



Town of Oxford
Committee of the Whole
Council Chambers and Zoom
Wednesday, June 12, 2024
Immediately following the Special Council
Meeting

AGENDA

1. Call to Order – Welcome

2. Approval of Agenda
Pages 1 - 2

3. Approval of the Minutes – May 8, 2024
Pages 3 - 8

4. Town Departments Reports
 - 4.1 Public Works Department – presented by Linda Cloney, CAO
Page 9

 - 4.2 Fire Department – presented by Bruce Rushton, Fire Chief and Kyle Purdy, Deputy Fire Chief
Page 10

 - 4.3 Administration Report – presented by Linda Cloney, CAO
Pages 11 - 12 – Admin Assistant Report
Page 13 – CAO Report

 - 4.4 MPAL Report – presented by Mitch Hannigan, Interim MPAL
Pages 14 - 15

5. Council Committees and Boards Reports – presented by Linda Cloney
 - 5.1 Accessibility Advisory Committee
Verbal report

5.2 Communities in Bloom Committee

Verbal Report

5.3 Audit Committee Report

Verbal Report

5.4 Cumberland Region Solid Waste Management Report

Pages 16 – 17 – May Report

Pages 18 – 19 – June Report

5.5 Cumberland Central Landfill Community Liaison Committee

Pages 20 – 23 – November 22, 2023, approved minutes

Page 24 – concerned item found on recycling line

6. Items of discussion and correspondence – presented by Linda Cloney

6.1 Cumberland Business Connector AGM – invitation

Page 25

7. Adjournment



Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting

Place: Council Chambers, Zoom, streamed live to Facebook
Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2024
Presiding Officer: Deputy Mayor Arnold MacDonald
Councillors Present: Mayor Greg Henley, Carla Black, Olivia Canning, Brenton Colborne, Chrystal McNutt, and Paul Jones
Councillor Regrets: Nil

A quorum was present throughout the meeting.

Staff in attendance: Linda Cloney - CAO, Stan McDougall - Admin Assistant (recording secretary), Ruthann Brookins - Manager of Finance, Nick Purdy – Public Works Supervisor (via Zoom), Bruce Rushton – Fire Chief, and Kyle Purdy – Deputy Fire Chief

Presenters in attendance: Nil

Media and Gallery in attendance: Mark Rushton, Six Rivers News, Radio, and TV, and Jason Haughn, Municipal Advisor, Department of Municipal Affairs, Province of Nova Scotia

Bruce Rushton and Kyle Purdy left the meeting at 6:09 PM

1. **Call to Order – Welcome**

At 6:00 PM, Deputy Mayor Arnold MacDonald called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance at the meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda, Pages 1 – 2

Moved by Mayor Henley and seconded by Councillor Jones that the agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting for Wednesday, May 8, 2024, be approved, as presented.

Motion Carried

3. Approval of the Minutes – April 10, 2024, Pages 3 – 7

Approved by

Deputy Mayor Arnold MacDonald, Chair, on May 8, 2024

4. Town Departments Reports

4.1 Public Works Department – presented by Nick Purdy, Public Works Supervisor, Pages 8 - 9

4.2 Fire Department – presented by Bruce Rushton, Fire Chief and Kyle Purdy, Deputy Fire Chief, page 10

4.3 Administration Report – presented by Linda Cloney, CAO, Page 11 – Admin Assistant Report

Submitting separately – Dangerous and Unsightly Update

Linda Cloney, CAO presented that currently, the Town of Oxford has 11 cases of Dangerous and Unsightly residences. One case has been completely cleaned up. The remainder are under initial inspection or further in progress.

Submitting separately – Municipal Election Update

Linda Cloney, CAO presented that weekly meeting with the Returning Officer has commenced, working on the alternative voting bylaw.

It was also announced that anyone planning on running for Council at the next election, there is a free webinar for potential Councillors called “Inside the Civic Chamber – Insights from

Municipal Leaders”. The webinar was on serving and running for office. It was coordinated by the NSFM and is scheduled for May 29th from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. A link to register for the webinar was posted on the Town of Oxford Website and on Facebook.

