



## COMMUNITY WELL-BEING TASK FORCE

March 9, 2026, at 2 p.m.

Moosehead Room, Garcelon Civic Center

### Chair:

Councillor Marg Harding

### Recording Secretary:

Celeste Caswell, Executive Assistant

### Voting Members:

Pete Stubbs, Community Representative

Jeff Renaud, CAO

Rob Lambert, Community Representative w/l 300 m of shelter

Anthony Hall, Community Representative

Cpl. Peter Lambert, RCMP

### Non-Voting Members Present:

Kathy Bockus, MLA

### Not Present:

Mayor MacEachern

### Guests:

Andrea Duplisea, Clinical Lead, Addictions and Mental Health

| AGENDA ITEM                 | DISCUSSION NOTES   |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. Welcome                  | Attendance taken; Minutes from Feb. 2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting were approved by all voting members present.   |
| 2. Review of Priority Items | Concerns were raised that the shelter does not belong within a residential neighbourhood and that the current location should be phased out in accordance with the Municipal Plan and Zoning Bylaws. Discussion also included interest in provincial standards for shelter operations, noting that these standards are still in draft form. Members expressed a desire for a provincial inspection or oversight process to ensure compliance and accountability. |

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| <p>3. Review of Action Items from last meeting</p>                    | <p>1. Shelter Rules: The shelter rules were noted as being updated periodically and the current version was reviewed. Clarification was provided that the shelter does not permit alcohol. Members were advised to contact law enforcement for incidents occurring on surrounding public property. The rules apply to the full premises, both inside and outside. Questions were raised regarding the handling of personal belongings, including storage, locker access, and key control. It was noted that lockers are intended for resident use with keys held by staff, and that related policies may require legal review. Clarification was requested regarding items listed as weapons in the rules.</p> <p>2. Provincial Engagement: An update was provided on provincial discussions, including anticipated departmental representation. Members were also advised of an upcoming Social Development event at the Garcelon Civic Center on March 24th, including a panel discussion with Minister Hickey and Minister Miles.</p> |
| <p>4. Request for Life Preserver at Wharf and/or along waterfront</p> | <p>A report was presented by Kev Sumner, Director of Parks and Community Services. The floating dock is in place seasonally from May to October. Estimated costs for installing life-saving equipment range from approximately \$300 to \$1,000 per station. Existing safety signage and the length of the river trail were noted, along with concerns regarding vandalism. The request originated from family advocacy. Additional signage related to tidal waters and potential support from partner organizations were discussed. A recommendation to purchase initial life-preserver stations at key waterfront and boat launch locations was supported and will plan to forward to Council for consideration after follow up information received on possible station donations (April meeting)</p>   |
| <p>5. Topics for future meetings</p>                                  | <p>Draft material related to shelter best practices and service delivery was referenced but not shared. Members emphasized the importance of advocating for treatment and support services alongside shelter operations. It was noted that detox and rehabilitation services involve wait times ranging from days to months. Discussion included reducing substance use within the shelter, clarifying and consistently applying rules, and addressing flexibility during extreme weather conditions. Members also discussed coordination with partner organizations, reporting back to the community, and ongoing downtown safety concerns, including lighting and awareness of security infrastructure.</p>  |
| <p>6. Next Meeting Date</p>   | <p>Confirmed April 13<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.</p>   |
| <p>7. Follow up items for next meeting (Next Steps)</p>               | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Follow up on official appointment of Dept. of Social Development Representative</li> <li>2. Follow up on possible donation of floatation device(s) and station(s)</li> <li>3. Follow up on any developments with Provincial standards being drafted and/or implemented</li> <li>4. Follow up on camera locations around Post Office/Heritage Building</li> <li>5. Task Force review of shelter rules to create list of questions for clarification by Neighbourhood Works.</li> </ol>  |