

# Arcadia

## Council Meeting Minutes

Location: Jemseg Fire Hall, Jemseg

Date: Monday, February 2, 2026 – Committee of the Whole

Time: 7:00 pm

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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 Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Trebble.

2) Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Sharpe removed item 6b) Presentation: Nove's Place Foundation as she was unable to be here this evening. Mayor Sharpe also adjusted the order of the agenda to be as follows:

- Item 5 will be Presentations and Discussions
- Item 6 will be Mayor and Councillor Updates
- Item 7 will be Correspondence

*It was moved by Councillor Gahan-MaGee and seconded by Councillor Gordon to approve the agenda as amended.*

**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 – January 5, 2026

*It was moved by Councillor Gordon and seconded by Councillor Black to approve the minutes from the Committee of the Whole Meeting on January 5, 2026.*

**With all in favour, the motion was carried.**

5) Presentation and Discussions

a) Presentation: Chris Goddard

- Purchasing the Steamer Stop Inn is a strategic opportunity for Council to protect a defining piece of the village core and ensure it continues to serve the community's interests. This approach reflects asset-based community development by building on what Gagetown already has: a heritage property, a vibrant waterfront, a creative community, and a strong sense of place.

- This idea has stemmed from the initiative currently being undertaken for the Gagetown Marina. It is an opportunity brought forward for Council to consider if it is feasible.
- The Steamer Stop Inn is a fully operational, year-round commercial property that includes seven rentable guest rooms, fully equipped restaurant and pub, indoor and outdoor event capacity, and a waterfront footprint.
- Strategic rationale for municipal acquisition guarantees that this location remains aligned with community values and long-term planning objectives by ensuring long-term public water access, protection of heritage character, prevention of inappropriate or incompatible redevelopment, and decision-making that reflects community priorities.
- Revenue will be generated through accommodations, a leased restaurant/pub/café, future transient dock activity, event rentals, and tourism grants and subsidies.

Mayor Sharpe thanked Chris for his well-presented business case study on the Steamer Stop Inn. Councillor Mennier agreed with Chris to the point that the Steamer Stop Inn is a critical part of Gagetown and would hate to see that change to a private redevelopment. The municipality is not in the position to purchase the property, however, a model such as the co-operative model currently being explored for the Gagetown Marina would be beneficial to consider; this will allow the property to be in the hands of the community.

b) Presentation: Life at the Lakes

- Inés von Waldow presented on behalf of Life at the Lakes giving an overview of what it is, the history of how it became, and what this coming year look like.
- The purpose of Life at the Lakes is to encourage interest in natural and cultural heritage; to encourage sharing of history and genealogy; to highlight local artists, artisans, and performers; to encourage people to discover, by interaction, their community; and to partner with community organizations and businesses.
- Last year, there were 15 vendors located all around the lake, with a map showing the location of each.
- Life at the Lakes is a free event for everyone to attend. This year, the festival will be held August 2 to August 9, 2026.

c) Presentation: Christmas in the Village

- Anita Elste presented on behalf of Christmas in the Village giving an overview of the success of this year's event.
- Thank you to Council for the generous support for the horse and wagon rides at this year's event.
- This year was the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas in the Village with 59 vendors at 24 locations.
- The decorations along the street were beautiful. The addition of horse and wagon, photo ops, and fire pits for warming stations were a huge success.

d) Working Group Update: Rural Plan

- First working group meeting was held on January 20, 2026. There are approximately 20 community volunteers working with Gemtec, who has been contracted through Capital Region Service Commission to complete the rural plan for Arcadia.
- The working group will be meeting monthly until September.
- There will be two public open houses, tentatively scheduled for March and September.

e) **Working Group Update: ACTivate Arcadia**

- Three more upcoming sessions are scheduled across Arcadia. The focus will be on discovering more of what our communities' strengths are, what is valued and why, and what makes us unique and a great place to live. Participants will be led through several activities and introduced to Asset-based Community Development principles: focusing on what we do have.

