



Town of Wolfville

Minutes, Wolfville Acadia Town and Gown Committee Meeting [DRAFT]

Monday, January 27, 2025

ATTENDING

- Mayor Jodie MacKay
- Deputy Mayor, Jennifer Ingram
- Jeff Hennessy, President and Vice-Chancellor, Acadia
- Erin Beaudin, Vice-President, Finance & Administration and CFO, Acadia
- Glen Horne, Chief Administrative Officer, Wolfville
- Ian Murray, Strategic Initiatives, Acadia
- Barb Shaw, Manager of Communications and Strategic Initiatives, Town of Wolfville
- Yash Gahlot, President, Acadia Student Union
- Alicia Johnson, ASU, Interim General Manager, Acadia
- Devin Lake, Director of Planning and Development, Town of Wolfville
- Rumi Akpala, Community Liaison Officer External Relations
- Lucy Harper, 2024 Community Liaison Officer External Relations
- Cyenna Link, ASU Community Relations Representative
- Tanya Surette, Associate Professor and MEd Program Coordinator, Acadia
- Janis Dawson, Assistant Professor and Coordinator, Red Spruce Mental Health Centre
- Recording Secretary, Barb Baker, Office of the VP Finance and Administration, Acadia

ABSENT WITH REGRETS

- Shelley Fleckenstein, Board of Governors, Acadia

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions
1. Approval of Agenda	MOTION: IT WAS MOVED BY J. INGHAM THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS PROVIDED. Amendment: to move the presentation by D. Lake to the first item on the agenda. CARRIED
2. Approval of Minutes	MOTION: IT WAS MOVED BY J. INGHAM AND SECONDED BY J. MACKAY THAT THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 7, 2024, BE APPROVED AS AMENDED. Amendment: Correction: W. Donovan was not in attendance and should be recorded under regrets.

	CARRIED
3. Public Input/Question Period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No members of the public were present.
4. Presentations	
c. Housing Accelerator Fund	<p>Presenter: D. Lake, Director of Planning & Development, Town of Wolfville</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An agreement signed with the federal government to increase housing by a minimum of 120 units by 2027 Receiving \$1.8 M over 4 installments Housing Supply Gap: the need is outpacing construction HAF Action Plan Summary. 3 components: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Town Planning Document Affordable and non-market housing Secondary Planning strategy for Acadia's SE campus Proposing a planning strategy for the SE campus approximately 12 acres. Some rezoning required Dalhousie's example illustrates potential options for housing and revenue generation and the Intended outcomes over 12 months: working group formation; engaging Acadia community; opportunity for private sector partnerships; opportunity for additional facilities and mixed housing. Next Steps: Kick-off meeting with Acadia focusing on the 12 acres on the SE campus. <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tackle rezoning rationalization at the front end. <p>ACTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> D. Lake and I. Murray will work together to create a working group and integrate land use consultants.
a. MOU Workplan Report	<p>Presenter: L Harper (former Community Liaison Office Co-op placement)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of fall co-op placement and working group progress. Key initiatives included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land use meetings and discussions. Researched Student Housing initiatives including Unilodge, UBC planning, and threats to affordable housing. Conclusions and Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of student involvement in events. Interconnectedness with community plays a big impact in a positive student experience at Acadia

