COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Town Hall – Council Chambers, ZOOM & YouTube Live
Monday, November 2, 2026 – 6:30pm

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

3. PRESENTATION

3.1. Valley REN: Restructuring and Governance Update

Motion:
That Council receive the presentation and request staff report regarding council's options.

3.2. Cliff Drysdale: Lily Lake Presentation

Motion:
That Council receive the presentation

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

4.1. Committee of the Whole Minutes – October 5, 2026

Motion:
That Council approve the agenda as circulated

5. ANYTHING BY CITIZENS

Procedure: A thirty-minute period will be provided for members of the public to address Council regarding questions, concerns and/or ideas. Each person will have a maximum of two minutes to address Council with a second two-minute period provided there is time remaining within the thirty-minute "Anything by Citizens" period.

6. NEW BUSINESS

None

7. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1. Community Concerns/Complaints as of October 2026

None new were received.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

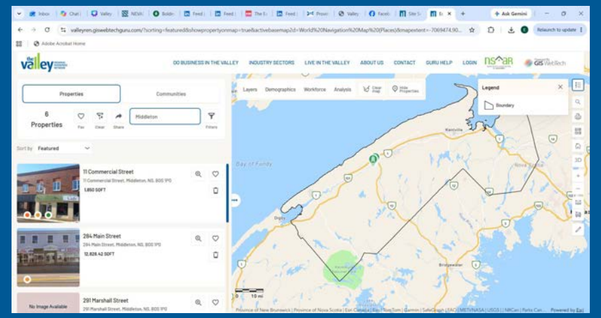
Nothing received

9. ANYTHING BY MEMBERS

10. ADJOURNMENT

Valley Regional Enterprise Network

Your partner in regional economic development





Liaison and Oversight Committee (LOC) Motion





“Valley Regional Enterprise Network will provide the present - day parties with a new governance model including requested funding contributions for proposed sale of services, commencing April 1, 2027, by no later than December 1, 2026.”

Restructuring Emergency Taskforce



- Consisting of 5 Board Members and our senior leadership team

- Developed a refined funding model and governance model to ensure long - term organizational sustainability

- This new framework aims to strengthen alignment between public and private sector partners

Halifax Partnership Model

- The majority of regional economic development organizations are either fully municipally - owned or public - private models with a 50% municipal - led investment
- The Halifax Partnership has been in operation for 30 years as a public - private partnership – this model has inspired other organizations from Envision Saint John to the Pictou County Partnership

Legal Structure

Non-profit society/organization with multi - year Service-Level Agreement with Halifax Regional Municipality

Governance Structure

One governing Board of Directors, primarily private-sector led that provides two voting seats for Council Members and 5 non-voting Board Observer seats to public partners.

Funding Structure

Halifax Regional Municipality – 50%
Province of Nova Scotia – 25%
Private Sector – 25%

Public-Private Funding Model



Municipal & First Nation Contributions

- No request for increased funding – current levels maintained

Provincial Funding

- $483,044 two - year agreement confirmed

Private Sector Investment

- Secure private sector funds

External Funding

- Continue pursuing grants and strategic funding opportunities

Recommended Governance Model

Model - Transition from IMSA to a Non-Profit Society with multi-year Service-Level Agreements

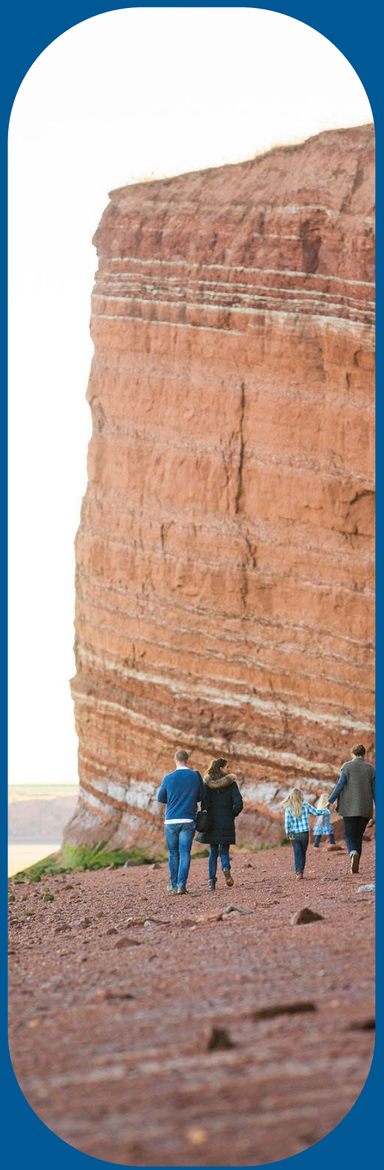
Governance and Accountability - Primarily private sector led Board with continued engagement and input from partners (Board Observer integration)

