

**Police & License Committee Meeting
September 9, 2025
Town Council Chambers**

Present

Chair, Deputy Mayor D. Roberts
Councillor P. McKenna
Councillor J. Sullivan
J. Pellerin, Bylaw Enforcement
S. Bingley, Bylaw Enforcement
S/Sgt. K. Hillier
J. DeLeebeeck, STFX University Administration Representative
H. Qualizza STFX University Student Union Representative
M. Murphy, STFX University Student Union Representative
C. Duggan, Community Representative
Mayor, S. Cameron

Also, In Attendance

M. Fougere, Deputy Clerk
R. Delorey, CAO
S. Long, Acting Director of Community Development
K. Meisner, Director of Infrastructure and Engineering

Absent with Regrets

R. Peters, STFX University Administration Representative
Sgt. J. Jessome, RCMP

Members of the Gallery

1. [Call to Order](#)

The Chair, Deputy Mayor Roberts, called the Police and License Meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

Public Presentation (Added Item)

A member of the gallery and Town resident, Brian Haines, was permitted to address the Committee for five minutes. Mr. Haines expressed concerns related to law enforcement practices and community safety.

The Chair thanked Mr. Haines for his comments.

2. [Approval of Agenda](#)

Added Items;

6.9 Parking on College Street

6.10 Meeting with STFX re: Student Activities

Moved by: Councillor McKenna

Seconded by: Councillor Sullivan

Motion: To approve the agenda as amended.

Motion Carried

3. Acceptance of Minutes

3.1 Minutes of the June 25th meeting were accepted as presented.

4. Presentation

4.1 Christine Hanlon – Issues on Northview Drive

Ms. C. Hanlon addressed the Committee regarding safety and traffic concerns in her neighbourhood. She and her husband, long-time Town residents who recently relocated from Bantry Lane, have lived in the area for approximately ten years.

Ms. Hanlon noted that the neighbourhood has become increasingly multigenerational, with many younger families moving in and revitalizing homes, including some being developed into basement rental units. She expressed concerns about the narrow streets and lack of sidewalks, particularly given the number of young children in the area.

While she observed that parked cars along one side of the street help to naturally slow traffic, she suggested further safety measures, including reducing the speed limit from 50 km/h to 30 km/h as part of a pilot project. She also referenced a similar initiative in Vancouver that aims to enhance neighbourhood safety.

The Chair, Deputy Mayor Roberts, thanked Ms. Hanlon for her presentation

S/Sgt. K. Hillier arrived at 12:15 p.m.

A roundtable introduction took place.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

5.1 Relocating no parking signage St. Ninian St.- K. Meisner

K. Meisner advised that the sign has been relocated, and the associated sidewalk work has been completed.

Councillor McKenna suggested revisiting the parking markings on St. Ninian's Street prior to them being painted.

5.2 Caution sign on Victoria St.- Councillor McKenna

Councillor McKenna brought this item to the RK Board and nothing further to report.

5.3 Summary Offence Tickets – S. Long

It was noted that this item was included in the Provincial Update; however, there is no new information to share at this time.

Community Representative C. Duggan inquired how long this item has been open. The CAO provided context, noting that the matter requires approval from the Department of Justice.

5.4 St. Patrick's Day Activities – S. Long

S. Long reported that the subcommittee of the Good Neighbour Group will meet next week to resume discussions following the summer break. J. DeLeebeeck noted that a report is being prepared to summarize information gathered and will be shared with the group.

Mayor Cameron spoke about concerns regarding open liquor on the streets during St. Patrick's Day activities and asked that this be taken into consideration. As an example, he referenced the closure of St. Mary's Street by students and raised the question of how emergency access—such as responding to a fire call—would be managed. He emphasized the importance of having proactive measures in place.

Ms. DeLeebeeck advised that all feedback received will be considered, and the subcommittee will compile a list of recommendations to help mitigate identified risks.

5.5 Signage to Chisholm Park – K. Meisner

K. Meisner reported that the work has been completed, the sign has been raised, and there are no safety concerns. Deputy Mayor Roberts thanked staff for their efforts. Councillor McKenna inquired if the sign requires painting and noted that he will bring this forward to the Beautification Committee at their next meeting.

5.6 Parking Kiosks--Sydney St. and Creighton Lane – S. Long

S. Long reported that the parking kiosks are currently being built, with no confirmed installation timeline at this stage. Staff will work with Public Works regarding any required signage.

