sub-Committee

Vice-chair Countway provided an update via email *(Sched 6.3)*. A copy of the recent Facebook post about the new rescue boat is also attached for information.

6.4 Fundraising Sub-Committee

Chair MacDonald has a number of pledge forms out; one came in today for a donation of $100,000 over five years, beginning Jan 1, 2027. He noted that there is a social event being held on the peninsula for the fire station as well.

The recognition piece is still to be determined.

Action: Committee members to send recognition ideas via email.
Action: Mr. MacDonald to circulate the pledge forms to the Committee members.

6.5 MODC Fire Advisory Committee – Jul 15, 2026 Minutes

The minutes of the most recent FAC is shared for information *(Sched 6.5)*. Bruce Blackwood, the soon-to-be-retired Fire Services Coordinator, introduced his replacement, Mitch Vail.

7. New Business

7.1 Reschedule November Monthly Meeting Date

Ms. McCallum noted that the November meeting falls on Nov 11th, which is of course Remembrance Day and a holiday, so an alternative is needed. The Committee selected Thursday, Nov 12th at 5:00 pm. Ms. McCallum will send an updated meeting invitation.

7.2 Correspondence: NS Fire Bulletin, Jul 2026

The bulletin from the Department of Emergency Management was shared for information *(Sched 7.2)*.

In response to a question, Chief Hirtle confirmed that the fire department is very positive about the new mobile burn trailers. There used to be one for the whole

province, and now there are three on the NS mainland, one in HRM specifically, and two in Cape Breton.

The members expressed concern for the current British Columbia wildfire situation. Chief Hirtle explained exterior sprinkler systems: other new equipment designed to soak down buildings in the path of wildfires – not to put a wildfire out, but to get the fire to skip over the properties. Three members have taken the training course for this equipment.

8. In-Camera – Nil

9. Resumption of Public Meeting – N/a

10. Other Business – Nil

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 pm.

Next meeting(s):

- **Regular Monthly**: Wed, Sep 9, 2026 at 5:00 pm – Library/Village Boardroom
- **Regular Monthly:** Wed, Oct 14, 2026 at 5:00 pm – Library/Village Boardroom
- **Regular Monthly:** Thu, Nov 12, 2026 at 5:00 pm – Library/Village Boardroom

_____	_____
Kirk Collicutt	Heather McCallum
CFSC Secretary	CFSC Sr. Administrator (Village Clerk/Treasurer)

Sched 7.3(b)

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF CHESTER

FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING (Policy 112)

Wednesday, September 16, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.
Chester Basin Volunteer Fire Department, 5430 Highway 3

AGENDA

1. Meeting called to order by the Chairperson
2. Land Acknowledgement
   "We respectfully acknowledge that we live and work in Mi'kma'ki as a steward of the ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people. We are all treaty people."
3. Review and Approval of Agenda/Order of Business
4. Chairperson and Vice Chairperson Nominations
5. Introductions (if required)
6. Approval of previous meeting minutes
7. Matters Arising
   Sub Committee Report Updates:
   - Dry Hydrants/Water Supply
   - Training
   - Apparatus/Equipment
   - Recruitment and Retention
8. New Business
   -Motions from Chiefs Meeting-

   Carried unanimously:

   That the Municipality of the District of Chester formally recognize the successful completion of the Level I Firefighter Training Program by issuing Certificates of Completion bearing the statement:
   "In recognition of the successful completion of Level I Firefighting – IFSTA Essentials 8."
   Further, that the Municipality assume an oversight role in the administration of the Level I Firefighter Training Program, including coordinating and assisting with testing processes, providing administrative support, receiving and administering applicable grant funding, and serving as the liaison between participating departments and the Province regarding firefighter training and certification matters.

   Moved that the Fire Services Coordinator be appointed as the MOC Representative for FSANS, motion carried.

9. Roundtable
9. Adjournment / Date of next meeting: November 18, 2026

Sched 7.4(a)

Minutes of the Meeting of Lunenburg County Accessibility Advisory Committee (LCAAC)

Hybrid/Municipality of Chester Public Works building and online via Teams.

June 17, 2026, from 7-8:30pm

Members Present:

Amy Chrysler, Louise Hopper, Lora Church, Councillor Morgen Reinhardt (MODL), Councillor Abdella Assaff (MOC), Penny Carver.