Advantages - Strengthens public-private collaboration, improves governance efficiency, greater organizational flexibility rooted in regional best practices, and decreased financial liability for partners

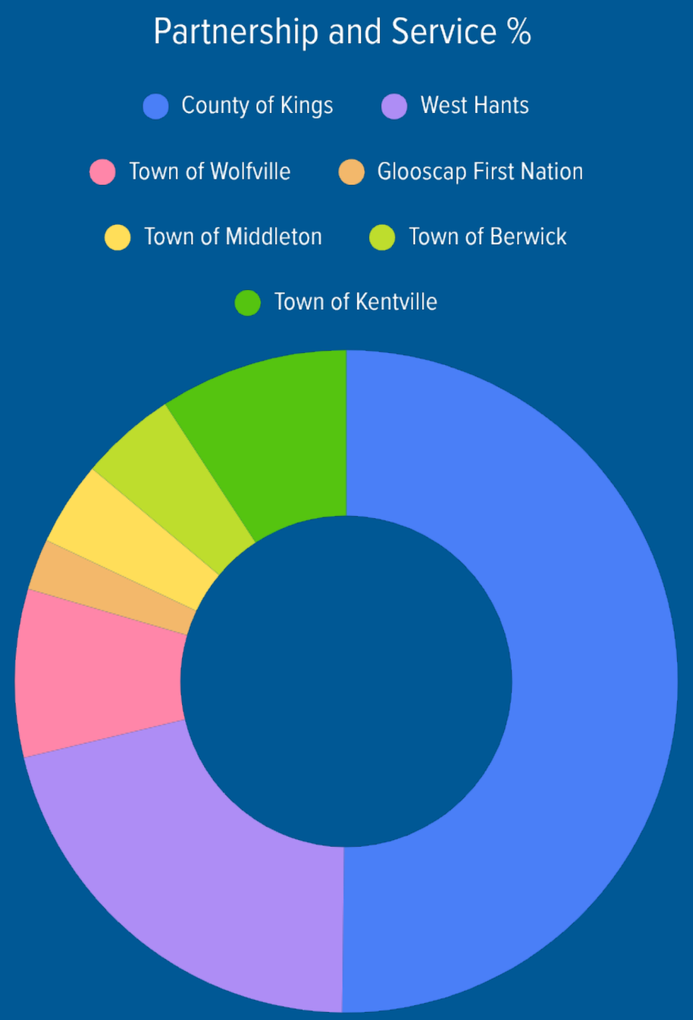


Sale for Service Core Services

- Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) Diagnostics Triage and Business Climate Data
- Business Navigation and Pathfinding
- Regional Economic Development Coordination
- Investment Readiness Tools and Programs
- Labour Market and Immigration Advisory Services
- Connector Program
- Exploratory Regional Projects (Community Retention and Expansion)



Public Investment for Collective Impact



Next Steps

- Request for Decision of Intent
- November LOC Meeting
- Legal Requirements and Timeline





Questions?



Middleton Lily Lake/Slocum Brook Watershed Planning Proposal

Cliff Drysdale Vice Chair
UNESCO Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association

Oct 23/26 Working draft only

The Town of Middleton has an opportunity to transition use of the Lily Lake/Slocum Brook watershed lands to protected area status with enhanced opportunities for recreation, education, and promotion of local business services.

