



Arcadia

Council Meeting Minutes

Location: Jemseg Fire Hall, Jemseg

Date: Monday, January 5, 2026 – Committee of the Whole

Time: 7:00 pm

1) Call to Order

Mayor Sharpe called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. In attendance were Mayor Sharpe, Deputy Mayor Sharpe, Councillor Black, Councillor Thomson, Councillor Mennier, Councillor Gahan-MaGee, Councillor Gordon, CAO Bedford and Clerk McGarity.

Mayor Sharpe welcomed everyone to the meeting and read Arcadia's Vision and Mission statements:

- **Vision Statement:** *"A united community where rural lifestyle, harmony with nature, and a relaxed pace of life thrive, creating a foundation for sustainable growth, unity, and well-being for all".*
- **Mission Statement:** *"To foster a vibrant and inclusive rural community by engaging with residents, collaborating with partners, and maintaining open governance. We are committed to preserving Arcadia's natural beauty, enhancing our quality of life, and building a harmonious future through thoughtful planning, sustainable services, and a shared sense of unity".*

2) Approval of the Agenda

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Sharpe and seconded by Councillor Gordon to approve the agenda as presented.

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

3) Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

Mayor Sharpe asked if there are any conflicts to declare pertaining to the approved agenda. No conflicts were declared.

4) Approval of the Minutes

a) Committee of the Whole Meeting – December 1, 2025

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Sharpe and seconded by Councillor Gordon to approve the minutes from the Committee of the Whole Meeting on December 1, 2025.

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

5) Correspondence

- No items discussed

6) Presentations and Discussions

a) **Presentation: Arcadia's ACTivate Cohort – Gros Morne Institute for Sustainable Tourism (GMIST)**

- Arcadia was one of six community groups accepted into the 2025 ACTivate program held at the Gros Morne Institute for Sustainable Tourism (GMIST)
- David Makepeace, Steven Tubbs, Karrie Bedford, Jenn Ball, and April Wilson attended the course in Gros Morne National Park in Newfoundland with full scholarships, with all costs being covered.
- The ACTivate program supports community minded individuals who wish to learn how to provide a citizen-led approach to community development. It is aimed at those who wish to explore the strengths of their community as opposed to focusing on the deficiencies. It applies an asset-based community development approach.
- Discover, connect, and mobilize are the core principles of the ACTivate program.
- Moto: A great place to live is a great place to visit.
- Appreciative interviewing, wall of abundance, community map, and the leaky bucket are all exercises to consider and understand all the positive assets each community has.
- Next step: ACTivate Arcadia: January 12, 2026 12:00pm-3:00pm at the Gagetown Recreation Centre
 - Concept is to understand what our community is all about
 - Help unite Arcadia by creating a sense of unity and shared purpose among residents
 - Aligns with two pillars of Arcadia's Strategic Plan: Building Arcadia and Connecting Arcadia
- There will be 6 winter sessions – one in each ward to understand what is important to each community
- Questions:
 - Deputy Mayor Sharpe: This is a great logical approach for our community and it takes community involvement and engagement to do this. This will be very successful.
 - Councillor Gahan-MaGee: There is an older community map that could be used as a starting point. The ACTivate group has gathered these local community maps and took them to Gros Morne with them

b) **Presentation: Rob Cohoon – Arcadia Economic Development**

- The Arcadia economic development project is centered around the Gagetown Marina
- The vision is to empower the community to participate in the ownership and development of the Gagetown Marina and the purpose is to establish the marina as a viable, thriving contributor to the economic growth of Arcadia, Gagetown and surrounding communities.
- The Marina has long been a vital part of Gagetown's identity and economic activity. It attracts significant seasonal traffic that supports existing businesses, draws in new revenue, visitors, and growth opportunities. Community involvement ensures local voices shape the region's economic future and a community-owned approach strengthens long-term sustainability and shared prosperity.
- The Marina is currently under-utilized but holds significant potential for growth and revitalization for Arcadia as a whole. With the Pub closed and the Marina about to be

listed through an international broker, now is the critical moment for community action. Community-led acquisition and redevelopment can restore vibrancy, improve services, and re-attract boaters and visitors.

- The plan is to raise \$1 million through the sale of \$1,000 debentures/shares. Establish a legal structure with options being Non-Profit or Co-operative structure with community involvement and a locally elected Board of Directors. Will continue working with guidance from Ignite Program Consultant. The immediate priority is to gauge community interest and begin raising seed funding as soon as possible, given the short timeline before the upcoming season.
- A Non-Profit or Co-op model could open access to additional funding programs that the project may qualify for. This initiative provides a unique opportunity for community members to have direct ownership and influence over the Marina's future.
- Questions:
 - The idea is not to purchase assets, but to purchase the businesses. This will allow everything to stay the same.
 - There is a legal team ready to look at this idea, but the current stage is to see if there is interest from community to move this forward.
 - This is the third public meeting. The idea has been shared on Facebook and has been shared with boaters using the Marina.

