

A regular monthly meeting of Middleton Town Council was held in-person at the Town Hall, via Facebook Live on Monday, March 17, 2025, starting at 7:00pm.

PRESENT

Chairing the meeting, Mayor Gail Smith; Deputy Mayor Gary Marshall, Councillors Sandra Fournier, Bernadette Knapp, John Bartlett (via ZOOM), Jonathan Archibald and Dan Smith; Chief Administrative Officer, Ashley Crocker; and Recording Secretary, Sara Marceau.

Also in Attendance: Nina Newington, and four (4) citizens

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

250218.01 It was moved and seconded that Council approve the agenda as amended.
Motion carried.

3. **PRESENTATIONS**

3.1 Save Our Old Forests (SOOF)

Nina Newington gave an overview of Save Our Old Forests (SOOF) and how the Town can help.

- SOOF is a registered nonprofit based in Kespukwitk, Mi'kma'ki with two primary objectives.
 - To engage the public in helping to protect the forests in keeping with the Government of Nova Scotia's commitment to protect 20% of Nova Scotia's lands and waters by 2030; and
 - To raise awareness of the ecological importance of protecting forests over 80 years old in particular.
 - Protecting 20% of Nova Scotia by 2030
 - The Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act was passed by the Nova Scotia Legislature in October 2021. It includes a commitment "to conserve at least 20% of the total land and water mass of the Province by 2030 as protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures".
- SOOF asked that the Mayor and Council write a letter to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change requesting that the Goldsmith Lake Wilderness Area be advanced as a candidate area for permanent protection

as part of the 15% interim target established by the Canada-Nova Scotia Nature Association.

Councillor Archibald stated assuming Goldsmith Lake is protected, what activities will be permitted?

- Activities could include hiking, fishing, kayaking, and ATV use, with the caveat that resource extraction will not be allowed.
- The area would be preserved as a wilderness zone.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes

2025.02.18 Council Meeting Minutes

2025.03.03 Special Council Meeting Minutes

No errors or omissions were noted, and the minutes were considered approved.

5. ANYTHING BY CITIZENS

No comments given or received.

6. REPORTS

- 6.1 Management Report
- 6.2 Middleton Fire Department Dispatch Report for February
- 6.3 Valley REN LOC Feb3/25 DRAFT Minutes
- 6.4 IDEA Governance Committee Feb 14/25 DRAFT Minutes
- 6.5 IMSA Board Feb 19/25 Meeting Minutes
- 6.6 Annapolis County Joint Police Advisory Board Feb 20/25 DRAFT Minutes
- 6.7 Annapolis County Inter-Municipal Working Group Feb 27/25 DRAFT Minutes
- 6.8 Mayor's Report

Mayor Smith noted that the above reports were circulated to Council members with the agenda package and called for questions/discussion. No comments or questions were made by Council members.

- CAO Crocker provided a brief overview of the Management Report, noting that the new Communications and Events Coordinator started on March 5th.
- Summer student positions are now posted on the website and Facebook.
- The Interim audit is underway, and staff are working on answering questions and providing items to the Town's auditors.

A discussion took place regarding 50 School Street.

- The cleanup of 50 School Street is almost complete.
- Councillor Bartlett inquired whether, if an offer is made and accepted, the legal ability exists to place a lien on the property.
- CAO Crocker confirmed that a lien can be placed, which is done internally by staff.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Two (2) notices of correspondence were distributed to Council members.

7.1 Update on Municipal Disaster Financial Assistance Claims

7.2 Correspondence from the Office of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice

8. ANYTHING BY MEMBERS

Councillor Fournier mentioned that a resident inquired about the plan for filling potholes.

- CAO Crocker responded that Public Works Director Verran is preparing a tender for patch paving

Deputy Mayor Marshall extended thanks to Public Works for their work on the Park Street sewer lines and highlighted that all crosswalk lights are now on.

Councillor Smith mentioned that the Learn to Run program graduation run is scheduled for Saturday, noting that only 3 runs were missed over the course of 11 weeks.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.



Mayor



Recording Secretary