Submitting separately – Foundry Street Water Main Replacement Update

Linda Cloney, CAO presented that the tender package is now out for the Foundry Street Water Main Replacement project and posted to the public. Foundry Street was identified as part of the Asset Management process along with a few other streets including Main Street and Waverly Street. However, Foundry Street was pushed to the front due to the number of water main breaks on that street and the condition of the road. To get to this point, funding was sought from various sources.

Proceeding with this project is contingent on the quotes for the project, which are still outstanding.

Deputy Mayor Arnold MacDonald thanked the Town staff for their respective reports.

5. Council Committees and Boards Reports – presented by Linda Cloney

5.1 Accessibility Advisory Committee, Verbal report

The next meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee is Monday, May 27, 2024. Julie Glasier, the Municipal Accessibility Support Coordinator for AMANS is a guest speaker at this meeting. Julie will be presenting the new Accessibility Audit Tool to the committee and staff. This tool will aid in compliance with accessibility standards.

5.2 Recreation Commission, Verbal report – including Walk & Wheel Public Meeting

Councillor McNutt discussed with the Council that Volunteer Week was a success with many volunteers and a special thanks is extended to all that participated. Earth Week cleanup was also well attended. A random draw was held and the winner was the Grade 9 class at OREC. The prize for this draw will be presented soon.

The public session of the Walk and Wheel-ability was well received. With the public session, the data will be gathered and used with data obtained from performing a tour of Oxford's trails, roads, streets, and sidewalks. A full report will be put together for the end of May 2024 for review. A follow up meeting would be scheduled for May 29, 2024, to discuss the report and view a video on active transportation in the Town of Oxford. The report will also aid in sourcing potential funding options for active transportation improvements in the future.

5.3 Communities in Bloom Committee, Verbal Report

A committee meeting was held on Monday, May 6, 2024. Funding has been applied for seeds, soil, and plants to revitalize the community gardens near Black River Park and near the trailhead on Water Street. Potentially one would be added near the food bank, and an accessible garden established at the "blueberry chair" at the corner of Water and Main St. Unfortunately, the gardens were attacked by an invasive species and all soil must be removed from each of the gardens and replaced with new soil. A total of four rain barrels would also be needed at these gardens. A "digging party" was scheduled for June 3, 2024, and everyone is welcome to come down with their shovel to assist in reestablishing the gardens.

5.4 Source Water Protection Committee, Verbal Report

From the previous meeting, items are being worked on including finalizing a Source Water Protection Plan for approval and contacting residents who live near the Oxford well field. Work is still being done to further develop the Source Water Protection Committee.

5.5 Road Trails Act Review Committee, Verbal Report – including Public Information Meeting and next steps.

A successful first meeting of the Road Trails Act Review Committee was held and included a member of the RCMP. The public information session held prior to the meeting was discussed which saw about 50 in attendance not including the panel and speakers. More regarding the Roads Trails Act Review and the bylaw development would be discussed later in this meeting.

5.6 Oxford Capitol Theatre Update, Verbal Report

The Oxford Capitol Theatre is busy this May! May 9, 10, and 11th “The Sound of Music” is playing at the Capitol Theatre presented by the Cumberland Performing Arts Group. Youth under 12 was \$15.00 and general admission was \$20.00. Two “Jamming it Up” sessions are scheduled on May 17th and May 31st, 2024. June 2nd is the “Johnny Cash Songbook”

5.7 Library Report, Page 12

A report from Denise Corey, the Chief Librarian of Cumberland County was presented to the Council and was included in the agenda package.

The Cumberland Public Libraries posted that they were looking for members to join the Library Board and were seeking applications for a Community Board member passionate about public libraries and their contribution to the community. Those interested should bring a lived experience in diversity, equity, or inclusion, and foster productive discussion to move the library forward in Cumberland County. The member would sit for a term of 2 years with an option to renew for an additional term of 2 years. Those interested could apply on the Cumberland Public Libraries website.

