

TOWN OF LUNENBURG  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING AGENDA**  
Tuesday, October 7, 2025 | 6 pm  
Lunenburg Town Hall – Council Chamber  
120 Townsend Street



**NOTICE:** COTW meetings are open to the public and held in Town Hall. **Please use the back entrance at 120 Townsend Street.**

The public can also watch meetings through Zoom. To livestream this meeting starting at 6 pm, use this Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88956545878>

Meeting recordings are also available on the Town's [YouTube](#) channel.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

This meeting takes place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people. We are all Treaty people.

**3. ADDITIONS/ DELETIONS TO AGENDA**

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

4.1 October 7, 2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda

**Recommendation:** That Committee of the Whole approve the agenda for the October 7, 2025 meeting as presented.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

5.1 September 2, 2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

**Recommendation:** That Committee of the Whole approve the minutes from the September 2, 2025 meeting as presented.

**6. PRESENTATIONS**

**7. CORRESPONDENCE**

*Correspondence items included on the agenda have been submitted for Council's information and do not imply endorsement by the Town. The content of correspondence reflects the views of the author and has not been independently verified. Should Council wish to take action on an item, a motion must be made.*

7.1 Livestreaming and Recoding Meetings – Paula Rennie

**8. BUSINESS ARISING AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

9.1 Information Report: Town & Water Utility Capital Projects Status Updates

9.2 Information Report/Request for Direction: Livestreaming and Recording Meetings

9.3 Information Report: Moratoriums on Development

9.4 Grant Funding Request: Tharangam Lunenburg

Recommendation: That Committee of the Whole recommend that Council authorize a cash grant of \$500 to Tharangam Lunenburg to support their participation in the October 18, 2025, Chendamelam celebration in Mississauga, Ontario, as part of the Atlantic Canada ensemble.

**10. NOTICES OF MOTION, INFORMATION REQUESTS AND COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

**11. CLOSED SESSION**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES  
TOWN OF LUNENBURG**

September 2, 2025 | 6 pm  
Lunenburg Town Hall - Council Chamber



- 
- Present Mayor Jamie Myra, Deputy Rachel Bailey, Councillors Alex Greek, Debbie Dauphinee, Renea Babineau, Gale Fullerton, Alison Strachan
- Also present Paul Nopper, CAO  
Tyson Joyce, Director of Public Works  
Marc Kiely, Director of Community Development  
Kayla Byrne, Municipal Clerk
- Call to Order The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- Land Acknowledgment The Chair recognized Lunenburg's location on the unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.
- Approval of Agenda Moved and seconded that Committee of the Whole approve the agenda for the September 2, 2025 meeting as presented.  
**Motion carried unanimously**
- Approval of Minutes Moved and seconded that Committee of the Whole approve the minutes from the April 29, 2025 meeting as presented.  
**Motion carried unanimously**
- Moved and seconded that Committee of the Whole approve the minutes from the May 6, 2025 meeting as presented.  
**Motion carried unanimously**
- Correspondence - Veteran's Memorial Crosswalk Council considered a request to install a veterans memorial crosswalk in town, ideally in place for Remembrance Day. Staff highlighted that while similar crosswalks are common in other communities, there are considerations around risk management, liability, paint types, and placement. Concerns were noted from the Department of Transportation regarding impacts on accessibility and safety, including possible slip hazards.
- Councillors discussed possible design options (including using Bridgewater's template), suitable locations near the cenotaph, and the importance of communication with the community. It was suggested that the matter also be reviewed by the Accessibility Advisory Committee.
- Council agreed to table the matter until October, when staff will return

with the additional information.

Snow Removal  
Policy Updates

Council reviewed a staff report recommending amendments to the Town's Snow Removal Policy to explicitly clarify that snow clearing services will not be provided on private roads or driveways, and to formally discontinue the long-standing practice of servicing Bonavista Court and Knickle Road Extension.

Staff noted that while the Town has historically ploughed and salted these two private roads on a call-in basis for several years, this practice is inconsistent with the current policy, introduces safety and liability risks, and is not typical of municipal services in Nova Scotia.

Councillors expressed differing views: some supported discontinuation for fairness and liability reasons, while others favoured a grandfathered arrangement given the long history, significant property taxes paid, and the residents' limited access to other municipal services.

