



Village of New Minas
Commission Meeting
May 11, 2026 @ 7:00 PM
Commission Room, LMCC
New Minas, Nova Scotia
Minutes

Commissioners Present:

- James Redmond, Vice Chair
- Mary Munroe
- Quentin Hill
- Dave Chaulk, Chair
- Debra Windle-Smith

Commissioners Absent:

Staff Present:

- Jeff Lawrence, Clerk Treasurer/CAO
- John Ansara, Director of Recreation and Community Development
- Cory Palmer, Director of Public Works

Others Present:

- Christina Sappington
- Maynard Stevens
- Julie Vanexan

1. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest:

No conflicts of interest were declared.

2. Call to Order:

Dave Chaulk called the meeting to order at 7:03pm, welcoming those in attendance.

3. Approval of the Agenda:

Motion:

THAT the Agenda for the May 11, 2026, Commission Meeting be approved.

M/J. Redmond
S/ Q. Hill
Motion Carried

4. Approval of Minutes:

a. April 13, 2026, Village Commission Meeting

Motion:

THAT the Minutes for the April 13, 2026, Village Commission Meeting be approved.

**M/J. Redmond
S/ Q. Hill
Motion Carried**

5. Presentations:

a. The Flower Cart Group

Mike Schroeder, Community Inclusion & Employment Navigator with The Flower Cart Group, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding an inclusive bird gardening proposal.

After a discussion, there was consensus from the Commission to support the proposal and provide the use of the land conditional upon the Flower Cart Group maintaining the site.

Motion:

THAT the Commission authorizes the Clerk Treasurer/CAO to enter into a ten-year lease, with an option to renew, on behalf of the Village Commission with the Flower Cart Group for the land requested in their presentation, conditional upon the Flower Cart Group being responsible for all site maintenance.

**M/J. Redmond
S/ Q. Hill
Motion Carried**

6. Business Arising from Minutes:

7. Comments from the Chair:

There were no comments from the Chair

8. Public Input Specific to Agenda Topics:

9. Committee Reports:

a. Inclusion and Accessibility Working Group

J. Ansara provided a verbal summary of the draft minutes included in the May 11, 2026, Commission agenda package.

Motion:

THAT the draft notes for the New Minas Inclusion and Accessibility Working Group be received as included in the May 11, 2026, Commission agenda package.

M/Q. Hill

S/ D. Windle-Smith

Motion Carried

b. New Minas Water Commission

J. Redmond provided a verbal summary of the draft minutes included in the May 11, 2026, Commission agenda package.

Motion:

THAT the draft minutes for the Water Commission be received as included in the May 11, 2026, Commission agenda package.

M/J. Redmond

S/ D. Windle-Smith

Motion Carried

c. Regional Sewer Committee

J. Redmond provided a verbal summary of the draft minutes included in the May 11, 2026, Commission agenda package.

Motion:

THAT the draft minutes for the Regional Sewer Committee be received as included in the May 11, 2026, Commission agenda package.

M/J. Redmond

S/ Q. Hill

Motion Carried

10. Staff Reports:

a. CAO/ Clerk Treasurer

CAO/ Clerk Treasurer Lawrence provided a brief synopsis of the CAO/ Clerk Treasurer Report.

Motion:

THAT the CAO/ Clerk Treasurer report be received as included in the May 11, 2026, Commission agenda package.

M/D. Windle-Smith

S/ J. Redmond

Motion Carried

b. Public Works

The Director of Public Works provided a brief synopsis of the public works report.

Additional points discussed included:

- That the water and sewer studies were received highlighting areas where significant upgrades will be required and that we are still waiting for information regarding options and associated budgets.

Motion:

THAT the Director of Public Works report be received as included in the May 11, 2026, Commission agenda package.

M/D. Windle-Smith

S/ Q. Hill

Motion Carried

c. Finance

Motion:

THAT the Manager of Finance report be received as included in the May 11, 2026, Commission agenda package.

M/ J. Redmond

S/ Q. Hill

Motion Carried

d. Recreation and Community Development

The Director of Recreation provided a brief synopsis of the recreation report as included in the May 11, 2026, Commission agenda package.

Following the presentation, J. Ansara responded to questions indicating:

- No designated time period exists for day camp preferential booking for New Minas residents, but that this has not been an issue in the past.
- Day camp subsidies are only available to New Minas residents.
- The disk golf tournament was well attended.

Motion:

THAT the Director of Recreation report be received as included in the May 11, 2026, Commission agenda package.

M/ Q. Hill

S/ D. Windle-Smith

Motion Carried

11. New Business:

- a. Briefing - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) Divestiture of Ravine Easement – Initial Notifications & Process Overview.

J. Lawrence spoke to the recent announcement of the intention of the AAFC to divest itself of the Ravine and provided a summary of the communications to date and possible next steps.

After a discussion, the consensus of the Commission was the Village should work with the Town of Kentville and source out if there is a business case for the Village to acquire the divested lands that lay within the boundary of New Minas.

- b. Discussion – RCMP Public Meeting

J. Lawrence stated that he had received several emails from Commissioners indicating that the Village should facilitate a public meeting whereby the RCMP could present to the Community.

After a discussion, the consensus was to see what RCMP Inspector William Collier thought regarding the idea when he presented to the Commission in June.

12. Correspondence:

13. General Public Input:

- **Councillor Christina Sappington** – C. Sappington spoke to:
 - The Village/ Municipality meeting that recently took place with the next meeting being in September.
 - The regional sewer and the engineering report looking at long term options which is to be received this summer.

- **M. Stevens** - M. Stevens spoke to:
 - The Flower Cart presentation and asked a question as to whether Acadian period flowers would be planted.
 - A thank you to the recreation department for allowing him the opportunity to play Santa Claus for the last 25 years (M. Stevens indicated that he would be retiring from the role.)

14. Closed Session:

Dave Chaulk indicated that there was a need for an in-camera session to deal with personnel matters.

At 8:00pm, the Commission adjourned to move into a closed session.

Motion:

THAT the Commission adjourn to move into closed session.

M/Q. Hill

S/ D. Windle-Smith

Motion Carried

Motion:

THAT the Commission adjourn from the closed session.

M/ J. Redmond

S/ Q. Hill

Motion Carried

At 8:23pm the Commission reconvened the open session of the meeting.

15. Adjournment

There being no further business, James Redmond called for a motion to adjourn at 8:24pm.

Motion:

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

M/ J. Redmond

S/ Q. Hill

Motion Carried