5.8 Audit Committee Report, Verbal Report

The Audit Committee meeting was held on May 1st. The draft Operating and Capital Budgets for 2024-2025 were reviewed in detail and is now ready with recommendations to the Council for their approval. A Special Council Meeting, immediately following this Committee of the Whole meeting will be held to present the draft budget to the Council.

5.9 Police Advisory Board Report Pages 13 – 17 - January 30, 2024, approved minutes, Pages 18 – 22 - RCMP Report

5.10 Northern Region Solid Waste Report, Pages 23 – 25 – February 2, 2024, approved minutes

Deputy Mayor Arnold MacDonald thanked all Council Committees and Boards for their respective reports.

6. Items of discussion and correspondence – presented by Linda Cloney

6.1 Alternative Voting Bylaw – discussion

Linda Cloney, CAO discussed the Alternative Voting Bylaw with Council and the need to clarify the wording of the bylaw. In specific, Section 3 will need to change to include the option to have fully electronic voting which allows for voting by telephone and by personal computing devices shall be the only means of voting for an election. A copy of the amended bylaw will be presented at the next Council meeting for the first reading.

6.2 Roads Trails Designation Bylaw - discussion

The Roads Trails Designation Bylaw is currently being drafted. A meeting was held and the consensus was given to present to the Council a first reading of the Roads Trails Designation Bylaw with the option to present a designated route rather than to enable all the streets in Oxford. The draft bylaw will be presented at the May 22, 2024, Council Meeting.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 PM.

Deputy Mayor, Arnold MacDonald, Chair

Stan McDougall, Admin Assistant

Date Approved

Public Works Report May 2024

Weekly water samples.

Monthly lagoon samples.

Weekly water checks.

Street sweeping.

Cold patched potholes around town.

Shouldering on Main Street.

Installed speed signs on Pugwash Road, Birchwood Road and Lower Main Street.

Greased and stored winter gear.

Cleaned well chambers.

Weekly garbage and lift station checks.

Finished ditching on Seven Lee Way.

Water break on Crescent Ave.

Weekly mowing and whipper snipping

Water meter repairs.

Storm draining repairs on Little River Road.

Started Foundry Street ditching.

Turned away 5+ vehicles (non-town residents) at transfer site for the month of May.

Plugged sewer on Crescent Ave due to a grease ball.

Prepared water break holes for asphalt.

Hot asphalt on water break patches.

New bay door installed at town shop.

Technician repaired valve for well #4.

Hydrant flushing.

Installed new water line on Little River Road.

Fort equipment servicing tractor.

Any questions feel free to reach out, Thanks

Nick Purdy

Public Works Supervisor

902-397-3002 publicworks@oxfordns.ca

Oxford Volunteer Fire Dept. Report to Council – **June 12/24**

Over the last month the fire department responded to 9 incidents.

- 2 medical related calls...1 in town and 1 in our coverage area
- 2 structure fire call assisting a neighboring department.
- 3 fire alarms...2 in town and 1 in our coverage area
- 1 call for tree on power lines
- 1 small grass fire in town

We recently had one of our large air bottles for our cascade system repaired.

Currently planning for an inspection of our rescue tools/jaws of life that should be completed in the next few weeks.

We recently hosted an information session on responding to emergencies where Natural Gas may be present. This session was attended by our officers along with officers from 4 of our neighboring fire departments. Thank you to Andrew Read with Eastward Energy for providing us with the information.

Our members have been working on completing hose testing of all fire hose on our trucks. This is a large task whereby we unload the hose from the trucks, perform a pressure test and then dry the hose and reload the trucks. We recently had 9 lengths of hose that did not pass...hose is leaking. There has been no less than 26 hours involved in this so far.

Training:

We had 13 members participate in a motor vehicle extrication training that took place on May 26th. This exercise took place at the town parking lot at the skate park. Members trained on various techniques in extricating trapped patients from vehicles.