Staff are expected to bring back an updated report for Council consideration that outlines options for a grandfathered agreement for Bonavista Court and Knickle Road Extension, including revised rates that reflect actual costs plus an appropriate markup; considers adding conditions such as requiring acceptable road conditions and/or a right of refusal for unsafe circumstances; clarifies amendments to the policy to prevent future servicing of additional private roads.

Sustainable  
Infrastructure Fund  
Grant Program

Council considered staff's request for input on designing a cost-sharing grant program related to the street service extension policy and to be funded through the CMHC Housing Accelerator Fund.

Direction from discussion included:

- Intake process: Council members expressed clear preference for case-by-case review of applications (rather than fixed intake dates). This would give flexibility and allow adjustments as the program evolves. Smaller-scale requests could be delegated to the CAO.
- Eligibility: Strong support to limit funding to multi-unit residential projects, excluding single-unit dwellings.
- Town's share of costs: General agreement to keep the Town contribution capped at 50% for private developers. Council indicated an openness to a higher contribution (75/25 split) for non-profit or co-operative housing projects.

- Funding allocation: Council supported initially allocating about \$200,000 to the program and then reviewing uptake over time.
- Per-project caps: Councillors indicated they would not like a hard cap at the outset.

Staff will return with a draft revised policy for Council's review at an upcoming meeting.

Affordable Housing  
Tax Relief Policy

Council provided direction on the design of an Affordable Housing Tax Relief Policy.

Councillors indicated a preference for Model A with a step-down schedule over a fixed flat rate, with a shorter overall term (10 years, not 15).

Staff will return with a draft revised policy for Council's review at an upcoming meeting.

Recess

The Chair called a recess from 7:19 p.m. until 7:28 p.m.

Prioritizing the  
Motion Action List

Council reviewed the Motion Action List and prioritized each item, ranging from three-month, six-month and beyond. A final version of the prioritized list is expected to be reviewed at an upcoming meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the September 2, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

---

Minutes were read and approved.

Paula Rennie  
211 Cumberland Street  
Lunenburg, NS

September 5, 2025

Mayor Myra, Deputy Mayor Bailey and Councillors Babineau, Dauphinee, Fullerton, Greek and Strachan

RE: Zooming and recording of committee meetings

Dear Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors,

I am writing to request that committee meetings that involve public participation be offered over Zoom and recorded, in order to ensure that all interested citizens are able to participate and/or watch the recorded meeting at a later date. I understand that the PAC will be holding a public participation meeting later this month and it would be helpful if it was available on Zoom and recorded.

I look forward to your response.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Rennie

## INFORMATION REPORT

**Subject:** Status Updates: Town & Water Utility Capital Projects

**From:** Tyson Joyce, Director of Public Works/ Town Engineer

**Date:** September 26, 2025

---



### Recommendation

This is an information report only. Should Council wish to move forward further as identified within the Report, a motion is required to direct Staff.

### Background

The Town and Water Utility Capital Budgets for Fiscal Year 2025/26 were approved by Council on May 27, 2022. This Report is intended as a progress update from Public Works in the period since the passing of the Budgets for Council's information.

### Discussion

A brief summary of budget items based on their progress in late September is outlined below:

#### 1. Completed Projects

##### *Town Budget*

- **Flashing Beacon Lights** – Four sets of rapid flashing beacons were installed at locations on Victoria Road, Green Street and Dufferin Street. Project successfully completed in June.
- **Fire Hall – Concrete Apron Replacement** – New reinforced concrete apron in front of the bay doors is in place and available for use.

##### *Water Budget*

- **Chlorine Scale Upgrades** – Six additional scales have been installed and configured with our SCADA system to provide more accurate information for Operators.

#### 2. Projects In-Progress

##### *Town Budget*

- **Storm Separation Plan** – Onsite flow measurements and site investigations have been performed to be able to model our system effectively were performed earlier in the Summer. Currently in the process of verifying and refining the model to allow scenarios to be run and then the storm separation plan to be defined. Expected completion in Fall 2025.
- **Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrades & Expansion** – Excavation for SBR Tank has been completed and the reinforced concrete base for the tank has been poured. Excavation of the additional electrical room foundation has been performed. Other trades work has also commenced. Expected completion in Summer 2026.

