



**COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STANDING COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES
May 21, 2026**

PRESENT: Councillor Janet Steele, Chair
Councillor Jean St-Amand, Vice Chair
Deputy Mayor Patty Cuttell
Councillor Cathy Deagle Gammon
Councillor Becky Kent
Councillor Trish Purdy

OTHERS PRESENT: Councillor Laura White
Councillor Virginia Hinch
Councillor Kathryn Morse
Councillor Nancy Hartling

STAFF: Maggie MacDonald, Executive Director of Parks and Recreation
Sasha Perry, Solicitor
Simon Ross-Siegel, Legislative Assistant

These minutes are considered draft and will require approval by Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee at a future meeting.

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, reports, supporting documents, information items circulated, and video (if available) are online at halifax.ca.

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**CPED Standing Committee
Draft Minutes
May 21, 2026**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people, and that we are all treaty people.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 16, 2026

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Purdy

THAT the minutes of April 16, 2026 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Additions: None

Deletions: None

Deferred to the June 18, 2026 meeting of Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee:

- Item 8.2 – Transom Drive Park Plan

MOVED by Councillor Cuttell, seconded by Councillor Purdy

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Later in the meeting, it was MOVED by Deputy Mayor Cuttell, seconded by Councillor Kent

THAT the following item be deferred to the June 18, 2026 meeting of Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee:

- Item 7.1 Councillor St-Amand

MOTION TO DEFER PUT AND PASSED.

Later in the meeting, it was MOVED by Deputy Mayor Cuttell, seconded by Councillor St-Amand

THAT the following item be deferred to the June 18, 2026 meeting of Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee:

- 13.1.2 Affordable Housing Strategy Project Update

MOTION TO DEFER PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

6. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE

7. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION

7.1 Councillor St-Amand

This matter was deferred; refer to the Order of Business.

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8. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

8.1 Seniors Recreation Services Plan 2026-2030

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated April 10, 2026
- Staff presentation dated May 21, 2026

MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

THAT the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council approve the Seniors Recreation Services Plan, as attached to the staff report dated April 10, 2026 as Attachment 1, for implementation.

Olivia Davis, Community Developer and Lee Moore, Manager of Youth, Senior & Outdoor Programs gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8.2 Transom Drive Park Plan

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated April 7, 2026

This matter was deferred during the approval of the Order of Business.

9. NOTICES OF TABLED MATTERS – NONE

10. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

10.1 Correspondence

Correspondence was received and circulated for items: 13.1.1 and 13.1.2.

For a detailed list of correspondence received refer to the specific agenda item.

10.2 Petitions – None

10.3 Presentation

10.3.1 Proposal Concerning the Adaptive Reuse of the Halifax Memorial Library

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Presentation request dated April 7, 2026
- Presentation dated May 21, 2026

William Breckenridge, Representative of the Friends of the Halifax Memorial Library gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Karen Mitchell, Halifax spoke about the future use of the Halifax Memorial Library site. Mitchell spoke to the importance of the historical building to the community and the city of Halifax. Mitchell spoke in favour of preservation of the existing building through adaptive reuse and against disturbing the burial grounds.

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**CPED Standing Committee
Draft Minutes
May 21, 2026**

Andrea Arbic, Dartmouth spoke as the Chair of Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia about the future use and preservation of the Halifax Memorial Library site through adaptive reuse. Arbic proposed an expedited community engagement for options for potential future adaptive reuse.

Bernard Smith, Halifax spoke about the future use and preservation of the Halifax Memorial Library site through adaptive reuse. Smith identified themselves as the Chair of the Old Burial Ground and expressed concern regarding an absence of historical storytelling efforts within the city. Smith spoke to the adaptive reuse of the Carleton House and expressed that similar efforts should be made for the Halifax Memorial Library building.

David Gough, Halifax spoke as Vice Chair of the Halifax Military Heritage Preservation Society about the future use of the Halifax Memorial Library site. Gough responded to questions from Councillors regarding the proposed community engagement to identify potential adaptive reuses.

Frank Galaba, Halifax spoke about the future use and preservation of the Halifax Memorial Library site through adaptive reuse. Galaba spoke to the importance of preserving historic places and structures in the city for future generations.

As set out in section 34 of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, a motion was required to extend the time of the meeting.

MOVED by Councillor Purdy, seconded by Councillor St-Amand

THAT the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee extend the time of the meeting past 12:00 p.m.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

13. REPORTS

13.1 STAFF

13.1.1 Update on Options for Future Use of the Halifax Memorial Library Site

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated May 12, 2026
- Correspondence from William Breckenridge, Paul MacKinnon, Sue Uteck
- Staff presentation dated May 21, 2026

MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Councillor Deputy Mayor Cuttell

THAT the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to expand the scope of the community engagement program of the park planning project for the Memorial Library/Grafton Park site to include consultation about the value of the Memorial Library building and return with a staff report to Regional Council as set out in the Discussion Section of the staff report dated May 12, 2026.

Carolle Koziak Roberts, Landscape Architect gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

Maggie MacDonald, Executive Director of Parks and Recreation responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.

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**CPED Standing Committee
Draft Minutes
May 21, 2026**

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Cuttell, seconded by Councillor St-Amand

THAT Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Discontinue the work on a plan for the Memorial Library Site that was directed in items 2 and 3 of the July 9, 2024, motion (Item No. 15.1.5); and**
- 2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to investigate new potential opportunities for the reuse of the Memorial Library, and return to Council with a report outlining those potential uses for its consideration.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13.1.2 Affordable Housing Strategy Project Update

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated April 29, 2026
- Correspondence from Laura Brady

This matter was deferred; refer to the Order of Business.

14. MOTIONS – NONE

15. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

15.1 In Camera (In Private) Minutes - April 16, 2026

This matter was dealt with in public.

MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Councillor Purdy

THAT the In Camera (In Private) minutes of April 16, 2026 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

16. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

17. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – June 18, 2026

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

Simon Ross-Siegel
Legislative Assistant