We are hosting the annual Horse Pulls at the back of the ball fields on Saturday, June 15th at 10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief, Bruce Rushton

Deputy Chief, Kyle Purdy



May 2024

Information Search – Assist the CAO in locating information on our Transfer Station and Dillon Consulting from file storage. Processed a FOIPOP request to Environment and Climate Change to request a copy of all documentation related to approval for our Transfer Station. Also found the 2012 Council meeting minutes and retrieved many booklets from Dillon for Public Works related to our water and sewer infrastructure specs and procedures.

Payroll for Budget – Worked with the Manager of Finance and payroll services to prepare payroll information for the 2024-25 budget.

Budget – worked with the Manager of Finance and CAO for the preparation of the budget. Assisted the Manager of Finance with the preparation of the Budget presentation document to present to the Council on May 8, 2024, Special Council Meeting.

Interim Taxes – Finalized the reconciliation between PVSC Tax Roll and TownSuite, with review from the CAO and consultation with PVSC and the Manager of Finance. Processed the batch and printed the Interim Tax Bills on May 1, 2024, with a due date of May 30, 2024. Worked with the Clerk to pull, email, and mail mortgage company bills and bills to be emailed separately to homeowners as per the saved and updated list of requests. I took the prepared tax bills to the post office to be mailed.

Water Rates – Updated April 1, 2024, water rates from the UARB on our tax software (TownSuite) and on our Website since Q4 water bills have been printed.

Sewer Rates – Updated the current sewer rates on our website to include all sewer codes and their corresponding rates.

Interest Posting - completed for April 2024 Property and Utilities, on May 2, 2024, as directed by the Clerk.

IT/Audio – found and tested the Town’s PA system and cabling – tested successfully.

Xerox – old office printer picked up – new one is installed and tested and is functioning well. Completed small setup items and testing of the new unit and ordered the first set of supplies.

CAO Report – Highlights for the Month of May

Mitch Hannigan has joined our team to assist us with our MPAL program as Jimmy is away. We have been working with him to get some summer programming organized and connecting with the Public.

Currently working through the evaluating process of the Foundry Street Utility Renewal project, bids are now closed for this project.

Working on Grant applications, to assist in some of our Capital Projects set out for 2024 / 2025.

Work done towards our upcoming Municipal Elections, met with our Returning Officer – Meenakshi.

Contracted Gordon Balcombe as the Operator in Direct Responsible Charge (ODRC) for the Town of Oxford water supply. The Town of Amherst had been helping us to fill this role for some time now and it was time for us to contract this out. Gordon Balcombe started with us in April. This is an interim position until our staff has the credentials necessary to take this position.

Contracted Len Van Tol as the Operator in Direct Responsible Charge (ODRC) for the Town's Sewage Works – Treatment Facility, as per our approval. An inspection of the Lagoons was completed by the Department of Environment and Climate Change in April, and this was identified that we needed to have this position filled until our Public Works Supervisor fulfills his certification.

Organized First Readings for the Alternative Voting Bylaw and the Road Designation Bylaw, also a public hearing for the transfer of municipal property (Oxford Seniors Club – 31 Ellis Street)

Finalizing the Walk and Wheelability report to present to Council, should have something by September's meeting at the latest.

Work is in progress with the Town Hall roof and the heat pumps.

Attended the Cumberland Central Landfill Community Liaison Committee meeting on May 15.

Working on the Library Review with the County of Cumberland and the Town of Amherst CAO's.

Update on the WaterCAD study, it will be the end of June before this is completed. There is more data that needs to be collected from our Public Works Supervisor and the SCADA upgrade.

Hosted Community in Bloom, Accessibility and Audit Meetings throughout the month of May.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cloney
CAO, Town of Oxford
902-447-2624
lcloney@oxfordns.ca

Making myself available to the community.

- Often, I am the first face people see when they enter town hall. I greet them warmly with a wave and try to assist them as I can, if they are not looking for the MPAL I do my best to direct them to someone who can help. These community members include long standing residents looking for information, as well as new residents looking for community activities and guidance on what is available in town.