- **Brook Street Lift Station Upgrades** – Exterior improvements to roof and building shingles being made by Public Works are underway. Expected completion for exterior work in Fall 2025.
- **Bandstand Restoration & Accessible Walkway** – Work continues on the structural restoration and new accessible walkway to replace pathway and steps. Expected completion in Fall 2025.

***Water Budget***

- **Repair Spillway** – New spillway construction and dam strengthening have been completed. Eel ramp is being fabricated and shall be installed when ready. Expected completion in Fall 2025.

**3. Projects in Preliminary Stages**

***Town Budget***

- **Town Hall Roof Repairs** – Project was awarded by Council on September 22 with an estimated five week schedule to stop water intrusion. Expected completion in Fall 2025.
- **Old Fire Hall Roof Membrane Replacement** – Request for Proposals (RFP) closes October 2 for scope to stop water leaks through roof. Planned completion in Fall 2025.
- **Lunenburg Academy Roof Repairs** – As per direction received from Council on August 19, Public Works is working with the Consultant to prepare alternative documents for a revised smaller scope. Expected completion in Fall 2025 to allow the Tender for the roof repairs to proceed in early 2026.
- **Urban Forest** – RFP closes on October 1 for tree supply and planting at 23 nominated locations within the Town. Expected completion in Fall 2025.
- **Pelham St Sidewalk Design** – Reallocated funds from Starr St sidewalk went to the design of the sidewalk renewal on Pelham between Shipyard Hill and Town Limits. RFP closes on September 29. For the design, expected completion in Winter 2025/2026 to allow construction to proceed in 2026/27 (if approved by Council).
- **Pelham St Reconstruction** – Project was awarded by Council on September 9 and is set to commence construction in early October. Scope includes sanitary, storm and road improvements. Expected completion in Fall 2025.

***Water Budget***

- **Water Meter Rollout** – RFP was awarded by Council on August 19 and Staff are finalizing preliminary details with proponent. Meter installs are expected to commence late in 2025. Expected completion of installs in Spring/Summer 2026.

**4. Projects Facing Possible Deferral or Postponement**

***Town Budget***

- **Lunenburg Academy Public Washroom Site Preparation** – Council directed Staff at Committee of the Whole on June 24 to revisit the temporary washroom item at the Academy in Spring 2026.
- **New Salt Truck** – An RFP was issued earlier in the year, closing in May. Due to a supply chain issue, none of the options were in accordance with Public Works preferences and all Proposal were significantly in excess of the allocated budget.

- **WWTP – Biofilter Media** – Public Works has had a subject matter expert review the condition of the existing biofilter material, and along with the current scope for the WWTP Upgrades & Expansion Project, it has been decided that Spring 2026 is a better time for this work to proceed.

### **Strategic Plan Relevance**

Capital Construction Projects are part of the Servicing and Facilities Strategic Direction of the Town's Comprehensive Community Plan; a town where the long-term infrastructure needs of the community are met through strategic management and incremental, well-phased upgrades that are financially sustainable.

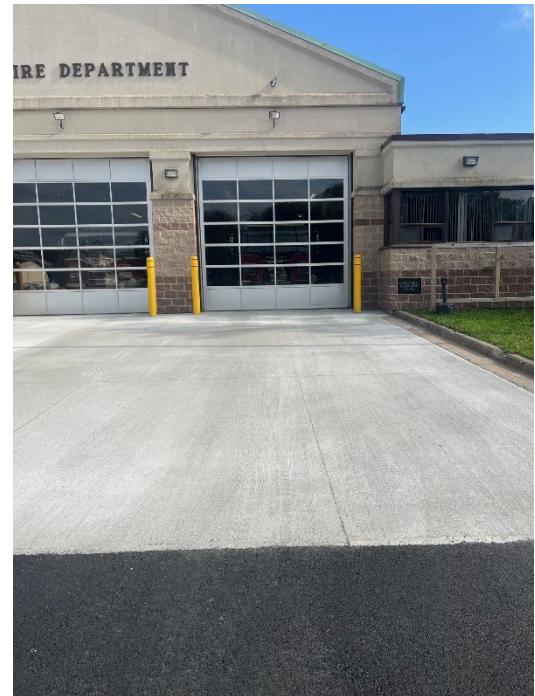
### **Financial**

The details in the Report are based on the Approved Capital and Town Budgets for fiscal 2025/26 (as passed on May 27, 2025) and subsequent directions provided by Council.