Staff Present:

Tammie Bezanson, Ellen Johnson, Sana Karami.

Guests Present:

Dr. Mikiko Terashima, Ben Kinsey and Katherine Deturbide.

Regrets:

Teresa Alexander-Arab, Councillor Gale Fullerton (TOL), Natasha Strickland, Jennifer McDonald, Geraldine Pauley.

1. Meeting Called to Order:

The Meeting was called to order, and the land acknowledgement was read by Vice Chairperson Louise Hopper at 7:12 p.m.

2. Acknowledgements and Protocols:

2.1 The Vice Chairperson read reminder of accessibility as a human right and read the land acknowledgement and noted June 21st is Indigenous Peoples Day.

2.2 The Vice Chairperson also reminded participants to please raise their hand (virtually or physically) and wait to be called on to speak and to also state their name before speaking.

3 Approval of Agenda:

3.1 MOTION TO APPROVE the agenda as circulated, SO MOVED by Abdella Assaff, SECONDED by Penny Carver. ALL IN FAVOUR. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Approval of Minutes:

4.1 MOTION TO APPROVE PREVIOUS MAY 6th MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED (WITH THE ADDITION OF PENNY CARVER WHO WAS NOT LISTED IN ATTENDANCE), MOVED BY Abdella Assaff, SECONDED BY Amy Crysler. ALL IN FAVOUR. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Presentation: Dr. Mikiko Terashima, Ben Kinsey and Katherine Deturbide.

The Planning for Equity, Accessibility and Community Health (PEACH) Research unit at Dalhousie University is doing the work to document and communicate the accessibility status of municipal facilities in Lunenburg County. This is to address one of the actions in the Lunenburg County Accessibility Plan 2025-2028. They asked the committee for feedback on what aspects of the built environment are important to document and which places are most important to include. A slide deck was shared and made available upon request and can be referenced for information on the presentation. The team will be back to report on their project after the summer when they will be doing the majority of the work.

6. Accessibility Coordinator's Update:

Ellen presented at Nova Scotia Works along with speakers from the NS Accessibility Directorate and Auticon about Accessibility at Work. The session happened on June 10th with about 15 organizations registered for the two-hour event. There was great feedback.

Access Awareness Week at Town of Bridgewater included a Lunch and Learn that had about 12 staff attendees to watch the film Accidental Activist which is about a man in Halifax who uses a wheelchair. The feedback was positive so future Lunch and Learns will be scheduled.

Ellen has continued to do the Accessibility Foundations training with Town of Bridgewater staff. The goal is to have all staff trained, with more than half trained already.

MODL Engineering & Recreation staff have been doing work at Indian Falls. The improvements to date are substantial and very positive. The Miller Point project is also moving forward with additional accessibility support, including the new launch for kayaks.

Ellen reminded members of the Pride parade happening on July 6th in Bridgewater.

Ellen will be at the library this coming Monday for public sessions but noted she will be taking a break over the summer months. The last session had about five attendees stop by to discuss accessibility.

Town of Lunenburg reached out requesting feedback on an idea to add hopscotch to sidewalks in town. They reached out to the committee for advice and guidance to follow in line with accessibility. The Committee noted it could be slippery or tricky for folks with low vision and suggested putting it in wide places or where painting (such as rainbow stripes)

already exists. It's great to know staff are looking through the accessibility Lense! The committee's feedback will be communicated back to Town of Lunenburg staff.

8. Matters Arising:

Lora advised the presentations to Councils (2) are going fine to date. The MODL Council felt more engaged and asked questions. It's been a great refresher and reminder of the work this committee is doing. Ellen and Lora's passion for this work was noted and commended by members.

Access Awareness Week Pannel Event on June 2nd had about 15 attendees in person and 54 attended online. The key budget components were the ASL-English interpreters and the panelist honoraria, so the event came in just under budget. It was a learning experience and the first time the Municipal units used ASL. Ellen reminded the committee that just because we don't always hear from this community doesn't mean they are not there. She felt it's one of those "if you build it, they will come" opportunities to learn and grow from. Penny asked about utilizing captions fulltime for not only Councillors but also the public because of the numerous benefits. More research and discussion on this topic to follow.

9. New Business:

10. Round Table:

Information about the status and future of the website used to communicate issues related to accessibility will be upcoming.

