

TOWN OF PORT REXTON

Minutes

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

6:30 P.M.

Meeting held in the Recreation Room

Present at the meeting were

Deputy Mayor Wanda Rex

Councillor Janice Hayward

Councillor Roland Taylor

Councillor Eldon Bannister

Councillor Chris Kelly

Staff Present: Town Clerk/Manager: Tina Toope

Project Manager: Lois Long

Regrets: Mayor Dean Bailey and Councillor Shirley Clark

**Visitors: Patricia Connolly, Carol Osmond, John Vivian,
Nick Stead, Arlene Piercey, Lisa Piercey.**

Delegation: Jeff Piercey

Deputy Mayor Rex called the Council Meeting to order at 6:30 pm and asked for the adoption of the agenda for this meeting.

MOTION #28 - 2025- Taylor/Bannister; resolved that the agenda for this meeting shall be adopted as presented. All five members present in favour, resolution carried.

Deputy Mayor Rex then asked if there are no errors or omissions, for a motion to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on March 19, 2025.

MOTION #29 - 2025 - Bannister/Hayward; resolved the adoption of the minutes of the regular meeting held on March 19, 2025. All five members present in favour, resolution carried.

Deputy Mayor Rex welcomed everyone to the meeting and then invited Jeff Piercey to give his presentation on his concerns. Mr. Piercey told Council he had three concerns/requests. 1. He asked Council to make a decision on his sister Lisa's letter/request to have the section of the track from World Pond Road to Level Road as an official council road with an appropriate name. He asked Council to approve in principle if there are any issues that need to be rectified, and if not, a motion be made as soon as possible.

2. Mr. Piercey referred to the Council motion to no longer table opposition to the previously passed motion to give an external group authority to develop a trail through the Town without due process and proper public consult. He asked for a further motion to explore and pursue other routes that do not involve coming right through our town, but allowing controlled access with strategic planned and well signed routes for ATV's to access all businesses, amenities and attractions within our town. He also requested a committee be formed to explore these options.

3. The final request was that all Council members take the time to read all letters received from oppositions on this route. He spoke on how the mayor reported that there were 95 letters in favour of the proposed trail and 11 letters opposed. This is not the right numbers. There were actually 2 in favour and 22/23 oppositions. He also said that half of them were from outside the community of Port Rexton. So the minutes of the last meeting needs to be edited and revised. He also questioned if there were letters not even received since Council has a "broken" email address on their website that can't be accessed.

In conclusion, Council members were told they were uninformed, inconsiderate, in contravention of their Code of Conduct, swiping conflict of interest under the proverbial rug, and essentially not doing their job. They were asked to have more empathy and consideration towards the people who believe that this can be accomplished in a better way and to find a solution for everyone.

Deputy Mayor Rex thanked Mr. Piercey for his presentation, assured him that his concerns will be discussed, and asked for a copy of his presentation as presented to Council this evening. Mr. Piercey said he would need to do some editing of his copy and would send it to Council as soon as possible.

Note to the minutes regarding request number three above:

Mr. Piercey requested the Minutes from the meeting of March 19th to be edited and revised. Below is the actual excerpt from these Minutes which were just adopted at this regular meeting on April 9, 2025, and which have no mention of the numbers as indicated in the presentation above, therefore require no editing.

"- Letters were tabled that were received from residents regarding trail development through Port Rexton. These are the letters received since the last group of letters were tabled. There are a number of letters against the trail as well as letters and petitions for this development."

In view of this accusation that Council is presenting false information and considering the allegations as to their character, it was deemed necessary to include this summary of the actual letters and petition that have been received by Council regarding this proposed trail development.

To clarify the allegations of the last meeting;

There were **23** letters received from people who are **against** this proposed trail using part of the railway bed through Port Rexton, **13** from Port Rexton residents and **10** letters from people **outside** the community.

Note: Of the above **13** local letters, **3** are from residents whose property are actually accessed or will be accessed onto the railway bed and **6** of the thirteen are full time residents.

Also be assured that any letters sent to the website info email were received and added to the queue. That email is working fine and is checked for correspondence on a regular basis.

Council received **20** letters from full time residents of Port Rexton who are in favour of the use of the railway bed as part of the trail through to Bonavista. All letters from **outside** the town boundaries have not been included in this total.

A petition carrying **55** names has also been received in favour of the proposed trail. All are full time residents. The one person outside Port Rexton boundaries whose signature was on the petition was removed from the petition, as well as **two** young person's names that are under the age of eighteen.

Since petitions are a valid form of expressing the view of people everywhere it should be valid in this community as well. Even our government departments and all organizations have form letters or templates to obtain and assess the views of the people of this country. Council does have a duty to also accept such forms of correspondence from any and all sides of an issue. **Everyone** has a right to express and have their opinion considered.

Noteworthy also is the fact that in total there are more than 30 other households located along the railway bed that are in just as close proximity (or closer) to the railway bed as the persons who are opposing the trail. More than 20 of those are full time residences and those people have a right to their opinion, as well.

All letters received in opposition to the decision to use the railway bed as part of the peninsulas trail have been copied to all Council Members.

The foregoing is the revision to the Minutes of March 19, 2025 meeting that was requested.

REPORTS AND BUSINESS ARISING

Fire Department

No one from the fire department was in attendance. All is going well so nothing in particular to report at this time.

Heritage Society

Deputy Mayor Rex reported that the Heritage Society had their 50/50 draw and a local resident was the lucky winner. They are planning on having more fundraisers in the near future.