### **Attachments**

Photographs of Capital Projects for fiscal 2025/26:

1. Flashing Beacon Lights (upper) and Fire Hall Concrete Apron Replacement (lower)



2. Chlorine Scale Upgrades (upper) and Repair Spillway (lower)



3. Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades & Expansion – SBR tank construction (upper) and New Electrical Room (lower)



## INFORMATION REPORT/REQUEST FOR DIRECTION

Subject: Livestreaming and Recording Meetings  
From: Kayla Byrne, Municipal Clerk  
Date: Oct.7, 2025 – COTW Discussion

---



### Recommendation

That Committee of the Whole provide direction on livestreaming and recording practices; and direct staff to update any policy or terms of reference to reflect this direction.

### Staff Recommendations

#### 1. Council and Committee of the Whole meetings:

**Livestream & publish recordings? Yes.**

*Staff rationale:* Council and Committee of the Whole meetings are the formal venues where Council conducts its business, debates matters of public interest and makes decisions. Livestreaming and recording these meetings ensures that the community can observe Council's work directly, even if they are unable to attend in person. This practice promotes transparency, accountability, and accessibility by providing a reliable public record of Council's decision-making process.

#### 2. Planning proposals at Council meetings:

**Livestream & publish recordings? Yes.**

*Staff rationale:* Staff are restructuring this process so that initial presentations on Land Use Bylaw amendment requests or similar planning documents are first delivered at a Council or COTW meeting, where Council will then refer, if it chooses, the item to the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) and the Public Participation Meeting (PPM) process. When the same information is later shared again at a PPM or PAC meeting, an additional recording is not necessary, as the original presentation is already available as part of the public record.

#### 3. Advisory Committees of Council:

**Livestream & publish recordings? No.**

*Staff rationale:* Advisory committees are made up of councillors and resident volunteers. Members are not required to have professional or technical expertise related to the committee's focus area – their role is to act as a peer review group outside of broader public input. They are expected to ask questions, engage in discussion, and share perspectives that help them understand the matters before them.

Advisory committees do not have decision-making authority. All recommendations are compiled by staff and presented to Council, where debate and decisions take place in meetings that are

livestreamed and publicly archived. This ensures transparency where it matters most: at the Council table.

Livestreaming or recording advisory committees can create barriers. The permanence of broadcasting may discourage volunteers (who are not elected officials) from speaking freely or testing ideas. It can also shift discussions from dialogue toward performance, reducing the quality of input. Broadcasting can further reinforce power dynamics: councillors, who are accustomed to speaking on the record and have greater access to background information, may feel more comfortable, while resident representatives may hesitate to ask questions or share perspectives. This risks privileging some voices over others, rather than supporting the open peer review these committees are intended to provide.

*Pros of livestreaming/recording advisory meetings:*

- Enhances transparency by allowing residents to see the discussions that inform recommendations.
- Increases visibility of the work committees do, highlighting volunteer contributions.

*Cons of livestreaming/recording advisory meetings:*

- May discourage open dialogue and reinforce power dynamics, privileging those comfortable on the record.
- Risks confusing residents about where decisions are made, since committees are advisory only.

Note: As shown in the municipal scan (below), some municipalities choose to livestream select committees (Finance or Police Advisory Committees), but many do not livestream advisory bodies at all.

#### 4. Public Hearings

**Livestream & publish recordings? Yes.**

*Staff rationale:* Public Hearings are a formal part of Council meetings. Unlike PPMs, which occur earlier to gather open community input, the Public Hearing is typically the final opportunity for people to provide comments on a proposal before Council makes its decision. Because these hearings form part of a Council meeting, they are included in the official public record and subject to the same livestreaming and recording standards as Council meetings.

#### 5. Public Participation Meetings (PPMs):

**Livestream & publish recordings? No.**

*Staff rationale:* PPMs are used for certain planning matters as a way to gather input early in the process. They provide an informal, open space where the public can share their perspectives

directly with staff before a proposal is finalized. Staff then compile this input, along with other information, into reports and recommendations for Council's consideration.