The Deputy Mayor noted that the three flower boxes located behind the Five to a Dollar Store on Creighton Lane, closest to the business, will need to be removed. Coordination with Public Works will occur to ensure this work is completed concurrently with the kiosk installation.

Councillor Sullivan inquired about the status of parking on Creighton Lane. The CAO advised that, as discussed at a recent Council meeting, paid parking will be kiosk-enforced within the central area of Creighton Lane, while the outer spaces (horseshoe) will remain free, maintaining the status quo.

C. Duggan asked whether an environmental assessment had been completed for the riverbank. It was noted that the most recent flood assessment was completed in 2021–2022.

5.7 Crosswalk St. Ninian St. – K. Meisner

It was noted that this item has been completed and requires no further action.

6. New Business

6.1 Parking By-Law Review

(a) Summer Parking at Creighton Lane and Main Street behind Sunflower

The Mayor reported receiving a request from a local Airbnb business regarding overnight parking in this area.

CAO, R. Delorey advised that the Community Development Department is currently reviewing these parking lots as part of a modernization effort and is in the research stage.

C. Duggan suggested exploring a “pay-what-you-can” parking model as a potential pilot program, similar to the lunch program model used in our local schools.

(b) Flo EV charging stations

It was noted that this item remains in the research stage.

Councillor McKenna inquired about the installation of fast-charging stations, noting that current chargers are Level 2, and that Antigonish would be an ideal location for a Level 3 charger for travelers between Halifax and Sydney.

CAO, R. Delorey provided context, noting that the nearest fast charger (50 kW) is located in Monastery, with the next closest in Baddeck and several more in Sydney. Additional stations have been installed over the past year, including at Ron MacGillivray’s, the First Nation community in Afton, and at the Needs station in Westville.

6.2 Fire Pits – S. Long

CAO, R. Delorey provided an update, noting that this matter was discussed at the last Council meeting and a letter has been sent to the Provincial Department; a response has not yet been received. The issue has been flagged for follow-up.

It was clarified that campers at our local campground are permitted to use propane fire pits during a fire ban. The Deputy Mayor expressed safety concerns regarding the height of the flames produced by propane fire pits.

Discussions ensued.

6.3 Line Painting – K. Meisner

K. Meisner provided an update and combined discussion with Item 6.7 – Crosswalks (Little Christos to Town Hall). It was noted that this work was approved at the last Council meeting. The two existing crosswalks in front of Little Christos and the Library will be removed, and a new crosswalk will be installed in front of Shoppers, as recommended in the WSP report.

The CAO also provided comments on this item.

J. DeLeebeeck left the meeting at 12:56 p.m.

6.4 Crossing Beacon at Elm and Main St. – Councillor McKenna

This issue has been resolved; the beacon is now operational.

6.5 Crossing Beacon at St. Ninian St. – K. Meisner

K. Meisner reported that staff are working to secure a replacement for the existing crossing beacon. Two new sets of beacons (a total of four) will be ordered.

Student Union Representative Update (Item added earlier in the Agenda)

The Student Union Representative from StFX provided an update noting that Orientation (Welcome) Week and residence life activities went very well, with one of the largest incoming classes in several years. StFX was recognized as the safest campus in Canada, and events saw record participation. The Student Union also secured test strips for various forms of drug testing to support student safety. Overall, Welcome Week was highly successful with strong student involvement.

Mac Murphy left the meeting at 1pm.

6.6 4-way Stop Pleasant and College St. -Councillor McKenna

Councillor McKenna suggested that a solution is needed at the intersection of Pleasant Street and College Street. When travelling down Pleasant Street toward the RK MacDonald, the current two-way stop presents safety concerns due to poor visibility caused by vehicles parked along the side of the street. The Councillor suggested exploring options to improve safety in this area, such as implementing a 4-way stop or a 4-way yield.

Mayor Cameron spoke to the item, referencing the existing 3-way stop at Xavier Drive and Hawthorne Street, noting that it experiences congestion and traffic backlogs during peak hours (4:00–5:00 p.m.). The Mayor expressed support for the proposed 4-way stop at Pleasant and College Street.

Action: It was suggested that this item be brought forward to Council for discussion. The matter will be added to the Committee of the Whole meeting in October.