7) Mayor and Councillor Updates

Councillor Gordon

- The first draft of the Arcadia Emergency Response Plan has been distributed to the Public Safety group for review and hopeful to bring to the Committee of the Whole in February for discussion.

Councillor Mennier

- Currently working with CAO Bedford and Ignite on a draft Economic Development and Tourism Strategy plan.
- Would be beneficial to bring back some of the working groups for Economic Development and Tourism. Part of the strategy being developed by Ignite will help direct working groups that are needed to move forward.

Deputy Mayor Sharpe

- Cambridge-Narrows Wharf repairs have been completed for the winter. Concrete work will continue in the spring when weather allows.
- Renovations at Gagetown Medical Clinic will begin on Thursday.
- A group of volunteers were recently at the Cambridge-Narrows Community School to serve breakfast to staff, students, and bus drivers.
- Arcadia, along with other community organizations, supported the New Years Eve Fireworks at Mill Cove Nursing Home. There was a great turnout of nursing home residents and community members to enjoy the show.

Councillor Gahan-MaGee

- No updates at this time.
- Website is complete; date to go live will be announced shortly.

Councillor Black

- The 2026 Arcadia Operating Budget was approved by Council.
- CAO Bedford and Councillor Black opened a warming shelter at the former Cambridge-Narrows Municipal Building during the last outage. Discussed how we will communicate with community the criteria to opening warming shelters.
 - Part of emergency response planning, shelters are not required to open until 72 hours after the outage.
 - Residents are asked to have a 72 hour emergency kit prepared and available in their homes.
 - There were no residents who came to the warming shelter, which speaks highly of our community as most residents are prepared and neighbors are helping each other.
 - Our fire departments are aware of residents who may need assistance that they check in with.
 - If you or someone you know would like to be included on this list, please contact the office or your local fire department.
 - In order for warming shelters to open, we require volunteers.

Mayor Sharpe

- Participated in the recent Capital Region Service Commission review
- Field trip with MLA Don Monahan to local wood lot business owner.
- Meeting with MLA Minister Kennedy regarding fiscal constraints pertaining to services in Arcadia since local reform.
- Attended presentations by Irving Woodlands and the Gagetown Marina session
- Attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting.
- Committee of the Whole
 - The Local Governance Act requires all municipalities to follow specific regulations, whether you have 1 staff member or 200 staff members. Moving to a Committee of the Whole allows our staff resources to be better allocated
 - It allows all councillors to be informed and for discussion to occur without making any decisions. Decisions will be made at the following Regular or Special Council meeting, if needed.
- Working Groups
 - Working groups allow staff, council, and community members to work on specific projects, and bring information back to the Committee of the Whole for discussion.
 - Committee of the Whole can recommend staff to put a call out for volunteers for a working group that they deem necessary and aligns with Arcadia's Strategic Plan.
- At the first Committee of the Whole meeting on December 5, 2025, staff recommended the following working groups to be formed:
 - Lagoon
 - Wharves
 - Medical Services
 - Recycling
 - Fundraising

- There is currently a group of people who work in Emergency Services fields that have been working on the Emergency Response Plan that should be considered to follow through with this document. It is recommended that they will continue as a working group.
- By putting the call out for volunteers, it allows us to find community members that have expertise or a keen interest that we may not know of. It is important to have volunteers come forward.
- It was recommended by Committee of the Whole for staff to move forward and issue a call for volunteers for the recommended working groups as presented.
- Councillor Mennier: Can we look at having a focus working group for Economic Tourism & Expansion? There is a lot of talent, knowledge, and experience in our community that we can include in our discussions.
 - CAO Bedford: It would be recommended to have a niche project to have the working group focus on.

8) Upcoming Meetings

- February 2, 2026 – Jemseg Fire Hall

There will be a Community Meeting on Tuesday January 27, 2026 at 7:00pm at the former Cambridge-Narrows Municipal Building. All public are welcome to attend.

9) Motion to Adjourn

Mayor Sharpe thanked all presenters, council, staff, and community members for attending.

It was moved by Councillor Black and seconded by Deputy mayor Sharpe to adjourn at 8:38 pm.
With all in favour, the motion was carried.



 Mayor Clinton Sharpe



 Clerk Jessica McGarity

