

**Police & License Committee Meeting
April 15, 2025
Town Council Chambers**

Present

Chair, Deputy Mayor Diane Roberts
Councillor P. McKenna
Councillor J. Sullivan
J. Pellerin, Bylaw Enforcement
S. Smith, Bylaw Enforcement
Sgt. J. Jessome, RCMP
Staff/Sgt. K. Hillier, RCMP
R. Peters, StFX
J. Cruchet STFX

Also, In Attendance

M. Fougere, Deputy Clerk
R. Delorey, CAO
S. Long, Acting Director of Community Development
K. Meisner, Director of Public Works

Absent with regrets

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the Police and License Meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

It was Moved and Seconded “to approve the agenda as amended.”

Motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

It was Moved and Seconded “to approve the March 4, 2025, as presented.”

Motion carried.

Moved by Sullivan & McKenna

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1 Speed Signs & Speed Limits

4.1 a) Cost of Speed Signs

Deputy Mayor Roberts inquired about the cost of speed signs. J. Pellerin reported the cost of speed beacons as \$7,599.60 and the cost of crosswalk signs as \$15,127.80. These prices are based on individual units.

The new model of speed signs includes features such as downloadable data and app connectivity. RCMP would have access to this data if needed. K. Hillier noted that she currently has access to this data, but the new system would streamline the process by removing the need for access to be granted by the Town.

Councillor Sullivan raised a question regarding the timing and scheduling of the signs.

Deputy Mayor Roberts suggested the possibility of purchasing one unit. The CAO indicated that such a purchase would require a recommendation from the meeting. J. Jessome noted that the current speed signs are strategically placed, especially at the entrance to Mount Cameron and the 50 km/h zone from Hawthorne Street to Highway 245, which are areas with frequent complaints. K. Hillier asked whether any other areas had been identified as problematic. It was mentioned that during the campaign trail elected officials heard several concerns from residents in the Highland Drive area.

4.1 b) Speed signage on Braemore Ave.

The Committee discussed the school zone speed signage on Braemore Avenue. K. Hillier clarified that once a vehicle passes the yellow school zone sign, the reduced speed limit is in effect.

4.1 c) Parking on Braemore Ave.

The Committee discussed parking concerns on Braemore Avenue. It was noted that parked vehicles do not currently pose an issue. In fact, it was suggested that removing parked cars could lead to increased vehicle speeds due to the added road space. There have been few parking or speeding complaints related to this area.

No further action or decision was made regarding Braemore Avenue at this time.

A recommendation to Council was made to remove three parking spaces on St. Ninian Street, directly in front of Hillcrest Street.

4.1 d) Signage on Victoria St

Deputy Mayor Roberts shared that there have been requests for signage near the RK MacDonald Nursing Home to caution drivers about the presence of seniors. D. Roberts proposed the idea of creating a Town-specific sign, such as “Caution: Seniors Present.”

S. Smith cautioned that installing such signage could set a precedent, potentially leading to numerous similar requests. R. Delorey asked for clarification, noting that the request came from residents’ family members. He also pointed out that this type of sign is not standardized and may present a liability concern.

S. Smith recommended enhancing visibility by painting lines at the sidewalk to increase awareness.

Councillor McKenna added that similar non-standard signs like “Kids at Play” also carry challenges. He suggested referring the matter to the Beautification Committee to consider a creative, community-minded approach, such as a sign reading “We Love Our Seniors – Drive Slow.”

P. McKenna will bring this forward to the Beautification Committee at their next meeting.

4.2 Update on SOT

CAO R. Delorey provided a brief update on the Status of the SOT (Summary Offence Ticketing). The matter is currently with the Department of Justice – Municipal Affairs. The by-law has been approved at the municipal level, and staff are now awaiting final approval from the Department of Justice.

Deputy Mayor D. Roberts noted that the Waste By-law has also experienced delays, emphasizing that the process appears to be taking considerable time.

4.3 Flo EV Charging Station

S. Long provided an update for information purposes regarding the FLO EV charging station. The Town is looking to develop a policy that would enable enforcement when non-electric vehicles or vehicles not actively charging are parked in EV-designated spaces.