Initiated steps to get our Rec Soccer underway for 2024

- This was done by making ads on our social media platforms and utilizing google polls to get an understanding of community demand for youth soccer. The Facebook post had over 2,000 impressions (anytime it was on someone's screen) a reach of over 1,796 unique viewers, and an engagement of 176 people.
- To determine the required age groups for Oxford Rec Soccer, I utilized a google poll that was filled out by 61 people and counting.

Initiated steps to get our Co-ed Softball

- This was done by making ads on our social media platforms and utilizing google polls to get an understanding of community demand for co-ed Softball. The Facebook post had over 2,591 impressions (anytime it was on someone's screen) a reach of over 2,369 unique viewers, and an engagement of 179 people.
- To determine the requirements for rec softball, I utilized a google poll that was filled out by 33 people and counting.

Cleaning and Organization

- Thoroughly cleaned the recreation supplies room at town hall. While cleaning, I was able to organize and inventory the equipment and supplies we have on hand and identify short comings in our supplies.

Communications

- Emailing community shareholders on ways to improve recreation in Oxford
- Establishing communication with Provincial Sport Organizations such as Pickleball Nova Scotia, Softball Nova Scotia, and Lacrosse Nova Scotia.
- Assisting community members on where to find crucial information, ie. Foodbank, gym services, addiction services and qualified mental health first aid

Communities in Bloom

- I was part of a digging party to plant trees and blueberry bushes around community assets, such as the town garden and trail head parking lot.
- Worked with community in bloom counterparts to ensure their upcoming "Plant the Town" initiative is well advertised and supported.

On going projects

- Rec Soccer Registration
- Co-Ed Softball Registration
- Pride community event
- Continuing programming

Future projects

- **Oxford Open** Community golf event with travel to and from the course. This would obviously be a great cost but could see it as a valuable legacy piece moving forward.
- **Oxford Olympics** - Age based Olympic style competition. Track & Field events etc.
- **Oxford Minor Lacrosse** – Establishing a minor lacrosse program in the area that will serve the entire region. Looking to compete in the Scotia Minor Lacrosse League that serves communities outside of HRM, such as the Valley, Pictou, Cape Breton, and will include Prince Edward Island next year.

Cumberland Region Solid Waste Management Report

April 2024

Education & Enforcement

Earth Day Initiatives

Community Clean ups

Through social media, staff encouraged groups and individuals to conduct a cleanup in their community/neighborhood. Litter kits were made available at all 7 library locations and interested residents were encouraged to stop by their library to pick up a free Litter Kit. Bags and gloves were also made available at Town Hall.

School Cleanups

Staff reached out to all schools in Cumberland County encouraging staff and students to take part in an Earth Day Cleanup. Cumberland County Solid Waste provided the bags and gloves to interested schools. We were very pleased that we had 11 schools sign up to collect litter around their community. All schools that took place had their school's name entered to win \$100 for their breakfast program; River Hebert district was the winning school.



Presentations/Meetings

Nova Scotia Housing

Presentations were given to tenants to review our solid waste programs and source separation. Staff are hoping to reach all the buildings over the summer months.

Schools

Presentations were given to students from West End Memorial, Junction Road Elementary, and Spring Street Academy.

Progressive Agriculture Safety Day

Staff once again participated in the Agriculture Safety Day held at the Oxford Arena. Approximately 280, Grade 4 students from schools across Cumberland County participated in the event where staff spoke about the importance of source separation.

Northern Region Update

Funding

The final payments from Divert NS were received for our Education and Enforcement programs. Staff are currently working on the workplans for the Education & Enforcement Programs for 2024-2025 year.

EPR for PPP

Regional staff met with representatives from Circular Materials on April 12th to discuss EPR for PPP. Circular Materials reviewed the EPR for PPP Program, proposed collection details, program management, and the promotion and education program. Municipalities were encouraged to send feedback on the meeting to Circular Materials (Cumberland Region Solid Waste submitted feedback on April 26th).