The following presentation describes the area of interest and how it could be planned to provide public recreation use and benefit our community.

Project Goals:

1. Development of a draft management plan for the Lily Lake and Slocum Brook watershed area owned by the Town of Middleton in consideration for Provincial Park status, UNESCO Biosphere Region ‘Amazing Places’ recognition, or another protected area designation.
2. Plan for public recreation access and heritage learning opportunities while protecting significant natural features.
3. Collaborate with the Town of Middleton, Region of Annapolis County, Nova Scotia Government agencies and the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association(SNBRA).

Proposed actions:

1. Prepare planning maps and assess site suitability for visitor facilities, safe parking, multi use non-motorized trail development, Lily Lake public access and interpretation of unique natural and heritage features.

2. Confirm Town property boundaries for the Middleton Lily Lake water supply lands in context with existing water level control infrastructure.

3. Develop a public information and marketing strategy for the area to present the Middleton district as a focus for quality recreation, historical richness, and business services for tourist visitation and regional residents.

4. Support use of best practices for extreme storm flood risk mitigation, protection of buffering capacity and safety in cooperation with the Water Committee, NS government agencies and private landowners.

Continued--

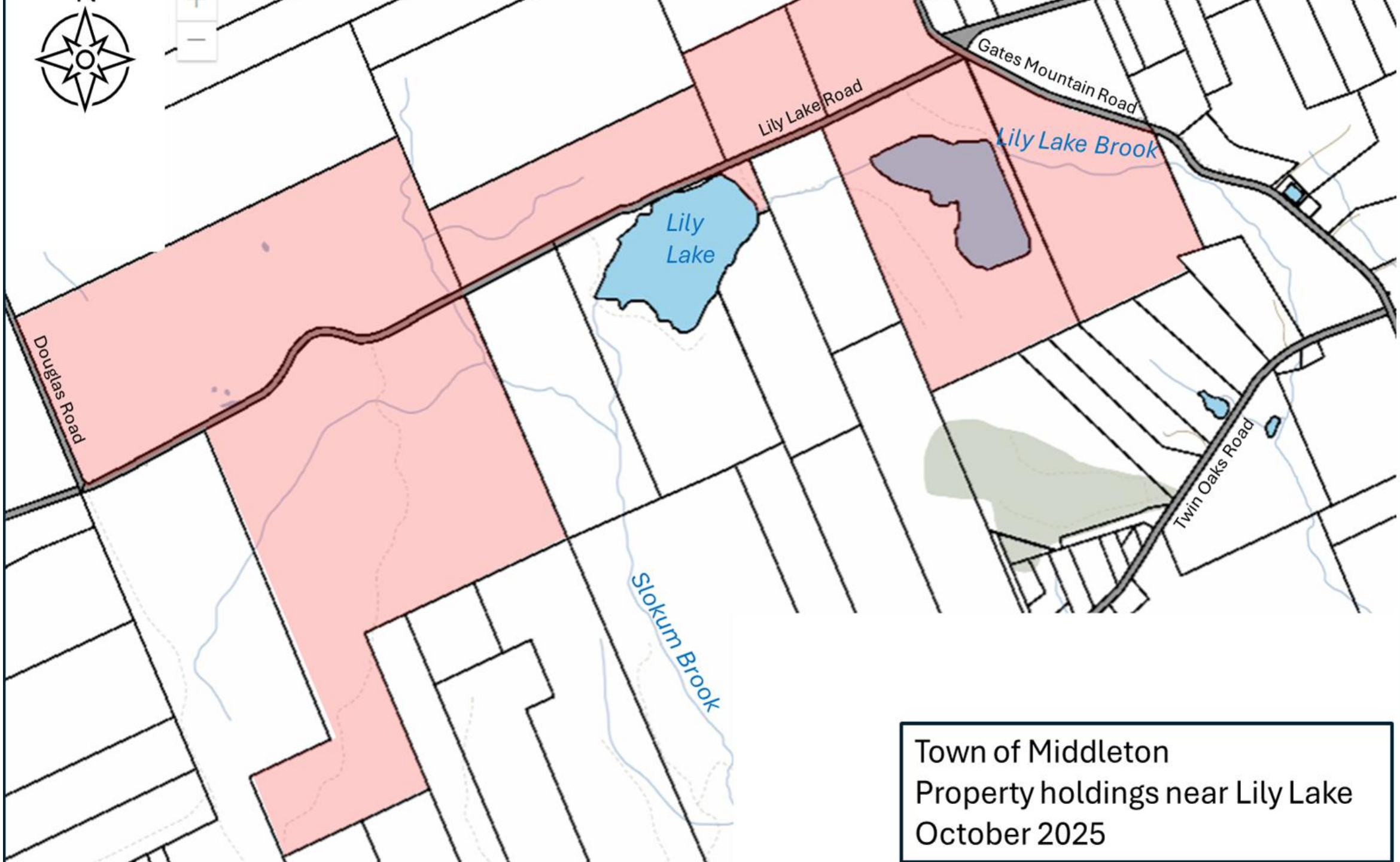
Action items
continued:

5. Explore opportunities to acquire additional lands in the vicinity through heritage acquisition and purchase from willing sellers.

6. Identify budgeting needs for capital projects and maintenance defined in the draft plan with the collaboration of SNBRA, local businesses and government agencies.

7. Maximize contribution from volunteers.

8. Plan on a basis that municipal budgets are tight to zero for capital or maintenance funding.



Town of Middleton
Property holdings near Lily Lake
October 2025



Looking west across Middleton watershed land, Second Lake and Lily Lake

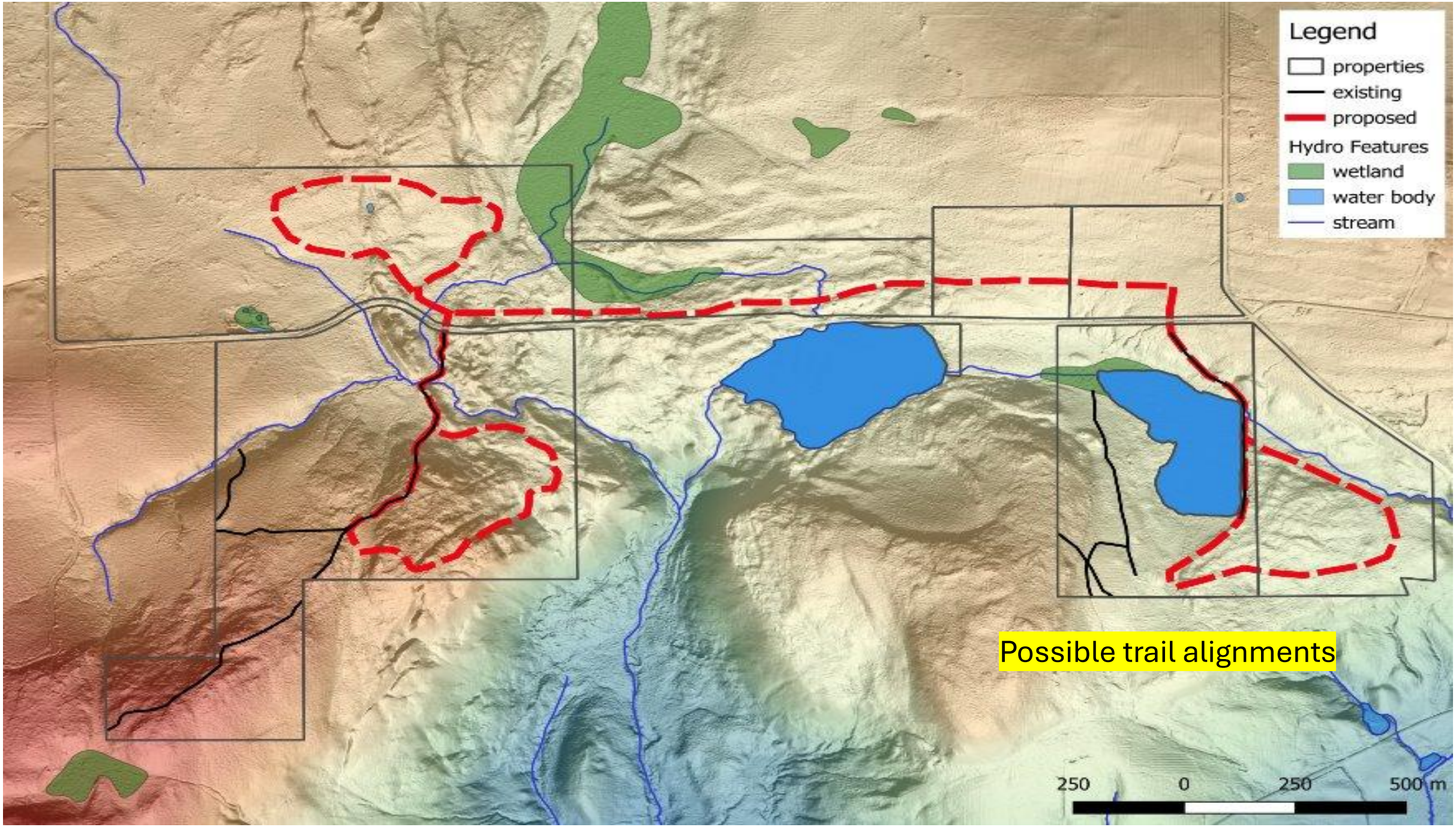


Path to beach on Lily Lake
Middelton property



Natural gravel beach NE corner of Lily Lake.
Spillway to Second Lake in background