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Events that are tailored for students, but not well communicated to students. ○ Combine the calendars of Acadia with the Town <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best approaches to marketing events to students (Instagram) • Scheduling classes to allow student availability/integration into the curriculum.
b. Red Spruce Mental Health Centre	<p>Presenter: T. Surette, Associate Professor, Acadia School of Education & Lead/Co-founder Red Spruce J. Dawson, Coordinator, Red Spruce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide free mental health services through graduate students in the counselling program. • A key priority is accessibility. Hub is in Willett House, but work is being done to add services through Red Door, Portal, and EDGE, and hoping to add services through the public library. • Opened in January 2024 until May when funding ended for the centre coordinator. • VPA provided new funding and J. Dawson was hired as coordinator and reopening January 28 with a waitlist of 50 people with no marketing. • The goal is to align services with needs and the counselling program through “one-at-a-time” counselling and making the most of single sessions. <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service is provided for 10 months September to June. • Demonstrates the success of the MOU with the TOW and ASU and the work of Stephen Schneider – community safety/wellness. • Entirely community-facing.
c. Soups and Sides Initiative	<p>Presenters: B. Shaw, Manager of Communications & Strategic Initiatives, Town of Wolfville</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The program launched in September. • Barrier-free community meal on Monday evenings. • Funded by Town with a top-up from Acadia. • Many Acadia students attend and create bonds with the community. • Seeking private funding – limited grant opportunities. • CODE student K. Lancaster provided a student volunteer perspective through her directed study experience <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The program ends in April. The budget was \$1000/week for 30 weeks. • Transition after April to community oven. <p>ACTION:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B. Shaw will provide A. Johnson will provide a breakdown of funding and the number of attendees. • I. Murray will coordinate to provide a coop student to help bridge the gap in the work being done.
5. Old Business	
a. International Student Support Program	<p>B. Shaw, Manager of Communications, Wolfville</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional volunteers came forward. • Will now go back to the committee for input and suggestions. i.e. focus more on an event-based program
b. Community Events	<p>I. Murray, Strategic Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events such as the street party in the fall and Soups and Sides help in building communities (citizens and students). • Need to continue to build on this success.
c. Community Safety Office Research Student	<p>B. Shaw and I. Murray</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report has been accepted and provides a lot to think about. But it is rather large in scale. • Other ideas for community building, food security, and mental health now fall to the partners to move forward. • We are already actioning working together. • The formal relationship with the RCMP allowed for a more collaborative approach. <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual representatives have a big impact (positive or negative) on community policing.
6. Reports	
a. Town of Wolfville	<p>Presenter: G. Horne (CAO, Wolfville)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcomed new council since the October election. • Homecoming was successful. Additional RCMP that were brought in but not needed. • Drafts of both an accessibility plan and an antiracism plan are moving forward. To be approved by the end of March. • Budget planning is underway with most if not all events returning. • The camera pilot will be assessed in April 2025 to determine if the program is moving forward • A contribution agreement is being developed that brings together various financial contributions into one document. • Assessing ongoing risks of pedestrian/traffic interfaces, particularly at Highland. • Micro transit study in 2022 – exploring next steps. <p>Discussion:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curling pretrial support to be confirmed (E. Beaudin)
b. Acadia University	<p>E. Beaudin, VP Finance & Administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bargaining is coming in the spring with AUFA followed by SEIU. • In the middle of the budget process and the situation is challenging. International enrollment has had a negative impact. Awaiting confirmation of provincial funding. • Moving forward with the Child Care proposal of 104 spaces partnering with the province.
c. Acadia Student's Union	<p>Alicia Johnson, General Manager, ASU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relaunch of Axes in Action to address food insecurity • Conversations with Student Housing NS. Potential referendum for a \$5 fee to go towards off-campus housing. • A property on Hillside Ave has been purchased by Housing Student NS. • S. McAlear is running that campaign. • ASU elections are underway. Results will be available February 14, 2025
7. New Business	
a. MOU Workplan Operational Structure	<p>Ian Murray, Strategic Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing involvement of both staff at Acadia and TOW in the work of the MOU. • Propose to develop working groups and a revised annual calendar. Overly prescribed in approach • Step back organizationally to see the best way to ensure the work gets done without unnecessary burden. <p>ACTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Murray will return with a proposal for the spring meeting.
8. In-Camera	<p>IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE TOWN AND GOWN COMMITTEE GO IN CAMERA AT 2:45 PM.</p> <p>CARRIED</p>
9. Next meeting	April 28, 2025, 1:00 pm
10. Adjournment	