

**Police & License Committee Meeting
January 15, 2026
Town Council Chambers**

Present

Chair, Councillor D. Roberts
Councillor P. McKenna
Councillor J. Sullivan
J. Pellerin, Bylaw Enforcement
J. Wright, Bylaw Enforcement
S/Sgt. K. Hillier, RCMP
E. Yeo, STFX University Administration
J. De Leebeeck, STFX University Administration
K. Meisner, Director of Infrastructure and Engineering & Traffic Authority
C. Duggan, Community Representative

Also, In Attendance

M. Fougere, Municipal Clerk
S. Long, Acting Director of Community Development

Absent with Regrets

H. Qualizza STFX University Student Union Representative
R. Peters, STFX University Administration Representative
Sgt. J. Jessome, RCMP
Mayor, S. Cameron

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Councillor Diane Roberts, called the Police and License Committee meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

The Chair welcomed new member Jonathan Wright. Roundtable introductions were conducted.

2. Approval of Agenda

Councillor Sullivan requested the addition of Bus Traffic – Highland Drive Area to the agenda.

Motion: That the agenda be approved as amended.

Moved by: Councillor McKenna

Seconded by: Councillor Sullivan

Motion carried.

3. Acceptance of Minutes

3.1 Minutes of November 10, 2025, meeting.

The minutes of the November 10, 2025, meeting were accepted as presented.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1 Three-way stops - Pleasant and Victoria Streets.

K. Meisner advised that this matter originated from concerns raised by the RK regarding motorists failing to properly yield or stop at the intersection of Pleasant Street and Victoria Street.

The Traffic Authority reviewed the intersection and determined that converting it to a three-way stop would improve safety. The change will be implemented in Spring 2026.

The Chair advised that she would follow up with Terry MacIntyre regarding installation.

4.2 Caution signage - Victoria St.

This matter was a recurring item from previous Committee meetings and was brought forward again due to ongoing safety concerns.

K. Meisner advised that a potential remedy would be the installation of signage indicating "Seniors in the Area." He noted that this signage would not be regulated under the Motor Vehicle Act and could be installed by RK staff.

The Chair advised that she would follow up with Terry MacIntyre regarding next steps.

4.3 Parking Bylaw Review

The Chair provided a brief update on the Parking Bylaw, noting that the second reading is scheduled to be considered at the Regular Council meeting on January 19, 2026.

4.4 Reduction of speed limit -Northview Dr

The Committee discussed a petition received by the Town regarding the speed limit on Northview Drive.

K. Meisner, Traffic Authority, noted that the Town currently has speed radar signs installed on Hawthorne Street and Bay Street which are meant for mobile signs, as such we can move them to where they would be needed, and suggested that a similar radar sign could be placed on Northview Drive. The Committee would determine the appropriate placement of such a sign.

The Chair requested that data from the existing radar signs be collected. By-law Officer J. Pellerin advised that there had been a technical difficulty with the phone application used to collect the data.

The Chair requested that By-law Officer, J. Pellerin provide the data to the Municipal Clerk for distribution to the Committee prior to the next meeting.

Councillor Sullivan inquired whether the Town has the authority to reduce the speed limit on Northview Drive.

K. Meisner responded, noting that under the current Motor Vehicle Act, there is no provision allowing the Town to reduce speed limits independently. While upcoming revisions to the Act may provide mechanisms for speed reductions, any change must be justified and warranted. At present, the only information available is the petition; there is no supporting traffic data to substantiate a reduction in the speed limit.

4.5 Accessibility Parking zones

The Chair noted that the Town is planning to conduct a study of accessibility parking on Main Street.

K. Meisner advised that a number of regulations regarding accessibility parking have recently changed. He indicated that the study would help determine how many accessible parking spaces currently exist and how many require adjustment to meet the updated standards.

Councillor McKenna suggested that this matter be referred to the Accessibility Committee for consideration and inclusion on their agenda.

4.6 Kiosk - Creighton Lane

The Chair noted that this item will be deferred and reviewed at the next Committee meeting in March.

4.7 Parking on College St

The Chair noted that this item will be discussed at the next Committee of the Whole meeting on February 3, 2026.

4.8 Four-way stop – College and Pleasant

The Chair noted that a study will be conducted to provide more information regarding the potential installation of a four-way stop at this intersection.

4.9 Right turn ONLY from Fairview to James St

The Committee discussed the temporary routing of vehicles down Fairview Street during the recent fall construction.