MOON MIST
TRAIL

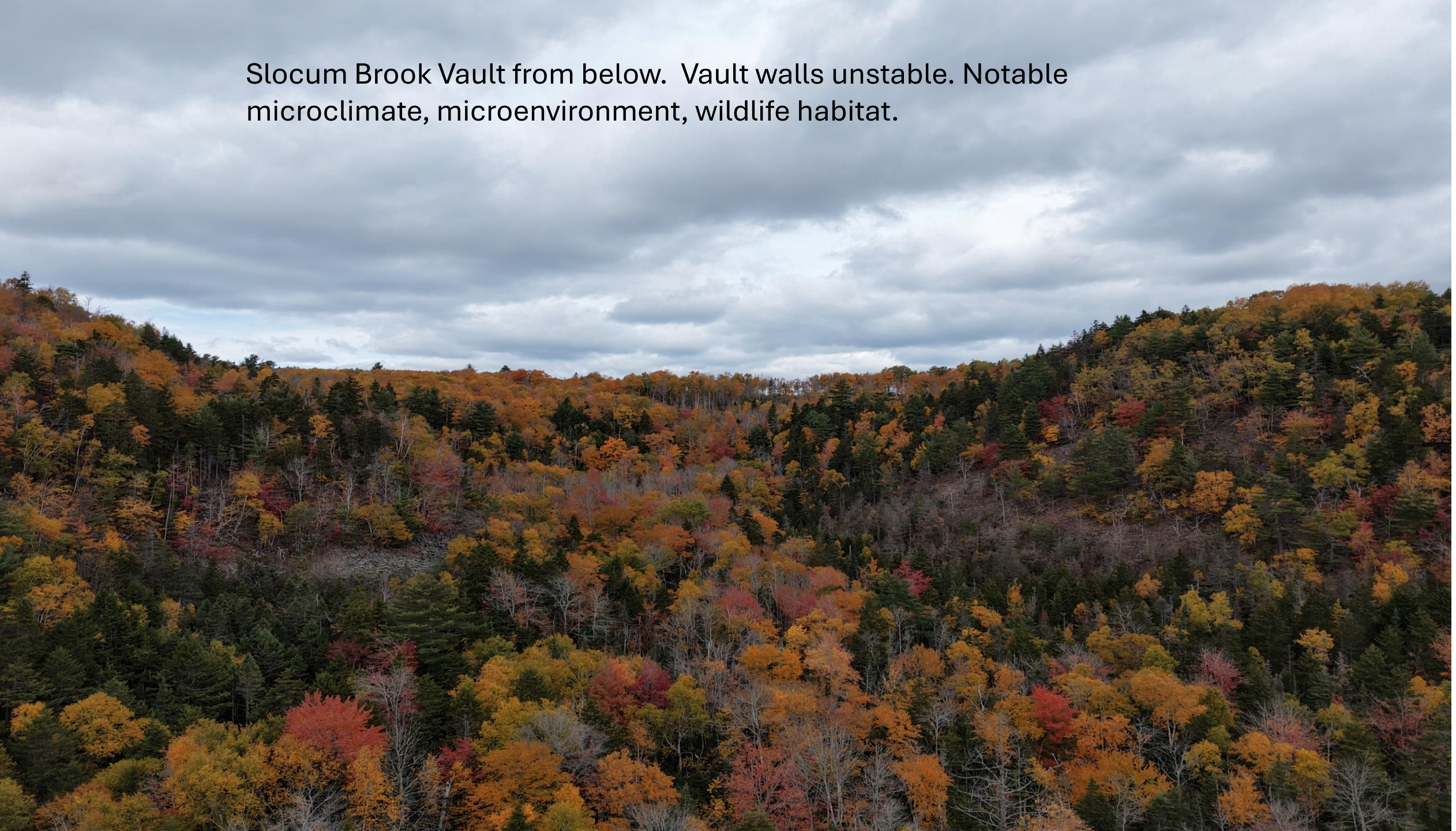

Legend
properties
existing
proposed
Hydro Features
wetland
water body
stream
Possible trail alignments
250
0
250
500 m



The unique Slocum Brook Vault geological feature showing proximity to Lily Lake reservoir infrastructure.



The Slocum Brook Vault from above north rim. Trail on right headland owned by Town could provide a safe look-off location.



Slocum Brook Vault from below. Vault walls unstable. Notable microclimate, microenvironment, wildlife habitat.

Proposal for next steps:

1. Seek approval of Council for establishment of a working committee with Middleton town and Municipality of Annapolis County recreation and technical staff input and SNBRA, to develop a draft strategic plan for subsequent Town Council and public consideration.

2. With assistance of town personnel confirm property boundaries; Lily Lake watershed infrastructure management needs; current contractual agreements; and the legal process for change of jurisdictional status from municipal reservoir designation to public use area.

3. Meet with adjacent landowners to obtain input.

4. Develop a promotion and marketing strategy using a cluster site approach. Incorporate latest communications technology and message planning for various target audiences, with strategic sign/ map placement and messaging to encourage touring visitors to use local services.