EPR for Batteries, Lighting, and Additional Electronics (BLAE)

The following dates outline when the programs for BLAE will come into effect. Once staff receive approval to share detailed lists of included items, we will begin education on the programs.

1. Additional Electronics- July 1, 2024
2. Batteries- July 1, 2024
3. Lighting- August 1, 2024

Cumberland Region Solid Waste Management Report

May 2024

Education & Enforcement

Earth Day Cleanups

Cheques were presented to the winners of our Earth Day Cleanups. Shown below are River Hebert District School, and E.B. Chandler Junior High School.



Presentations/Meetings

Nova Scotia Housing

Presentations were given to tenants to review our solid waste programs and source separation. Staff will reach out to the remaining buildings over the summer months.

HHW Events

Our first HHW event of the year was held on Saturday, June 1st. This event was the Blitz event where HHW materials were collected from Parrsboro, Pugwash, Oxford, and Springhill. Staff were pleased with the turnout for this event as we collected materials from 149 residents.

Our last event before fall is scheduled for Saturday, June 15th at the Amherst Fire Hall from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Shred Event

The Shred Event is scheduled for Thursday, September 5th from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Amherst Fire Hall.

Litter Kits

We received notice that Springhill, Parrsboro, & Pugwash Libraries were all out of litter kits. Additional kits were put together and delivered to these libraries.

Enforcement

Over the next few months, staff will be working with various commercial establishments that were flagged as requiring education to ensure compliance with our programs.

Northern Region Update

Education & Enforcement Contracts

The education and enforcement workplans for 2024-2025 were sent to Divert NS for approval.

EPR for PPP

Staff participated in an online session with representatives with Circular Materials on June 3rd to discuss the Readiness Report.

EPR for Batteries, Lighting, and Additional Electronics (BLAE)

The electronics program has expanded to now include items such as hair dryers, vacuums, clocks, coffee makers, etc. For a full list of acceptable products and drop off locations please visit

<https://recyclemyelectronics.ca/ns/what-can-i-recycle>

EPR for Batteries and Lighting

EPR for batteries and lighting will begin on the dates listed below, however enforcement will not begin until January 2025 to allow time to communicate the changes to the public.

1. Batteries- July 1, 2024
2. Lighting- August 1, 2024

Northern Region Meeting

The next virtual meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 21, 2024.



Cumberland Central Landfill Community Liaison Committee
November 22, 2023 – 11:00 AM
Minutes

PRESENT: Don McCormack - Chair - Principal, NSCC Cumberland
Councillor Lisa Emery - Town of Amherst
Councillor Mark Joseph - Municipality of the County of Cumberland
Councillor Chrystal McNutt - Town of Oxford
Brenda Rioux - Municipal Solid Waste Education & Contract Coordinator
Beverly Smith - Hydrogeologist, Dillon Consulting Limited
Chris MacDonald - GFL Director, Landfill Operations & Environmental Compliance
Stephen Rayworth - General Manager, GFL Environmental Inc. (Cumberland LF)
Kathy Douglas - Recording Secretary, GFL Environmental Inc.

REGRETS: Dylan Dawson - Community Member
Neil Gillis - Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change
Greg Herrett - CAO, Municipality of the County of Cumberland
Jason MacDonald - CAO, Town of Amherst
Linda Cloney - Town Clerk, Town of Oxford

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

Members were welcomed to the meeting. There were introductions around the table.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Emery, seconded by Councillor Joseph to approve the Agenda as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of May 16, 2023

Moved by Councillor Joseph, seconded by Councillor McNutt to approve the Minutes of May 16, 2023 as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

4. SITE INITIATIVES REPORT

Mr. Rayworth noted that it has been a very busy year. The new compost cover installation was completed in late October. The new transfer station for recyclables is nearing completion. Both projects had many delays due to weather conditions and material delivery.

Divert NS has completed its audit of NS landfills. We are awaiting the report. GFL has conducted its own audit of incoming recyclables, which will be discussed separately.

Preliminary work is being conducted to develop a landfill expansion plan (along with associated infrastructure).