CAO R. Delorey added that when the charging stations were initially installed, it became evident there was no clear ownership or responsibility for monitoring or maintaining them. The upcoming policy update will address enforcement mechanisms, including potential parking fines and maintenance responsibilities. Councillor J. Sullivan inquired about current usage levels, and CAO Delorey provided a response based on available data.

4.4 St. Patrick’s Day

S. Long reported that the St. Patrick’s Day working group meeting was postponed and will now take place on Thursday. The meeting will focus on future planning and coordination efforts. The working group is led by STFX and includes members such as Elizabeth Yeo, representatives from the Student Union, Alumni Affairs, Communications, local landlords, a County representative, J. Jessome, and the RCMP.

The Chair agreed to defer further discussion to the next committee meeting. CAO R. Delorey noted that Council had raised concerns during their March 17th meeting, and these concerns will be brought forward at the upcoming working group meeting.

Councillor McKenna asked R. Peters about activity levels on campus during the event. R. Peters indicated it was not particularly busy on campus, noting that over 60% of students live in town rather than on campus. Outside of St. Mary's Street, activity appeared minimal.

Councillor Sullivan asked for input from the RCMP. J. Jessome responded that there were no reports of fights or property damage and credited STFX for the significant work done in preparation. He emphasized that this remains a shared issue between the university and the community.

A report will be prepared for the next meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Town Sign located at entrance of Chisholm Park

Deputy Mayor Roberts requested input from K. Meisner regarding the Town sign at the entrance of Chisholm Park. Shannon Long and Councillor Murray had previously assessed the area and explored options to improve the sign's visibility.

A suggestion from Council proposed converting the road to a one-way with no exit; however, this option would be costly due to the need to relocate electrical infrastructure and the limited space available at the corner.

Two primary options were identified:

1. Raising the height of the existing sign.
2. Converting the road to a one-way configuration.

K. Meisner recommended that raising the sign would be the most feasible and cost-effective solution.

5.2 Membership of the Committee

Deputy Mayor Roberts informed the committee that, during the recent Nominations Committee meeting, a recommendation was made to reduce the number of representatives on this committee. The proposal suggested decreasing STFX representation from two members to one, and reducing student representation from two members to one.

The current student representative did not object to the proposed change but requested further discussion. Their preference would be to maintain two student members—one as a voting member and the other as an alternate—in order to maintain balance between Town and University representation.

The current Terms of Reference state that the committee includes two representatives from STFX, one of whom is a Student Union representative. Jacob will follow up and report back to the committee regarding the student representation.

6. Reports

6.1 Town By-Law

John Pellerin, Town By-Law Enforcement Officer reported 70 complaints, primarily related to unsightly premises, waste, and dog by-law issues. A total of 940 tickets were issued, mostly for parking infractions. Parking enforcement has resumed downtown, though issues persist with kiosks and meters, particularly at Sydney Street. Staff are exploring replacement options with MacKay Meters.

Parking changes at St. Martha's Hospital remain pending as the Province develops a plan.

Recruitment is underway to fill a staff vacancy, and appreciation was extended to outgoing staff member S. Smith. A By-Law conference is upcoming.

Councillors discussed kiosk maintenance issues, the importance of downtown parking turnover, and future meter replacement through capital planning.

Deputy Mayor Roberts asked about the Kiosk at Sydney St. – losing money, company/supplier is a big issue. Have complications with the provider, not getting a follow up on maintenance.

J. Sullivan suggested this purpose is for moving people – the turnover – idea is to move the parking and not have people working in the downtown core parking in those spots.

S. Long, will be bringing forward in her capital budget to replace the meters and received a quote with MacKay meters.

6.2 RCMP

Sgt. J. Jessome presented the monthly RCMP report.

Councillor Sullivan raised concerns about police visibility on Main Street and asked about increasing foot patrols. K. Hillier acknowledged ongoing staffing challenges, noting that while three officers were on duty that day, shifts are often covered by only two members. This limits capacity for backup and street presence. The detachment continues to prioritize foot and ATV patrols where possible. Recruitment and retention remain ongoing concerns.

6.3 STFX

R. Peters reported that the University is entering a quieter season as convocation approaches.

Fall registration is trending positively, particularly among international students. At this time, no course cancellations are anticipated.

Student Union Update– The new executive term began on May 1st. The team includes two returning members and three new ones, including a new VP of External Affairs and VP of Finance.

7. Adjournment

With no further business the meeting was adjourned 2:33pm