5. Plan signage and other media use to promote a heritage/geography ‘touring route’ including Gates Mountain, Port George, Cottage Cove Provincial Park, Mount Hanley, and Middleton. Present themes including North Mountain volcanic origins, Bay of Fundy shoreline, Joshua Slocum, Clarabel Marshall historical figures, Middleton town, railway history.



Prepared by Annapolis County Recreation staff this sign serves to introduce the Upper Clements Multi use trail park.
It presents the routes map, rules, safe practices, user liability, partners etc.

Project Contributors:

1. Region of Annapolis County.

2. Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association (SNBRA).

3. NSCC Applied Geomatics Research Group(AGRG)

Other potential partners:

4. Businesses, Canadian Armed Forces, recreational and senior's organizations.

5. NGO's supporting heritage conservation and recreation.

6. Nova Scotia Departments of Renewable Resources NS Environment, NS Department of Transportation.

7. Clean Annapolis River Programme, NS Flood Risk Reduction, and Protected Areas programmes including NS Nature Trust.

FIN

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Monday, October 5, 2026, at 6:30pm

A regular monthly meeting of the Committee of the Whole of Middleton Town Council was held in person and on YouTube Live on Monday, October 5, 2026.

PRESENT

Chairing the meeting, Mayor Gail Smith, Deputy Mayor Gary Marshall, Councillors John Bartlett, Dan Smith, Bernadette Knapp, Darren Boates and Jonathan Archibald; Interim Chief Administrative Officer, Kevin Matheson, and Recording Secretary, Sara Marceau.