Other projects completed this year include replacement of the scale, purchase of a new utility vehicle as well as a new (spare) leachate pump and new buckets for the excavator and the loader - a total investment of over \$2M in the site in 2023.

The remote terminal for use by the septage haulers after hours has been installed. There have been some IT related issues but it will be ready for use no later than January 1, 2024.

Mr. Rayworth confirmed for Councillor Emery that the excavator which was destroyed by fire has been replaced.

5. OPERATIONS REPORT

5a. Operations Report - Mr. Rayworth reported that some incoming material categories such as Residual Waste are up over the previous year due to a larger customer base. We also receive small amounts of C&D and asbestos from outside Cumberland. Mr. Rayworth noted that the site was able to handle the increase in residual waste. As noted in his Site Initiatives report, preliminary work is underway to develop a landfill expansion plan. Mr. MacDonald added that GFL anticipates an increase to 15,000 tons/year; there will be opportunities to bring in waste from other areas. Mr. Rayworth noted that the approval process for the expansion looks very different for a private company as opposed to CJSMA. Councillor Emery questioned whether anything would come through this Committee. Mr. MacDonald confirmed that this would come to the Committee after the due diligence process.

Dillon Consulting has been engaged to conduct the spring ground and surface water monitoring sampling and reporting. The second round of sampling was conducted in October, with a final report to be issued in early 2024.

5b. Recycling Audit - The Strum Consulting recycling audit report is included in the meeting package. While the audit uses a small sample size for reporting purposes, the results are consistent with what we are seeing in day-to-day operations.

Residential “plastics” stream had 43.9% contamination; the “fibre” stream had 11.2% contamination. In both cases, the most significant contaminants were other recyclable materials, either not cleaned or not properly separated for a dual stream collection program.

In the commercial sector, OCC (cardboard) had a contamination rate of 17.5% and 19.3% on the two days, while the commercial sector “plastics” stream had a contamination rate of 64.7%. Material not separated into the correct stream was again an issue, while the commercial loads also had garbage as a contaminant.

Both the ICI and residential sectors are not following the separation guidelines. As noted in Mr. Rayworth’s Recycling Audit memo of November 14, 2023, the impacts of this contamination are significant. In a “worst case” scenario, the entire load of material will be rejected at the Material Recycling Facility (MRF) and sent to landfill because the contamination is too high. In that particular case, we would pay to have it transported to the MRF, then pay to have it reloaded and transported to a landfill, along with the associated tipping fees. Mr. Rayworth clarified that we no longer have a Recycling Facility - the new facility is a Transfer Station which does not provide the required space for sorting. Mr. MacDonald stated that the answer is to have residents sorting at home and more curbside rejections.

Mr. Rayworth noted that GFL representatives have been (or will be shortly) meeting with each Municipality as well as commercial haulers to discuss the results of the audit. We will be looking to see improvements in source separation between now and the end of the year. Beginning January 1, 2024, we will start rejecting loads of material that have high levels of contamination.

Ms. Rioux confirmed that GFL reps met with the Municipality of Cumberland; Mr. Rayworth met with the Town of Oxford and with the Town of Amherst. GFL reps have also met with Miller Waste and Fero (commercial sector).

Ms. Rioux reported that the education plan is underway but the key is to have curbside rejection by the collectors. She has met with the CAOs to discuss the development of a communications plan. Councillor Emery noted that the plan will have to include a way to inform customers who have second homes in Cumberland County.

Discussion ensued regarding the delivery of educational programs regarding sorting and recycling in schools. Ms. Rioux noted that this is part of the Divert NS Education Contract, but it is not always easy to get into the schools. She noted that in some cases the schools did not have proper containers. She is now working to get bins into the classroom. Since education is a municipal and provincial government responsibility, Councillor Joseph suggested that Ms. Rioux contact the Municipality of Cumberland for any assistance required.

With regard to rejections, Mr. MacDonald noted that the worst case is to reject a load brought in by a collector. GFL is discussing a grace period but if there is no change, rejections will occur. Rejections are a concern with the collectors as this affects their bottom line.