These sessions also serve as an opportunity for residents to hear about a proposal, ask questions, and seek clarification. At this early stage, comments may sometimes be based on incomplete or incorrect information. Archiving these discussions could unintentionally perpetuate misinformation, rather than supporting a constructive exchange of views.

These sessions are designed for participation, not observation. Recording or broadcasting can discourage people from speaking freely, shift the focus away from the intent of the session, and create barriers instead of ensuring an even playing field for all voices.

All input gathered is treated equally. Instead of being archived online, it is summarized and presented by staff to Council as part of the decision-making process.

#### 6. Working Groups/ Task Forces:

**Public Meetings? No.**

**Livestream & publish recordings? No.**

*Staff rationale:* Working groups are intended as informal, staff-led bodies that provide advice, expertise, or perspectives to municipal staff on specific projects or initiatives. Unlike Committees of Council, which are formally established by Council and governed by the Municipal Government Act, working groups are not decision-making or governing bodies. Instead, they serve as an extension of staff's research and consultation processes.

#### **Alternatives**

As an alternative to the above, staff recommend that Public Participation Meetings and Advisory Committee meetings could be livestreamed but not publicly archived. This would give residents the chance to watch discussions in real time without creating a permanent public record that might discourage open conversation. Input and recommendations would still be gathered by staff and brought forward to Council,

#### **Background**

At its Aug. 19, 2025, meeting, Council made a motion directing staff to prepare a report for reviewing the Town's current practices for livestreaming and recording Council and committee meetings, identifying which types of meetings should be livestreamed, and including a scan of livestreaming practices in other Nova Scotia municipalities.

#### **Discussion**

The Town currently livestreams and records Council and Committee of the Whole meetings only. These recordings are then archived on the Town's YouTube channel. This approach is consistent with several other Nova Scotia municipalities.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Town expanded livestreaming and recording to include most public meetings, such as Audit, Heritage, and Planning Advisory Committees.

Since early 2023, this broader practice has been phased out. Livestreaming and recording of meetings beyond Council and Committee of the Whole have been sporadic, with the most recent practice being to not livestream or record advisory committees or Public Participation Meetings (as these were historically hosted by the Planning Advisory Committee).

### **Legislative Requirements**

There is no requirement to livestream meetings or to make audio/video recordings of them.

### **Other Considerations & Recommendations:**

#### *Input from the Regional Accessibility Coordinator & the Anti-Racism and Diversity Coordinator:*

Both coordinators expressed support for the staff recommendations. They emphasized that recording or broadcasting participation-based meetings can discourage open dialogue, reinforce power imbalances, and create risks for underrepresented community members who may feel unsafe or unwilling to share their views on the record.

The Accessibility Coordinator encouraged reiterating the importance of offering accommodations and choices for how people participate, ensuring that barriers to in-person attendance are addressed. The Anti-Racism and Diversity Coordinator echoed these concerns and provided practical examples where public exposure deterred residents from participating in equity-focused committees. They noted that while transparency is important, safe spaces must be prioritized to encourage honest feedback.

As a possible compromise, the Anti-Racism and Diversity Coordinator suggested Council could consider occasional livestreams for advisory bodies, such as annual or quarterly “AGM-style” meetings.

Note: The Regional Accessibility and Anti-Racism and Diversity Committees are not livestreamed and recordings are not publicly archived.

*Accommodations and virtual participation:* Per existing TOL practice and policy, anyone who wishes to virtually participate in any public meeting may do so by contacting staff. Members of the public can also submit written submissions to staff and Council.

#### *What happens with public input and advisory committee recommendations?*

- Public input: Any input that is not submitted as a written letter is summarized by staff. These summaries note how many people participated and highlight the key themes that arose, rather than providing a verbatim account of what each person said.

Advisory committees: Recommendations from advisory committees are presented in a staff report to Council.

Publishing recordings: Recording committee and public participation meetings is a good tool to help verify the record if needed, but it is not recommended to publish them publicly. These sessions are about gathering early input, not making decisions, and putting them online can give too much weight to what are really just preliminary discussions and clarifying questions. Public archiving can also make people less comfortable sharing openly when the goal is to create a space for honest feedback.

