

**TOWN OF STELLARTON  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
March 23, 2026**

**MEETING**

A Committee of the Whole meeting of Stellarton Town Council was held on Monday, March 23, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the large Committee Room, Stellarton Town Hall.

**PRESENT**

Chair Deputy Mayor G. Pentz, Councillor S. Campbell, Councillor S. Eis, Councillor M. Fortune, and Mayor D. Stroud. Also, present Marketing and Communications, P. Draper.

Regrets were received from A. Grover.

1. **Call to Order** Chair G. Pentz called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved on motion Mayor D. Stroud, seconded by Councillor S. Campbell.

**Motion Carried.**

3. **Presentation: Carissa Ainslie, Executive Director, Creative Pictou County**

Carissa Ainslie presented an overview of recent activities and a proposed community project. She also thanked the Town for bridging fund support.

She highlighted completed projects and noted ongoing programming, including exhibitions and artist support through the deCoste Culture Hub.

A proposed project, pending Arts Nova Scotia Funding, would involve two artists creating distinct artworks based on community stories and contributions. One piece will be installed in Stellarton and the other in New Glasgow. The project is to be completed by March 2027, with public unveilings planned for spring 2027.

Key priorities include improving financial sustainability, expanding partnerships (including tourism), increasing use of studio space for revenue, and strengthening communications to support engagement and fundraising.

Carissa was thanked for her presentation.

4. **Approval of Previous Minutes – February 26, 2026.**

A page of the minutes from the February 26, 2026 meeting was missing from the agenda package. Approval of these minutes will be deferred and considered at the next Committee of the Whole meeting, along with the minutes of the March 23, 2026 meeting.

## **5. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

## **6. Correspondence**

- a. Warden Nicholas MacInnis, Municipality of the County of Antigonish, Re:  
Letter of support for Antigonish Coalition to End Poverty

Correspondence from Warden Nicholas MacInnis, Municipality of the County of Antigonish, regarding support for the Antigonish Coalition to End Poverty was included in the agenda package. P. Draper noted the item was for information only, with no action required.

## **7. Volunteer of the Year Selection**

P. Draper reported that seven nominations were received and circulated anonymously for review prior to the meeting. Paige will contact all nominees and invite them and their guests to the Volunteer Appreciation Reception in April.

## **8. Request for Support**

- a. National Big Chair Month

Communities are being invited to participate in a proposed national initiative for May called National Big Chair Month. P. Draper noted that Ian Turner, producer of the “Big Chairs” is behind the initiative. The goal is to encourage residents and visitors to take photos with their town’s “big chair” and share them on social media or community pages. Participation would not require purchasing a new chair as the town could use its existing one. Each week in May would feature a different theme.

Councillor M. Fortune indicated willingness to assist with communication and coordination, potentially working with other municipal communities collectively.

Staff were asked to gather additional information and explore participation.

## **9. Council Committee Updates**

- *Pictou County Sports Heritage Hall of Fame:*  
Councillor M. Fortune reported initial contact made; no active initiatives at this time.
- *144 Construction Engineering Flight (CEF) Committee:*  
Mayor D. Stroud advised a new Chair has been appointed. The committee is seeking a representative. Councillor S. Eis expressed tentative interest, pending availability.

- *Riverview Home Corporation:*  
Councillor S. Eis – reported that the recent provincial budget has had a significant impact. The Home’s finances remain unchanged.
- *The Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library Board:*  
Facing an approximate \$150,000 shortfall due to loss of anticipated funding; Councillor S. Eis reported fundraising efforts underway.

**10. Round table**

- Inquiry received regarding potential development of former mine lands; no confirmed plans at this time. Discussions with the owner’s of the mine are ongoing.
- Mayor D. Stroud confirmed no known plans regarding relocation rumors of Viola’s Place to Stellarton.
- Council discussed concerns related to a proposed regional power generation project and potential impacts.

**11. Next meeting date: April 27, 2026**

**12. Adjournment** Councillor M. Fortune.