As a business, GFL wants to be compliant. Mr. MacDonald noted that Nova Scotia had been a leader in diversion; however, he feels that the Divert NS audit report of NS Landfills will show otherwise. Ms. Rioux noted that the Divert NS audit report will provide data for the entire province. Mr. Rayworth stated that GFL wants to be compliant but once the material is on the truck, it is too late.

Mr. Rayworth clarified for Ms. Smith that restaurants are required to sort but they are included in the ICI sector which has a 65% contamination level. Ms. Rioux reported that a number of fast-food restaurants in Amherst have the sorting bins behind the counter because it is difficult to control what the public does with the materials. Apartment buildings present a huge challenge – everything goes into a dumpster.

Councillor Joseph noted that there are different rules within the province. This should be standardized. Mr. McCormack asked if the release of the Divert NS Audit would result in change. Mr. MacDonald felt that it would highlight the fact that Nova Scotia is moving backward.

Ms. Rioux noted that rinsing containers is standard in all areas. Hopefully, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) will standardize the recycling program. We will be meeting to decide how to get the message out but also need rejections. Rejections are a component of the contract with haulers so they must be held accountable. The pickers on the collection trucks must be consistent. CJSMA had a full-time Enforcement Officer who would perform curbside audits. Councillor Emery noted that there is only one person to do Education for the entire County.

Ms. Rioux noted that the staff from Dangerous and Unightly Premises always offer education after a residential cleanup has been completed.

6. MONITORING REPORT – DILLON CONSULTING

Bev Smith, Hydrogeologist, distributed the Cumberland Central Landfill and C&D Debris Disposal Site Monitoring Results - 2023 Spring Event. The 2023 monitoring program involves visiting the site on a semi-annual basis and collecting samples from numerous locations as outlined in the report. One of the leak detection sumps (Cell 2B) could not be sampled due to insufficient water. Ms. Smith reviewed the monitoring results. She clarified that some guidelines are based on aesthetics.

The fall monitoring event was completed in late October 2023. It involved each of the locations detailed in Section 2.0 above, as well as organics testing for the leak detection sump samples. Some of the results are pending. Following completion of this event, an annual monitoring report is prepared for submission to NS Department of Environment and Climate Change. It is due by March 15, 2024.

7. NEW BUSINESS

None.

8. Q&A

Mr. MacDonald noted that 2023 was a big year for capital investment in the Cumberland facility. 2024 will be a planning year with studies/analyses to support future construction.

Councillor Joseph noted that the municipal units are moving to one pickup every 2 weeks (garbage, organics & recyclables collected at the same time). There will be public meetings scheduled in January 2024.

9. NEXT MEETING DATES:

It was agreed that these meetings will be scheduled for the third week of the month.

a. **May 15, 2024** - 11 am to 1 pm - NSCC - Amherst Learning Centre.

b. **December 4, 2024** - 11 am to 1 pm - NSCC - Amherst Learning Centre (the November date was changed to allow time for Municipal Committee appointments following the election.)

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.

From: [Sylvia Day](#)
To: ghenley@oxfordns.ca; cblack@oxfordns.ca; bcolborne@oxfordns.ca; piones@oxfordns.ca; cmcnutt@oxfordns.ca; amacdonald@oxfordns.ca; lcloney@oxfordns.ca; ocanning@oxfordns.ca
Subject: Cumberland Business Connector AGM
Date: June 11, 2024 12:03:27 PM

Hello Town of Oxford Council,

This is Sylvia from the Cumberland Business Connector. I hope you are all doing very well.

I am writing to invite you to our Annual General Meeting coming up next week, June 19th from 6 – 8pm at the Amherst Golf Club.

Our AGM is a great opportunity to learn about our work over the past year and goals going forward. A sit-down meal is provided.

We kindly ask those interested in attending to please register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/906003028447?aff=oddtcreator>

Thank you, hope to see you there!

Sylvia

Cumberland Business Connector
Special Projects and Communications Lead
Cell: 902 614 2054