Accessibility and meaningful public participation: Best practices in public participation emphasize creating spaces where the public feels comfortable sharing their perspectives without fear of being scrutinized. Livestreaming and archiving participation sessions can discourage people from speaking openly, shifting the dynamic from dialogue to performance. This can create barriers for those who are less confident, marginalized, or unsure of the details of a proposal, while privileging those who are more comfortable speaking on the record. These kinds of power dynamics can reduce the diversity of voices heard and limit the value of the input collected.

Staff recognize that some residents may prefer livestreamed or recorded sessions for convenience. However, the intent of participation and advisory committee meetings is to foster open, candid dialogue. To balance accessibility with this goal, staff provide the option for residents to participate virtually upon request. This ensures access for those unable to attend in person, while avoiding the “spectator effect” of passive livestreaming. All input is formally summarized and presented to Council, where deliberations are livestreamed and recorded in full.

Staff resources: Livestreaming and operating the A/V equipment typically requires an additional staff person per meeting.

Scan of livestreaming practices in other NS municipalities: Through the Association of Municipal Administrators of NS email list, staff asked municipalities to share their livestreaming practices. The responses show that while livestreaming of Council and Committee of the Whole–style meetings is common, livestreaming of public participation or advisory committee meetings is less common.

Municipality	Council Meetings	COTW style meetings	Public Participation Meetings	Advisory Committee Meetings
Town of Amherst	✓	✓	✓	✓
Town of Bridgewater	✓	X	X	X

Municipality of Cumberland	✓	✓	X	Just Police Advisory Committee
Town of Stewiacke	✓	✓	X	X
Town of Oxford	✓	✓	X	X
Town of Middleton	✓	X	X	X
Town of Kentville	✓	✓	✓	✓
Municipality of Chester	✓	✓	X	X
Municipality of the District of Lunenburg	✓	✓	Depends on the topic	Only Finance Committee is livestreamed and recorded. All other advisory committees are audio-recorded and posted on municipal website.
Town of Mahone Bay	✓	X	X	X
East Hants	✓	✓	X	Only Police Advisory
Barrington	✓	✓	X	X

### Financial

There is no direct financial impact. However, livestreaming evening meetings typically requires an additional staff person to operate audio/visual equipment.

## INFORMATION REPORT

**Subject:** Information Report: Moratoriums on Development

**From:** Paul Nopper, Chief Administrative Officer

**Date:** September 30, 2025

---



### Recommendation

That Council receive this report for information regarding moratoriums on development.

That Council not pursue a moratorium on development at this time. Instead, Council should continue with its stated priority of bringing forward draft MPS, LUB, and CCP amendments within the next **3 – 6 months**.

### Background

Council has expressed concerns regarding current development processes and has indicated interest in amending the Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS), Land Use By-law (LUB), and the Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP).

Specific concerns include the scope of “as-of-right” development permitted under existing planning documents. Council has therefore discussed the concept of placing a moratorium on larger-scale development projects until these documents can be amended through a public consultation process. Depending on the extent of amendments required, this process could take 6–8 months or longer.

### Discussion

Staff have obtained legal advice on the matter of moratoriums. The advice is clear: Council cannot impose a moratorium on development—whether large or small. However, Council does have the following options to help manage development activity while amendments are underway:

- **Development Agreements / Permits under the MGA**

Development can be managed through agreements or permits. Once initiated, timelines are dictated by the Municipal Government Act (MGA). However, Development Agreements may only be considered where the MPS explicitly enables them. The Town's MPS outlines specific policies that authorize development agreements for particular uses or circumstances. Outside of these policy-based permissions, Council does not have the authority to enter into development agreements.

- **Adjusting Process Timelines**

Council may pace or sequence public participation meetings and Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) reviews.

- **Amending Planning Documents**

Council has full discretion to defer or deny any request to amend the Land Use By-law (any request that is not as of right). Council may decline to initiate a by-law amendment if it determines the request is inconsistent with the Municipal Planning Strategy, not in the public interest, or premature relative to ongoing policy work.

