WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
Diverse, Equitable, Inclusive Communities Committee Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2026, 6:20-7:50pm
Council Chambers, 100 King Street, Windsor

West Hants
something inspiring awaits

Attendance:
Anne Bishop, Community Member, Co-Chair
Domenic Padula, Community Member, Co-Chair
Izzy Rayworth, Community Member
Jess West, Community Member
Kim Hoadley, Community Member
Tim Doyle, RCMP Representative
Kayla Leary-Pinch, Councillor
Katie Rose, WHRM HR Manager
Brielle Pyette, WHRM Acting Living Coordinator

Regrets:
Karrie-Ann Wilkie, Health Board Representative
Vanessa Lake, WHRM Planning Assistant/Meeting Secretary

1) Call to Order

At 6:20pm, Domenic called the meeting to order.

2) Acknowledgements

Domenic delivered the Land Acknowledgement and Peoples Acknowledgement.

3) Attendance

Quorum was achieved. All voting members were present.

4) Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Jess West and seconded by Anne Bishop that the agenda be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

5) Declaration(s) of Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts.

6) Announcements

Domenic and Katie shared that Souls Harbour Rescue Mission will operate a 30-bed warming shelter out of Harvest House starting in November. It will be low barrier, with all welcome, run by professional staff. Volunteers will be incorporated only in meal preparation. They have ensured there will be no discrimination against drug or alcohol use, religion, gender, sexuality, etc. The Committee members welcomed this as good news.

Domenic reported that there are currently 92 homeless people in Windsor, according to the recent count. This includes people sleeping in their cars, staying in campers or couch surfing, not just people living in tents. Three people have been housed during the last month, in Kentville's new 30-apartment supported living building.

The Committee congratulated Brielle and the Recreation staff on the Treaty Day event and on hosting the Glooscap Mawiomi. Both events were very well attended and a lot of fun.

7) Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Moved by Jess West and seconded by Anne Bishop that the previous meeting minutes be approved as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.

8) Ongoing Business

a) Budget – Vote

Brielle informed the Committee that the Diversity Events budget was taken out of the Community Development budget and placed fully into the DEICC budget. The DEICC thought it was only a portion. Whereas CD has proceeded with these events with the understanding that it was initially to be a shared cost, they are requesting to be fully reimbursed from the DEICC budget. Anne and Domenic acknowledged the reimbursement need.

There were no changes made to the budget documents presented in May, except acknowledgement of need to transfer requested costs for events run by CD, including Emancipation Day and Treaty Day.

Moved by Domenic Padula and seconded by Jess West that the Diverse, Equitable, and Inclusive Communities Committee budget be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

b) Recruitment and Membership

While there have been a few expressions of interest, these did not translate into formal applications. Jess's son intends to apply for the youth position. The Committee discussed better ways to advertise and recruit new members.

Anne and Domenic are at the end of their terms and are not re-offering for the Committee. They are working on a written reflection that they will distribute to the Committee as well as Council and staff. They summarized some of the points verbally. Everyone thanked them for their contributions as the Committee's founding chairs.

The Committee celebrated some of the accomplishments of the past four years and discussed some of the blocks and challenges that the committee has faced.

c) Equity, Anti-racism and Accessibility Plan

Anne provided a document outlining the work her sub-committee had done so far on Strategic Action #2. Part of the action is to develop a policy for naming and re-naming municipal assets. Her report and draft policy were included with the agenda package. She does not want this work lost during the Committee transition.

Anne met with municipal staff, and this resulted in a decision to separate road and street naming policy from a policy for naming community and recreation assets. Tracy Babineau, WHRM's Civic Addressing Coordinator, will carry this forward into a new policy for road and street naming.

Moved by Anne Bishop and seconded by Jess West that the DEICC forward the document to Community Development and Recreation for further consideration. Motion carried unanimously.

An item that has been on the Committee's radar since the beginning is the plaque at the entrance to the Community Centre celebrating Thomas Haliburton. It belongs to the Historical Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, which has an established review process. Nova Scotia's representative on the Board is Russell Grosse of the Black Cultural Centre. The process would be to request a review. The Committee decided to ask Council to write a letter to the Board. If that request is turned down, Anne will do it as an individual citizen.

Moved by Anne Bishop and seconded by Iza Rayworth that DEICC recommends that Council write a letter to the Historical Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, copied to Russell Grosse, Nova

Scotia Representative, to conduct a reassessment of the Haliburton plaque at the Windsor Community Centre. Motion carried unanimously.

The sub-committees are currently inactive because of the small membership and limits on volunteer time. Domenic suggested that when the Committee comes together in its new form, under a new chair, that it organizes itself around the items in the budget that was passed earlier in the meeting.

Jess returned the conversation to the accomplishments of the Committee over the past four years, listing the flag raising and celebration events for Pride, Emancipation Day and Treaty Day, the coordination of equity policy between the middle and high school, and the positive coordination that has taken place with Council, staff and the RCMP Detachment.

9) Adjournment/Next Meeting Date

The meeting adjourned at 7:50pm. The next meeting is scheduled for 6:00pm on November 9, 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.