It was noted that implementing a “Right Turn Only” restriction from Fairview Street onto James Street would be enforced only during the traffic control zone and construction periods. This measure is intended to be temporary and is not proposed as a permanent change.

4.10 No parking at the bottom of Hillcrest St.

The Chair noted that the request will be implemented and that the no parking sign will be relocated to a compliant location.

4.11 Portable speed signage - Fairview St

The Committee discussed the purchase and deployment of a portable speed sign on Fairview Street.

Motion: Approve the purchase of the portable speed sign recommended to council that the purchase is made as soon as possible in the fiscal year, for under \$10,000.

Moved by: Committee Member C. Duggan

Seconded by: Councillor P. McKenna

Discussion from the committee highlighted the following:

- Portable speed signs can encourage drivers to slow down and provide data on traffic speeds.
- Existing signs are located on Hawthorne Street and Bay St. and may be relocated as needed.
- Cost of the proposed portable sign is \$8,931.90.
- Concerns regarding traffic congestion during school hours were noted, with J. Pellerin clarifying that bus routing is managed by the School Board, which uses GPS tracking.

4.12 St. Patrick's Day Report – Presentation from Good Neighbour

Elizabeth Yeo and Jacqueline De Leebeeck, on behalf of the Good Neighbour Working Group, presented a review of St. Patrick's Day 2025 events and provided planning context for 2026. The Committee's task was to understand how other universities manage large street parties and to establish a baseline for planning.

Key points from the presentation included:

- 2025 parties were largely contained to a section of St. Mary's Street.
- Property damage decreased compared to 2024.
- Off-campus participation involved a significant number of non-students, indicating a broader community issue.
- Social media, including platforms like "Ginger Run," plays a significant role in event promotion; anonymous and rapidly scaling promotion makes enforcement challenging.
- Research and consultation with other Canadian universities suggest harm-reduction strategies are the most effective approach.
- Collaborative planning, advance communication, and multi-agency coordination were emphasized as essential for reducing harm.
- Proposed planning for March 2026 reflects a continuation of the collaborative approach, unless Council directs an alternative pathway.
- Key operational considerations include emergency access, portable facilities, and mitigation of congestion, particularly during bus rerouting and high-traffic periods.

Committee Discussion:

- Questions were raised regarding emergency response, potential barriers, social media influence, student behavior, and logistics for sanctioned events.
- Members highlighted the importance of proactive messaging, maintaining safe routes for emergency vehicles, and balancing resource costs.
- It was noted that the Town's Nuisance By-law and landlord accountability are effective tools for managing incidents.
- The Committee discussed potential mitigation strategies, including monitoring, barriers, and coordination with STFX and RCMP.

Elizabeth Yeo will bring Committee feedback back to the Good Neighbour Working Group. Members were asked to submit additional comments to Shannon Long by next Wednesday, January 21.

The Chair suggested a future follow-up meeting with the Working Group to continue planning for St. Patrick's Day 2026.

The Chair thanked Ms. Elizabeth Yeo and Ms. Jacqueline De Leebeeck for their presentation. Both left the meeting at 2:36 p.m.

5. Committee Reports

At each meeting, the Chair requests reports from the RCMP, Town By-Law, STFX Administration, STFX Student Union, and Town Traffic Authority in advance. Reports received are included in the agenda package circulated to Committee members prior to the meeting.

5.1 Town By-Law

The Chair noted that the By-Law report was received late due to illness, the chair would like some time to review it.

5.2 RCMP

The Chair highlighted the RCMP report included in the agenda package and acknowledged the comprehensive information provided.

C. Duggan inquired about an arrest on Main Street last fall, that was recently released in the news.

S/Sgt. K. Hillier explained that the arrest occurred in October as part of an undercover operation; details could not be released immediately, but a full report is now available.

Councillor Sullivan asked about drug activity in the community. S/Sgt. Hillier noted that the three-member Street Crime Unit is monitoring trends in petty crime linked to drug use. Several arrests have been made, and investigations continue.

5.3 STFX Student Union

No report submitted.

5.4 STFX Administration

No report submitted.

5.5 Town Traffic Authority

The Chair thanked K. Meisner for providing his report.

6. Next Meeting Date

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

7. Pending Items

7.1 Parking Meter Enforcement

The Chair noted that the Committee will review a report on the status of parking meters and requested a copy of the data collection. The status report will be provided at the next Committee meeting on March 12, 2026.

8. Adjournment

With no further business, Councillor P. McKenna called for adjournment at 2:49 pm.