HALIFAX

APPEALS STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
July 16, 2026

PRESENT:	Councillor Janet Steele, Vice Chair Councillor Trish Purdy Councillor Kathryn Morse Councillor Nancy Hartling Councillor Billy Gillis
REGRETS:	Councillor Becky Kent, Chair
STAFF:	Steven Berkman, Manager, Bylaw Standards Karen MacDonald, Solicitor Andrea Lovasi-Wood, Legislative Assistant

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.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 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.

1.1 African Nova Scotian Affirmation

The Vice Chair led the Committee in the African Nova Scotian Affirmation.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 14, 2026 and June 11, 2026

MOVED by Councillor Gillis, seconded by Councillor Morse

THAT the minutes of May 14, 2026 and June 11, 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

MOVED by Councillor Purdy, seconded by Councillor Gillis

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Councillor Hartling declared a conflict of interest for Item 12.1.1 Appeal of Refusal of Vending License for Buckley's BBQ (location P-10 Dalhousie University), as they knew the appellant.

6. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE
7. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE
8. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE
9. NOTICES OF TABLED MATTERS – NONE

10. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS
10.1 Correspondence – None
10.2 Petitions – None
10.3 Presentation – None

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

12. REPORTS
12.1 BY-LAW C-501, RESPECTING VENDING ON MUNICIPAL LANDS: APPEALS
12.1.1 Appeal of Refusal of Vending License for Buckley's BBQ (location P-10 Dalhousie University)

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated July 7, 2026
- Staff presentation dated July 16, 2026

Councillor Hartling was recused from the meeting during consideration of this item having declared a conflict of interest in the matter, as they knew the appellant.

The Vice Chair reviewed the rules of procedure for appeal hearings and confirmed the appellant was present.

Neala Matheson, License Administrator gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee. Matheson explained that By-Law C-501, Respecting Vending On Municipal Lands did not include a timeline between past criminal convictions and the grant of a vending license. Matheson confirmed the refusal of the vending license was based upon the recency of the appellant's conviction and the location of the hot dog stand. Matheson explained a criminal reference check was performed for all vending license applications or renewal of a vending license. Matheson noted the appellant's criminal reference check showed a conviction of drug possession for the purpose of trafficking with a two year less a day conditional sentence followed by probation.

Leanne Simms, appellant confirmed they held the vending license at the Dalhousie University location for five years. Simms spoke to the trauma and difficult time they experienced a few years ago which led to drugs found in her possession and the criminal charge. Simms stated they explained during the court proceedings that the drugs were for personal use, that the judge deemed Simms was not a threat to the public and the judge handed down a lenient sentence because of their rehabilitation and it was a first criminal offence. Simms expressed concerns about losing their livelihood and stated they would not sell drugs to university students. Simms spoke to their sobriety and long time serving the public with their hot dog vending business at Dalhousie University. Simms noted the court transcripts were not provided due to expense. Simms asked for the Standing Committee's forgiveness, understanding and that the vending license be reinstated because of their rehabilitation efforts and contributions to society through their vending business. Simms noted the support of family and oversight by probation officer.

Greg Buckley, witness for the appellant noted they were the official owner of the vending business, which included a location at Dalhousie University for over 20 years with Simms as an employee. Buckley noted the vending license for the Dalhousie University started in Simms's name five years ago and spoke to the business slowdown during Covid due to remote classes until 2024 when in person classes resumed. Buckley confirmed the Dalhousie University location was ran with no issues or concerns about Simms working with the public. Buckley spoke to Simms's past personal difficulties and noted Simms's rehabilitation efforts and continued hard work at the Dalhousie University and ferry terminal locations. Buckley spoke to the lost revenue due to the refusal of the appellant's Dalhousie University vending license. Buckley noted the judge deemed Simms not to be a threat to the public and gave Simms a lenient sentence. Buckley spoke to pride of continued service to Dalhousie students and that Simms was no real danger to students because the offense was not a violent crime. Buckley asked the Standing Committee to reinstate Simms's vending license because of their rehabilitation, hard work building Dalhousie University location and that vending business was a sole source of income.

Simms and Buckley responded to questions of clarification. Buckley confirmed they held the ferry terminal vending license, and the Dalhousie University vending license was in Simms's name because a person could only have one vending license in their name. Simms confirmed the amount and type of drugs in their possession when charged and how they had taken responsibility for their actions during the judicial proceedings. Simms spoke to their sobriety and having no previous criminal charges. Buckley confirmed the Dalhousie University vending license could not be transferred to another person. Buckley explained there were no previous issues with the Dalhousie University vending license. Simms confirmed the criminal charge was laid in January 2024 and sentencing was made in December 2025.

Karen MacDonald, Solicitor confirmed the by-law did not include a timeline after which a criminal conviction could no longer be considered in the issuance of a vending license.

Matheson clarified that when a vending license was revoked it would go out to the public for tender application and that the public tender process was also used when a vending license term ended, as was the case with Simms's application for a renewal of the Dalhousie University vending license. Matheson confirmed a vending license was not transferrable.

Buckley spoke to recent compliance officer visits to their ferry terminal cart and that Buckley was told that Simms could not work at the ferry terminal location.

Matheson confirmed their observation of Simms working at the ferry terminal cart during routine visits of vending locations and that Matheson had no concerns with Simms working at that cart because Simms did not hold that vending license and the main concern was Simms's criminal charge and the need to protect the students at Dalhousie University.

MOVED by Councillor Purdy, seconded by Councillor Gillis

THAT the Appeals Standing Committee allow the appeal.

The Standing Committee noted concerns about an individual with the amount and type of drugs in the appellant's possession being allowed to hold a vending license, especially one located at Dalhousie University.

MacDonald responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee and confirmed the Standing Committee could vote in the affirmative which meant the appeal would be granted and the vending license would be reinstated, or the Standing Committee could vote in the negative which meant the vending license would not be reinstated and the decision of the licensing authority would be upheld.

MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.

13. MOTIONS – NONE

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) – NONE

15. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

16. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – September 10, 2026

18. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

Andrea Lovasi-Wood
Legislative Assistant