Under LUB s.219(3): *“A council shall not adopt or amend a land-use by-law except to carry out the intent of a municipal planning strategy.”*

- To enable a moratorium, Council would first need to amend the MPS, which requires:
  - A full public participation process under MGA s.204
  - Engagement with neighbouring municipalities under MGA s.205
  - Compliance with all formal procedures for adopting planning documents

It is also important to note that:

- **Developers’ rights are protected under current planning documents.** Any complete applications received before new amendments take effect remain valid.
- If Council initiates a moratorium process, developers may accelerate applications before changes are in force, reducing the intended effect.

### **Strategic Policy Context**

- **CCP s.3.1** highlights Lunenburg’s aging population and the need to attract younger residents and professionals. It emphasizes housing diversity, partnerships, and flexible regulations to meet changing demographic and economic needs.
- **MPS s.2.2.1** identifies specific housing challenges:
  - Rising median age (from 50.5 in 2006 to 56.1 in 2016)
  - Declining household sizes (from 2.2 to 2.0 persons per household)
  - Need for smaller, barrier-free housing options within a historic building stock
  - Pressure on housing availability from short-term rentals and seasonal service industry demand.

Both documents reinforce the importance of enabling diverse, affordable, and flexible housing options. Freezing development through a moratorium could undermine these objectives by limiting housing supply at a time of demonstrated need.

## Conclusion

While Council's concerns about managing growth and updating planning documents are valid, a moratorium on development is **not legally feasible** and may create unintended consequences. Staff recommend focusing on the timely advancement of planned amendments to the MPS, LUB, and CCP, with draft proposals targeted within the next three months.

**Subject:** Grant Funding Request: Tharangam Lunenburg  
**From:** Paul Nopper, Chief Administrative Officer  
**Date:** September 29, 2025

---



## **Recommendation**

That Committee of the Whole recommend that Council authorize a cash grant of \$500 to Tharangam Lunenburg to support their participation in the October 18, 2025, Chendamalam celebration in Mississauga, Ontario, as part of the Atlantic Canada ensemble.

## **Alternatives**

1. That Council deny the request for a cash grant to Tharangam Lunenburg.
2. That Council approve a grant in a different amount, up to a maximum of **\$750.00**, to support Tharangam Lunenburg's participation in the event.

## **Background**

Tharangam Lunenburg is the first and only Chendamalam (Kerala traditional percussion) ensemble in Atlantic Canada. Since their inception, the group has been dedicated to preserving and promoting Kerala's cultural heritage while fostering intercultural connections across Canada.

They have performed at a range of significant community and cultural events, including:

- Canada Day Celebrations
- Sydney Cultural Events, Nova Scotia
- Truro Multicultural Festival
- Lunenburg community events
- Bridgewater cultural programs
- PEI cultural gatherings
- Bluenose Academy

Each performance has showcased the vibrancy of Kerala's traditional percussion while bringing cultural awareness, inclusion, and community pride to diverse audiences.

## **Opportunity in Mississauga**

The invitation to perform at the October 18, 2025, celebration in Mississauga represents both recognition of Tharangam Lunenburg's contributions and a chance to highlight Atlantic Canada's cultural diversity on a national stage.

The group plans to bring 21 artists from Nova Scotia to Ontario, resulting in significant travel and event-related expenses. Support from the Town would help offset these costs while ensuring that Lunenburg and Atlantic Canada are represented at this prominent cultural gathering.

In return, the ensemble has offered to acknowledge the Town's contribution publicly at the event, on social media, and through their community networks.

### **Discussion**

Tharangam Lunenburg enriches the cultural offerings of the Town and contributes to its reputation for cultural inclusivity. Providing support for their participation in this national event is an opportunity for Council to assist a local organization while enhancing Lunenburg's visibility.

If funding is approved, Council may also wish to provide Town of Lunenburg pins and a Town flag, to be displayed at the event as a symbol of community representation.

### **Financial Considerations**

Discussions with the Finance Department confirm that no requests for funding have yet been received under current grant allocations:

- \$2,000.00 (teams or students)
- \$8,000.00 (traffic control)
  - Note: Remembrance Day and Christmas Parade allocations remain outstanding.

In fairness to other community organizations, the average grant awarded this year has been **\$500.00**. Should Council wish to provide additional funding, it is recommended that the amount not exceed **\$750.00**.