Recreation Commission

Councillor Hayward reported that they held their Annual General Meeting on March 26, 2025. This is 15 years for the Recreation Commission. They have completed 17 action items on their list.

The Recreation will be hosting a cookie decorating, in partner with Port Rexton Brewery, on April 16th, a scavenger hunt on April 17th, and breakfast with the Easter Bunny on April 19th.

The Recreation Commission submitted an application for a student worker for the summer. There will be a summer sports program for the kids for the months of July and August. Port Rexton Days are scheduled for July 11-13. They have had positive feed back from other organizations in offering support with this event. An application for has been sent in to the Active NL Fund.

Waste Site

Councillor Kelly reported that a clean up has been done and a few loads of fill was needed at that time. The site is in good shape again now.

Hike Discovery

Deputy Mayor Rex reported that they will be having another meeting next week.

Job Creation Partnership Project

Former Town Clerk/Manager, Lois Long, who is still overseeing, as needed, some of the unfinished projects, gave an update on the JCP Project. She submitted an application back in June of 2024 and it was approved for 5 workers for 16 weeks to do repairs to the Recreation Room, Fire Hall, and Heritage Building and, as well, to make picnic tables, garbage can bins, benches, and a resting platform/gazebo. This project started October 14/24 and ended March 1/25. During this time the workers completed extensive repairs in the recreation room. They installed new insulation and tiles to the ceiling, repaired the floor, put in new windows and doors and new siding on one side of the building. When doing repairs to the floor it was discovered it was completely deteriorated and the whole section between the two rooms had to be removed and new replaced. An extension to the project was applied for and approved so the floor was replaced and a new bathroom added for the recreation room area. The fire hall east wall was also replaced

earlier in the fall. There were new windows made and installed in the heritage building and part of the ceiling in the porch area of the building was replaced, with insulation and new ceiling tiles.

Lois reported that this project is now completed and all final activity and financial reports have been submitted to the Department of Advanced Education, Skills, and Labour and have been approved. The final payment for the project has been received by Council.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Other letters were tabled that were received from residents regarding trail development through Port Rexton.

- An anonymous letter received from a concerned resident on the conduct of behaviour of one of the councillors during the last two meetings. This councillor's behaviour was unprofessional and not reflective of the standards expected of a public official. The facial and body language seemed dismissive and disrespectful towards the Mayor other councillors, and there was smirking at the delegates present when other councillors spoke. This concerned resident suggests that Council meetings be streamed live to give residents that don't have access to transportation the opportunity to observe and stay informed and to ensure all participants remain accountable for their conduct and contributions during these important proceedings. Council will certainly discuss this suggestion at another time.

- A Letter was received from the Port Rexton Days Planning Committee requesting support for this event. Council will check into what kind of contributions were made to this event in past years and will then decide on this years input.

- A Letter received from Trinity East-Port Rexton CLB requesting written permission to manage the Community Gardens for the purpose of applying for funding through the Community Garden Support Program Grant. There was a verbal agreement last year with the CLB to use the community garden and they did an amazing job, added compost bins at the site, bought a small greenhouse, and even planted and harvested a small crop. After harvesting their crop they donated the produce to the needy in the area through their Little Free Pantry Program. Council will certainly discuss this further another time with a view to helping the CLB to obtain funding for this worthwhile project.

FINANCES

The financial summary for March 1 - 31, 2025 that was included in Council member's meeting documents was briefly discussed.

Expenditure

March invoices paid totalling:	\$	58,677.62
Pre-Authorized payments and transfers:		14,159.08
Total	\$	72,836.70

Revenue

March 1 - 31, 2025 Income:	Total	\$ 107,879.27
Taxes, Interest, JCP, PL4C & Reimbursement of Cost Sharing (Fire Dept)		

General Account Bank Balance March 31/25: \$ 96,853.31

The **March Budget Revenues Summary and Budget Expenditures Summary** distributed to Council was also discussed at some length and questions asked and answered on various parts of these reports. Regarding these reports and the foregoing financial report a motion was made.

MOTION #30 - 2025- Bannister/Kelly; resolved the acceptance of all monthly financial reports, the approval for payment of all regular monthly bills, and confirms payment of related invoices as submitted that have been paid to date. All five members present in favour, resolution carried.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- The Town Clerk/Manager Job Posting deadline is April 9th. The Town Clerk is wondering if she can move forward with the interviews after the deadline.

- **MOTION #31 - 2025- Hayward/Taylor; resolved that Council will go ahead and arrange interviews to complete the hiring process for the Town Clerk/Manager Position once the deadline is reached. All five members present in favour, resolution carried.**


- The Town Clerk informed Councillors that the 2025 Municipal Symposium is taking place in Gander from May 1- 3. If anyone is interested attending is to let the Town Clerk know by next week.

- Deputy Mayor Rex informed Council that the flaked calcium has been delivered for the local roads. Once the weather improves the roads will be done. Also World Pond Road will have the potholes repaired with cold patch when weather is suitable.

NEW BUSINESS

- Deputy Mayor Rex informed Council that the debris from the old stage on the other side of the cove that was washed up on the slipway during a windstorm has been there a long time and it needs to be cleaned up because it's in the way for people to launch their boats. The Town Clerk has already been in touch with Ervin Locke & Sons to get this cleaned it up. The invoice for clean-up will be sent to the owners of the old stage.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:21pm on a motion, **2025 #32(Bannister/Hayward)**. Next regular meeting, May 14, 2025.


Mayor Dean Bailey


Clerk/Manager Cathy Piercey