Lora noted they did a Home Share announcement as part of the Remedy work. It was in coordination with the Premier and Minister and Susan Corkum Greek today and it can be watched on CTV & CBC.

11. Date of Next Meeting: September 2nd, 2026.

12. Meeting was adjourned as all items on agenda were completed.

Sched 7.4(b)

Minutes of the Meeting of Lunenburg County Accessibility Advisory Committee (LCAAC)

Hybrid/Town of Lunenburg Town Hall and online via Teams.

September 2, 2026, from 7-8:30pm

Members Present:

Amy Chrysler, Councillor Kacy DeLong (MODL), Councillor Abdella Assaff (MOC),Councillor Penny Carver and Councillor Katherine McCarron (TOMB), Councillor Gale Fullerton (TOL), Deputy Mayor Jennifer McDonald (TOB)

Staff Present:

Tammie Bezanson, Ellen Johnson, Sana Karami, Dylan Heide

Guests Present:

Paul Tingley, Nova Scotia Department of Communities Culture, Tourism and Heritage

Regrets:

Luise Hopper, Lora Church, Teresa Alexander-Arab, Commission Chair Geraldine Pauley (VOC).

Meeting Called to Order:

As the Committee Vice-Chair sent regrets and the Chair was unexpectedly unable to attend the meeting, Councillor Kacy DeLong volunteered to chair the meeting. She called the meeting to order at 7: 15pm, beginning with a Land Acknowledgement.

2. Acknowledgements and Protocols:

2.1 Councillor DeLong read the reminder of accessibility as a human right.

2.2 Councillor DeLong also reminded participants to please raise their hand (virtually or physically) and wait to be called on to speak and to also state their name before speaking.

Introductions took place.

3 Approval of Agenda:

3.1 **MOTION TO APPROVE the agenda as circulated, SO MOVED by Councillor Penny Carver, SECONDED by Amy Chrysler. ALL IN FAVOUR. MOTION CARRIED.**

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4. Approval of Minutes:

4.1 MOTION TO APPROVE PREVIOUS JUNE 17 MEETING MINUTES AS CIRCULATED, MOVED BY Councillor Gale Fullerton, SECONDED BY Deputy Mayor Jennifer McDonald. ALL IN FAVOUR. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Guest Speaker

Paul Tingley, Province of Nova Scotia, Communities Culture, Tourism and Heritage provided a presentation about the Business and Community ACCESS-Ability programs.

Paul explained that the purpose of the programs is to improve accessibility and support the fulfillment of the Accessibility Act. He explained that successful projects have taken many forms but have been largely changes to the built environment so far.

The province has allocated $800, 000 to this program (down from $1 Million last year) and the number of applications has increased substantially over the past five years. The next opportunity to apply for this funding begins in October with a deadline of February 14, 2027. Work must be complete within the fiscal year 202 7-28.

The programs will cover 2/3 of project costs. However, because they are so popular, the chance of getting funding has dropped from a 56% chance to a 15% chance.

There have been a number of successful applicants in the South Shore region and Paul shared some examples. To see the full list of past recipients of this funding or to learn more about the programs, you can visit the websites at Business Access-Ability and Community Access-Ability.

Committee members shared that Paul's support of their previous applications for funding was invaluable to the positive experience and effective accessibility improvements they achieved. One member asked about resources, especially those related to intellectual disabilities and accessibility.

Paul shared several resources with the group, including

- Standards_for_Inclusive_Recreation_Programs.pdf
- RHFAC Rating Survey – section 11 has Mind Friendly Environments
- https://staging-marsddcom.kinsta.cloud/accessibility-policy-adoption-road-map-tool-kit/ is the research from the Municipalities efforts to become more accessible.

6. Accessibility Coordinator's Update

Ellen shared examples of some accessibility related work that happened over the summer:

- Town of Lunenburg

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    - Added three new accessible parking spaces located at the Community Centre and along the pathway to the outdoor pool.
    - In the process of doing a sidewalk renewal project on Pelham St. that will improve accessibility significantly.
- Town of Bridgewater
    - In the process of completing work to improve and add to on-street accessible parking spaces at Bridgewater Elementary and Junior High Schools.
- Municipality of the District of Lunenburg
    - Indian Falls Park and Miller Point Peace Park have had significant upgrades with a focus on accessibility. There were relaunch events over the summer.
- Municipality of Chester
    - Installed Tactile Walking Surface Indicators (TWSI's) that are directional indicators. These are bars that are embedded in the walking surface that can lead a person who is blind or low vision to a specific location like a crosswalk or bus stop. This is the first one installed in the municipality.
    - The municipality is exploring a design for a new recreation facility that may also include a new municipal building/office space. There have been many opportunities for the public to engage and share their thoughts, including input from students. There will be more information about this and the next steps within the next few months.
- Town of Mahone Bay
    - The Bay Way multi-use trail that runs along Edgewater St. is now open. It is being heavily used by locals and visitors and people of all abilities.

