

Attendance:

Anne Bishop, Community Member, Co-Chair
Domenic Padula, Community Member, Co-Chair
Izzy Rayworth, Community Member and West Hants Pride Liaison
Jess West, Community Member
Kim Hoadley, Community Member
Ed Nugent, RCMP Representative
Karrie-Ann Wilkie, Health Board Representative
Kayla Leary-Pinch, Councillor
Mark Phillips, WHRM CAO
Vanessa Lake, WHRM Planning Assistant/Meeting Secretary
Katie Rose, WHRM HR Manager
Brielle Pyette, WHRM Acting Living Coordinator

Guest:

Karen Cooper, Windsor Township Business Association Program Coordinator

1) Call to Order

At 6:01pm, Anne called the meeting to order.

2) Acknowledgements

Anne delivered the Land Acknowledgement and Peoples Acknowledgement.

3) Attendance and Introductions

Quorum was achieved. Karen Cooper, Program Coordinator for the Windsor Township Business Association (WTBA), was in attendance to discuss WTBA events and how to make them more inclusive. Everyone briefly introduced themselves.

4) Approval of the Agenda, Including Additions or Deletions

Brielle will be providing an update on the calendar of events. Karen's discussion will be held before Ongoing Business.

Moved by Domenic Padula and seconded by Izzy Rayworth that the agenda be approved as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

5) Declaration(s) of Conflict of Interest

No conflicts were declared.

6) Announcements

Domenic shared that POSSE will be hosting community meals and information sessions this summer throughout West Hants. These events will introduce the POSSE Project and what they do, information on how to help the unhoused, offer training and education on harm reduction, as well as naloxone training. The RCMP, Chamber of Commerce, and other groups have been invited as well. The events will be held in Hantsport (June 3), Windsor (June 15), Centre Burlington (June 10), and Vaughan (June 24), each beginning at 5:00pm. Reach out to Domenic or POSSE for details. Invitations will be sent via email.

Karrie-Ann shared that the Day of Caring will be held on May 30 from 1-4pm, at the West Hants Sports Complex. Though all are welcome, the event is intended for the vulnerable populations who need it most (those facing or at risk of homelessness and the income insecure). At this event, there will be “targeted vendors” where individuals can get free ID cards, gently used clothing, haircuts, social insurance numbers, and more. This is a partnership between the West Hants/Uniacke Community Health Board, WHRM, the POSSE Project, and Service Canada.

Anne shared that she and Michel Bourgeois, Chair of the Accessibility Committee, met with municipal staff from different departments to discuss the naming policy as described in Strategic Action 2 of the Equity Plan. She added that there is a lot of work being done on the federal level at this time, too, with Parks Canada reviewing historic plaques across the country to update antiquated language and beliefs (colonial assumptions) and to add more context.

Using the information Mattea collected, Brielle has compiled a list of commemorative dates and monthly observances, narrowing it down to about 1-3 events for each month. Whether it will be a big public event, social media post, or something else, will be decided. Brielle will send this list out to the Committee via email and is accepting more input. She noted that new items cannot be added for this budget year, as the budget has already been passed.

7) Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The meetings of March 9, 2026, and April 13, 2026, did not achieve quorum and no minutes were taken.

8) Consultation With the WTBA on Making Events More Inclusive

Karen asked for suggestions on how to make WTBA events more inclusive and accessible. Karen and the Committee discussed diverse types of food/snacks, music, “swag” (giveaway items), locations and activities. The hope is to have giveaway items that are practical and/or won’t be thrown away or left behind, and food that caters to a diverse population with a variety of dietary needs. Karen left the meeting after the discussion. Anne will share Karen’s contact information with the Committee for sharing any other ideas.

9) Ongoing Business

a) Reviewing 2025-28 Strategic Actions

The Committee continued reviewing the 2025-28 strategic actions within the Equity Plan, continuing where they left off at 18.2. Several action items are under way. At the next meeting, the Committee will discuss which items are of highest priority. For some items, it was noted that staffing limitations may hinder the ability to proceed. Unfortunately, there are currently no grants or funding available for additional positions. Some action items have not been started. The Committee will discuss how to best move forward and assist staff if possible.

During this discussion, the Committee’s budget was brought up. Mark believes the Committee received the \$20k they requested, but he will have to confirm. Some of this amount was earmarked for local festivities during an earlier discussion on the budget. The Committee will review their plans at the next meeting.

10) New Business

b) Membership

The Committee currently has 3 vacant positions, making it difficult to achieve quorum. Everyone was encouraged to reach out to their networks to see if anyone they know is interested. With respect to intersectionality, the Committee is looking for people who identify as youth (under

30), African Nova Scotian, and/or Indigenous Peoples. Domenic noted the cultural differences and difficulties on Indigenous recruitment. The Committee discussed how they can accommodate and compromise between municipal requirements and cultural sensitivity. Ed can also reach out to the DOJ for suggestions on Indigenous recruitment.

Moved by Iza Rayworth and seconded by Jess West that the Diverse, Equitable, and Inclusive Communities Committee recommends that Council amend the Meeting and Committee Procedural Policy so that the Committee can appoint an Indigenous representative without the standard application process or Council approval. Motion carried unanimously.

c) Emancipation Day

Community Development will be hosting an event and barbecue at Panuke Park. Darcell Cromwell has been invited to sing. The Committee discussed other guests they could invite and Brielle will follow-up.

d) Liaison with the NS Health ADAPT project

The NS Health ADAPT team is ready to work with the DEICC to help with community outreach. Domenic was open to being the liaison between Health ADAPT and the Committee.

11) Adjournment/Next Meeting Date

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:44pm. The next meeting is scheduled for 6:00pm on June 8, 2026, and will be held in the Council Chambers at 100 King Street, Windsor. A notice will be sent out if there are any changes.