6) **Mayor and Councillor Updates**

**Councillor Gordon**

- Councillor Gordon, Mayor Sharpe, and CAO Bedford met with EMO last week to discuss the draft Arcadia Emergency Response Plan. There are a few changes to make prior to bringing to Council for discussion.
- Every other Wednesday morning at 10:00am, the Upper Gagetown Women's Institute is hosting Coffee, Tea & Company. This is a free event that anyone can attend.
- Crib is held every other Thursday evening at the Upper Gagetown Women's Institute.
- Every other Saturday morning, the Upper Gagetown Lions Club hosts a breakfast from 8:00am-11:00am.
- Darts is held every other Saturday evening at the Upper Gagetown Lions Club.
- Camp Medley is currently raising funds for a new pool facility. The new facility will be expanded to include community use alongside camp use.

**Councillor Mennier**

- Many events taking place weekly at the Legion.
- The Harry Vail Regatta will be taking place at Harts Lake on June 19-21, 2026.
- Intrigued by Chris Goddards presentation this evening. We may not be able to make the purchase as a municipality, but we can advocate for the development of the waterfront.

**Councillor Thomson**

- Would like to recognize a volunteer firefighter, George Lacey, who has retired after 20+ years with the Gagetown Fire Department

**Deputy Mayor Sharpe**

- Jemseg Lions Club newsletter is circulated at the beginning of every month.
- Would like to recognize Marge from Cambridge for her contribution to promoting events happening all across Arcadia.
- In 2025, Arcadia's building permit assessments were valued at \$10,750,000.

**Councillor Black**

- Cambridge-Narrows Recreation Building continues to be very busy with activities. Make sure to look at the website calendar for all events taking place.
- Pickleball is also being held multiple times a week at the Cambridge-Narrows Community School.
- The Cambridge-Narrows Regional Library is currently operating with winter hours. The Library is run by a group of volunteers, with students joining for the summer months.
- Nove's Place and Copper Shore participated last weekend in FROSTival with very successful events.

- Community is welcome to attend any home games that the Cambridge-Narrows Community School is hosting. Current sports underway include basketball and volleyball, with both men's and women's teams participating.
- The Gagetown School is currently fundraising for a new scoreboard. Arcadia could allocate some of the recreation budget to support this effort.
- Cambridge-Narrows Community School Alumni Basketball game is scheduled for this Friday at 7:00pm with the high school teams taking on past graduates who played for the Huskies.
- Have had a few new community members reach out with questions on how to navigate the rural plan. This speaks for how we need to have a rural plan that can be easily understood.

#### **Councillor Gahan-MaGee**

- Website is complete; date to go live will be announced shortly.
- Signage for Arcadia is underway. The office is working with a company to design the signage to be used across Arcadia.
- The Youngs Cove and Waterborough Wharves are in transition of being signed over to Arcadia.

#### **Mayor Sharpe**

- Weekly meetings with CAO Bedford.
- Attended Capital Region Service Commission meetings as they undertake the Agricultural Asset Mapping project
- Meeting with Department of Transportation & Infrastructure regarding ditching and brush cutting for the upcoming months.
- Arcadia Community Meeting was held on January 27, 2026.
- Physician recruitment meeting to discuss the Gagetown Clinic. The physicians that visited had concerns with the building being small with possible privacy issues.
- Public Works planning meeting was held to discuss upcoming maintenance and repairs for this year.
- Attended Coffee & Cards at the Cambridge-Narrows Regional Library.

#### 7) Correspondence

- Two building permits for the month of December.
- Postmaster in Cambridge-Narrows is retiring.
- Received Dog Control Summary from SPCA for the past quarter with 2 calls/investigations being recorded.
- Draft policy for Donation of Land
- Draft policy for Future Community Fund Scholarships
- Capital Region Tourism is looking for any events that are taking place that they can include in their advertising.
- Resident concerns brought forward regarding potential subdivisions and keeping of animals have been shared with Capital Region Service Commission
- For anyone interested in running for Mayor or Council, more information can be found through Elections NB.
- If you currently do not have a family physician, make sure to register with NB Health Link. This is how residents are chosen for a family physician when there are openings. Based on current registration with NB Health Link, it does not look like many local residents are in need of a family physician. Make sure that you are registered.

- As a reminder, there is currently a Call for Volunteers for multiple working groups for any community members interested in volunteering.

8) Upcoming Meetings

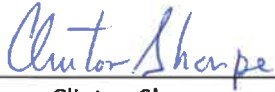
- March 2, 2026 – Jemseg Fire Hall

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 Councillor Gordon to adjourn at 8:34 pm.*

**With all in favour, the motion was carried.**



Mayor Clinton Sharpe



Clerk Jessica McGarity

