

Lunenburg Harbour Health Advisory Group

Terms of Reference

Definitions

1. **'Advisory Group'** or **'Group'** refers to the standalone Lunenburg Harbour Health Group.
2. **'Chair'** means the person elected by the Group to preside at meetings.
3. **'Vice Chair'** means the person elected by the Group to preside at meetings when the Chair is unavailable;
4. **'Director'** refers to the Executive Director or Assistant Director for Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation;
5. **'Members'** means members of the Lunenburg Harbour Health Advisory Group;
6. **'Quorum'** means 50% + 1 of the membership of the Group

Mandate of the Group

The Lunenburg Harbour Health Advisory Group is a standalone advisory entity facilitated by Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation (Coastal Action) for the purposes of protecting the health of Lunenburg Harbour through the identification of threats and development of feasible solutions.

Group Objectives

1. Provide a forum for discussion on issues affecting the health of Lunenburg Harbour.
2. Consult with, advise, and make recommendations pertaining to existing and potential threats to the health of Lunenburg Harbour. Resulting advice and recommendations could be directed at one or all levels of government, as well as industry, depending on the issue and jurisdiction.
3. Consult with, advise, and develop potential solutions for harbor health improvements. This will include recommendations based on the results of the proposed harbor monitoring program.
4. Promote communication and collaboration between various stakeholders.
5. Assist with developing and delivering relevant communication and outreach tools and materials for public engagement.
6. Pursue funding opportunities for monitoring program and other potential solutions that result from the group.

Group Membership

1. The members of the Advisory Group shall consist of twelve (12) members and five (5) resource personnel. Members will consist of the following:
 - a. Two (2) municipal government representatives
 - i. One (1) from the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg (Mayor or Councillor)
 - ii. One (1) from the Town of Lunenburg (Mayor or Councillor)
 - b. Two (2) citizen representatives
 - i. One (1) from the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg (preferably from the Garden Lots area)
 - ii. One (1) from the Town of Lunenburg
 - c. Four (4) industry representatives, who have a footprint that impacts Lunenburg Harbour (i.e., either owns property adjacent to the harbour or operates adjacent to or within the harbour)
 - d. Two (2) business community representatives, who have a stake in the health of the harbour
 - e. Two (2) tourism / recreation representatives, who have a stake in the health of the harbour

Resource personnel will consist of the following:

- f. Staff from Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation, which could include;
 - i. Brooke Nodding, Executive Director
 - ii. Shanna Fredericks, Assistant Director
 - iii. Sarah MacLeod, Water Quality Specialist
 - g. Staff from Town of Lunenburg
 - h. Staff from the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg
 - i. Staff from Nova Scotia Environment, Environmental Inspector for the area
 - j. Environment Canada Marine Water Quality Specialist
2. All Group Members are volunteers and are appointed to the group for a three (3) year term.
 3. A Chair and a Vice-Chair will be appointed by group members at first formal meeting and will be elected on an annual basis.
 4. Each member will serve on the group without remuneration.

Expectations of Group Members

Group members are expected to:

1. Understand the mandate of the Group.
2. Understand their role as a Group member.

3. Understand the role of the Group Chair.
4. Strive to attend all scheduled and special group meetings.
5. Prepare for meetings by reading agendas and any background information supplied.
6. Actively participate in the discussion and decision-making process.
7. Undertake any work assigned, including special projects, participation on sub-committees and research.
8. Be open-minded and allow for a variety of opinions to be heard.
9. Respect the individual worth and dignity of opinions of other Group members and maintain a high degree of decorum.
10. Refer to the Chair for questions and procedure.
11. Recognize the limitations on participation and inform the chair of your limitations.
12. Ask questions and seek clarification through the Chair or resource personnel.
13. Respect the decisions and finality of the Group.
14. Clearly identify and orally disclose any conflict of interest, and refrain from any discussion which could influence the opinions of Group members.
15. In a public forum, clearly identify when they are speaking in their capacity as a group member, or as an independent citizen, where appropriate.

Appointment of Sub-Committees

1. The Group may appoint a sub-committee from its members to investigate and report on any matters related to Group business, provided that:
 - a. The sub-committee, reports directly to the appointing Group.
 - b. The established sub-committee does not have the power to appoint a further committee nor shall it add to its membership without permission from the Group.

Membership Selection Process & Criteria

1. Prospective members of the Group will be required to submit a completed 'Invitation to Serve' application (Schedule A) to the committee, if stakeholder interest exceeds that of the available positions.

2. The call for the invitation to serve process shall, at minimum, include one notice in the local newspaper and on Coastal Action's website / social media platforms, and provide a minimum of two weeks for responses.
3. All applications received will be reviewed by the Group and decisions on appointments will be done by consensus.
4. Where a vacancy occurs on the Advisory Group, other than by reason of the expiration of the term of a member, the Group upon response to a call for an Invitation to Serve, and review and input from the Group, shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy as soon as possible; and that person shall hold office for the remainder of the term of the member in whose place that person is appointed.

Calling Meetings

1. Meetings will be held three (3) times a year (January, April, and September) unless decided otherwise by the Chair.
2. Special meetings and sub-committee meetings can be called as needed.
3. Regular meetings of the Group shall be held on at least seven (7) days notice, but emergency meetings may be called by the Chair on one day's notice.

Absenteeism

1. If a member is absent without good reason or prior acknowledgement from meetings of the Group for two (2) out of the three (3) meetings in any one (1) year, the Group may declare the position vacant and ask for a replacement member.
2. Should a member of the Committee Group not be able to attend a regular meeting of the Group, the member shall advise the Chair at least one (1) day prior to the meeting unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Meeting Procedures

Procedurally, the following shall be followed:

1. The Group makes recommendations based on general consensus.
2. Quorum shall be a simple majority (50% + 1) of the Group members.
3. Non-quorum meetings shall be permitted, but may not contain any actions to be taken, or recommendations.
4. If the Chair is not present at the group meeting, the Vice Chair shall preside. If the Vice Chair is not present at the group meeting, the members present shall appoint, by consensus, an acting Chair, who will preside for the duration of the meeting.



Administration

1. Proposed agenda items should be submitted to the Director for consideration by the Chair.
2. The Chair is responsible for meeting agenda content and shall review proposed agenda items with the Director before each meeting.
3. No Group member shall instruct or give direction to, either publicly or privately, any resource personnel involved in the group.