Ellen also noted that she will be attending the upcoming Alzheimer Society of Nova Scotia Community Week event on September 23 from 1:30-3:30, at the Bridgewater Fire Hall. She will share information about the committee's call for committee members, copies of the Lunenburg County Accessibility Plan 2025-2028, and seek feedback from community about accessibility issues in Lunenburg County. Everyone is welcome and registration is recommended but not required. More information can be found on the Alzheimer Society of Nova Scotia website.

7. Matters Arising (follow up from past meetings)

7.1 Update on presentations to Councils about the LCAAC: Chair Lora Church presented to all five municipal units in Lunenberg County in May and June and was accompanied by Ellen and Louise for most of these. Participation and questions varied between councils, but all appeared to be engaged and interested in the committee's work.

7.2 Town of Lunenburg request for input update: At he June 17 meeting, Town of Lunenburg staff requested some feedback from the committee on a proposed hopscotch

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project on sidewalks in town. The committee's feedback was provided in response. The update from Town staff on this project is that it is on hold for now.

7.3 PEACH project update: The project to document municipal public spaces in Lunenberg County is underway. There were some slowdowns with the contract process but everything is moving on now and they will be back to present their work at the November LCAAC meeting.

7.4 MOC Public Works Building update: Tammie Bezanson, LCAAC staff resource from MOC, gave an update on work taking place at the MOC Public Works Building. The last LCAAC meeting was held there and committee members provided some feedback about the accessibility of the space.

Tammie reported that power door buttons at the main public entrance are now functioning and there is a doorbell at the entrance to ensure visitors can be heard if no one is at the desk at that moment. Additional improvements are planned for the entrance to make it barrier free, with more planned for staff areas on a longer timeline.

7.5 Seeking new LCAAC members: Ellen explained that there are three LCAAC Community Member vacancies to be filled (one now and two at the end of December). Because the process can take a long time, advertising for all three is happening now with a deadline of October 9, 2026.

The group discussed the best ways to ensure members apply and are engaged. One member noted a concern that community members on the committee are sometimes absent and it seems that these absences are more frequent than elected official member absences. Because the committee really wants to hear from people with first voice experience of disability, it is important to explore if this is the case and how we can ensure any barriers to participating as a community member can be minimized or removed.

Suggestions to recruit applicants to the committee included:

- LCAAC members share the information with people they know in community to spread the word.
- Ellen can provide paper copies or the weblink to the application form at the Alzheimer Society event on September 23 in Bridgewater.
- Ellen to explore if there are barriers to participating as a community member on the LCAAC through review of absences and asking for feedback from community members.

8. New Business

8.1 Plan for IDPD 2026: The International Day of Persons with Disabilities is happening on December 3 and the Lunenburg County Accessibility Plan includes an action that says the municipal units will mark this day of significance in some way. The committee discussed how they might support the planning of an event or some sort of initiative.

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Some ideas included:

- Doing another First Voice Panel.
- Sharing stories of persons with disabilities in our region.
- Partnering with other organizations with similar focus to plan an event.

The group requested that Ellen reach out to potential partners to gauge interest. Amy Chrysler volunteered to support this project if needed.

9. Roundtable Discussion

Councillor Carver shared that Mahone Bay United brought in trainers to teach their soccer coaches to work with children with disabilities. They offer a range of soccer programming, , including inclusive programs.

Councillor Carver also shared that there are new accessibility features along Edgewater St. A new crosswalk, for example, and new audible crossing features. These are a new thing in the Town, and staff and Council are wondering if there will be feedback from community about the change.

It was also noted that NSFM conference is taking place during the week of the November LCAAC meeting. It may be advisable to change the date. Ellen will send out a poll to determine a new time.

10. Next Meeting: October 7, 2026, Town of Bridgewater Committee Room

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 as all items on the agenda were complete.

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