Also in attendance: Waye Mason, Craig Parsons

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

261005.01: It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda, as circulated. **Motion carried.**

3. PROCLAMATION

3.1 Mayor Smith proclaimed October 2026 as Mi'kmaq History Month in the Town of Middleton.

3.2 Mayor Smith proclaimed October 2026 as Disability Employment Awareness Month in the Town of Middleton.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes – September 8, 2026

No errors or omissions were noted, and the minutes were considered approved.

5. ANYTHING BY CITIZENS

Nothing to report.

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6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 RFD 058-2026 Draft Waiving Fees for Affordable Housing Policy

Interim CAO Matheson provided a brief update on the Draft Waiving Fees for Affordable Housing Policy.

Councillor Archibald asked for clarification, noting that applicants do not have to be a not-for-profit organization and asking whether this could also include a private developer.

- Interim CAO Matheson stated that this is not exclusive to those creating affordable housing.

261005.02 It was moved and seconded that That Council approve the Waiving Fees for Affordable Housing Policy as presented. **Motion carried.**

6.2 RFD 067-2026 Flag Policy

Interim CAO Matheson gave a brief overview of the Flag Policy.

Councillor Archibald noted that the Acadian flag was not listed and asked whether it could be added, stating that it would be a natural inclusion.

- Interim CAO Matheson advised that it had not yet been requested.

Mayor Smith suggested that, as the Town of Middleton does not currently have a flag, the Town should consider whether this is something it should look into.

Incoming CAO Mason suggested holding a competition within the community to develop a Town flag.

Councillor Archibald suggested adding a Town flag to the list.

261005.03 It was moved and seconded That Council approve the Town of Middleton Municipal Flag Policy as presented. **Motion carried.**

6.3 RFD 068-2026 Street Banner Policy

261005.04 It was moved and seconded that Council approve the Town of Middleton Street Banner Policy as presented. **Motion carried.**

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7. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 Community Concerns/Complaints as of September 2026

Interim CAO Matheson stated that the Community Concerns/Complaints as of September 2026 has been circulated to all members.

7.2 Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Report as of September 2026

Interim CAO Matheson gave a brief overview of the Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Report as of September 2026.

7.3 Climate Risk Assessment, Final Report

Interim CAO Matheson gave a brief overview of the Climate Risk Assessment, Final Report.

Councillor Smith expressed surprise that tick-borne risks were ranked among the top 10. Interim CAO Matheson noted that Lyme disease is considered a high risk.

261005.05 - It was moved and seconded that COTW accept the receiving of the Climate Risk assessment report. Motion carried.

8. ANYTHING BY MEMBERS

Councillor Smith asked about the lack of audible alerts at the crosswalks and requested that the cost of adding the feature be investigated. Deputy Mayor Marshall explained that the audible beep can be deactivated by the buttons and should automatically reactivate, noting that the system and embedded asphalt sensors may be repairable. Incoming CAO Mason asked about the sensors' age, configuration, and whether the flashing beacons have an audible alert. Deputy Mayor Marshall noted that the lights operate differently at certain times of day.

Councillor Smith requested a refresher on Council's responsibilities and asked about the three-way stop at North and School Streets, noting that Council should have been made aware of it. He also raised the issue of the van blocking the intersection and stated that the matter needs to be addressed.

- Interim CAO Matheson explained that the matter falls under the Traffic Authority, which is the Director of Public Works, Adam Verran, and confirmed that it is a three-way stop. He acknowledged that an email had been sent to Council to advise them of the change.

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Councillor Smith stated that Council should be made aware of such matters before others are notified.

- Deputy Mayor Marshall asked whether the situation falls under the site triangle requirements that have previously been discussed and questioned how those requirements would be enforced.

Councillor Archibald noted that a resident had come into his place of business and expressed concerns about the three-way stop. A resident also raised concerns about garbage between the Dollarstore and expressed gratitude to staff for getting the agenda package out early.

Deputy Mayor Marshall attended a fundraiser for both the Macdonald Museum and the Middleton Railway Museum and commended both organizations for a very well-done event.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 7:09pm.

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MAYOR RECORDING SECRETARY

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