6.7 Crosswalks from Little Christos to Town Hall – K. Meisner

This item was previously discussed under Item 6.3; no further discussion took place.

6.8 Traffic Lights – Church St and Main – Right on Red Light – K. Meisner

The Deputy Mayor requested clarification regarding the traffic light sequence at the intersection of Church and Main Streets. Specifically, when turning right from Main Street onto Church Street, and when approaching from East End Main, the flashing green light now appears at the end of the cycle rather than at the start. Concern was raised about vehicles proceeding toward oncoming traffic.

Discussion ensued. S/Sgt. K. Hillier advised that enforcement patrols will be set up in the area.

6.9 Parking on College Street – (Item added)

A letter to the Mayor was received from C.L Curry's Funeral Home, 135 College Street to pass on to the Police and Licence Committee Chair, requesting that the "No Parking"

signs on Malcolm Court be changed to “One Hour Parking” to better accommodate funeral home visitors.

Discussions took place.

K. Meisner explained that Malcolm Court is narrow and parking there would limit access for emergency vehicles, which led to the current “No Parking” restriction.

The item was referred to the Traffic Authority for review and follow-up with the Committee via email.

M. Fougere left the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

6.10 Meeting with STFX re: Student Activities

This item was covered before item 6.6 by Mac Murphy.

The Chair introduced an email from Dr. Steinitz raising concerns about the Good Neighbour Program and By-Law enforcement related to late-night noise and broken glass on sidewalks. It was noted that residents had contacted both police and By-Law. The By-law representative, J. Pellerin clarified that no related calls were received by the Town.

S/Sgt. Hillier explained that calls to the RCMP detachment are sometimes mistaken for by-law reports. She also noted that when parties are dispersed, individuals often move through residential streets afterward. S/Sgt. Hillier commended the continued positive impact of the Good Neighbour Program and the improvement seen in recent years.

C. Duggan shared his personal experience, noting significant improvement in the area over the past four years, with earlier and more effective police engagement.

S. Long inquired about enforcement under the Nuisance By-law. S/Sgt. K. Hillier advised that police continue to emphasize education and typically issue a single warning before enforcement action.

The Student Representative expressed appreciation for the feedback and acknowledged ongoing improvements, noting efforts to educate first-year students on positive social behaviour.

6.11 Date of Meetings – S. Long

It was agreed that meetings will take place every second month at 1:00 p.m.

7. Reports

7.1 Town By-Law

J. Pellerin presented a written report prepared by J. Pellerin and S. Bingley, Special Constables with the By-law Enforcement Department. The department remained active this period responding to complaints, supporting community events, and issuing parking tickets.

Events covered included Canada Day, Antigonish Highland Games “Stroll the Main”, the Highland Games Road Race, and Parade. During the Highland Games, several motorists were uncooperative with traffic control personnel and volunteer firefighters.

One incident resulted in an RCMP charge under Section 107B of the Motor Vehicle Act for failing to obey a traffic control person.

The report also addressed fire ban and provincial wood ban patrols, records management, parking enforcement, student and residential parking, waste management issues, dog complaints, and coordination with the Traffic Authority.

The Chair requested that the By-law report be included in future agenda packages. Councillor McKenna inquired about the preferred method for reporting By-law infractions; staff advised that emails should be sent to the By-law Department, with a copy to the CAO.

7.2 RCMP

S/Sgt. K. Hillier circulated her written report and provided an overview of activities for July (noting that the June report will be forwarded). She highlighted that July was a particularly busy month with the Antigonish Highland Games, where members participated in various capacities including volunteering on the organizing committee, attending opening ceremonies in red serge, and assisting with traffic control. Members also supported the IWK 250 event, a well-attended fundraiser for the IWK Children's Hospital.

In total, 524 calls for service were responded to during the reporting period.

The Chair requested that future written reports be forwarded in advance to the Deputy Clerk to be included in the agenda package, allowing Committee members time to review prior to meetings.

7.3 STFX Administration

Nothing further to report beyond the Good Neighbour Subcommittee update and St. Patrick's Day discussion noted earlier.

7.4 StFX Student Union

The StFX Student Representative reiterated the success of Welcome Week on campus. It was also noted that the Student Union President and Vice President will be travelling to Ottawa to lobby the federal government.

8. Adjournment

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 pm.