

September 3, 2025

COUNCIL MEETING – MINUTES

On Wednesday, September 3, 2025, the Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin held a Regular Hybrid Council Meeting via Zoom and in Chambers, which was streamed to YouTube.

In Chambers:

Mayor Ethel LaValley

Councillor Collins

Councillor Joe Florent

Councillor Joan Kuiack

Councillor Shawn Pigeon

Councillor Laurie Siydock

Councillor Bill Rodnick

Staff: Bryan Martin, CAO/Clerk-Treasurer

Tracy Cannon, Deputy CAO/Deputy Clerk-Planner

1. OPEN MEETING/CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Mayor LaValley called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

3. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

4. ADDITIONS/AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA: None

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by: Councillor Collins

Seconded by: Councillor Siydock

Res. # 25-555

THAT: Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin adopts the Agenda as circulated for the Regular Council Meeting of September 3, 2025.

-Carried-

6. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST OR A GENERAL NATURE THEREOF:

None

7. PETITION, DELEGATION AND/OR PRESENTATIONS: None

8. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Moved by: Councillor Florent

Seconded by: Councillor Kuiack

Res. # 25-556

THAT: Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin adopts the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of July 2, 2025 as circulated.

-Carried-

Moved by: Councillor Collins

Seconded by: Councillor Pigeon

Res. # 25-557

THAT: Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin adopts the minutes of the Human Resources/Administration/Public Relations Committee Meeting of July 16, 2025 as circulated.

-Carried-

Moved by: Councillor Siydock

Seconded by: Councillor Rodnick

Res. # 25-558

THAT: Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin adopts the minutes of the Waste Management Committee Meeting of July 16, 2025 as circulated.

-Carried-

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS, STAFF AND/OR COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

M&L Parks & Recreation Committee

M&L Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes of June 10, 2025 & July 8, 2025 were provided in the council package.

Whitney Recreation Committee

Whitney Recreation, Minutes of Minutes of July 17, 2025 were provided in the council package.

- Committee working on the Fall Festival scheduled for October 5, 2025.

Waste Management Report

- Steve Ronholm, Works Superintendent, submitted a written report recommending that the implementation of bag-tag fees be postponed until January 2026, aligning with the implementation of the recycling program that will be run by the Province. Consensus was to proceed with the January 2026 implementation date.

Council Reports

Councillor Siydock:

- Provided an update from the first Police Service Board meeting on August 11, 2025. T. Cannon to follow up with MTO regarding the electronic speed sign at the OPP station, which has not been functioning all summer.

Councillor Collins:

- Provided an update from the Lyell/Cross Lake cottage association annual meeting held on the Civic Holiday.

Councillor Pigeon:

- There is a washout between Madawaska and Aylen Lake that needs necessary repairs to open this season. Councillor Florent will raise the issue of the trail repairs during a meeting scheduled tomorrow with Jason Dwyer, Manager of Operations for Algonquin Provincial Park, regarding the closure of Opeongo River Provincial Park.

Mayor LaValley:

- Provided an update on the AMO Conference, which she attended alongside B. Martin.

10. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: None

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Councillor Kuiack mentioned the following items;

- Recommended that Council begin work on housing initiatives.
- Recommended that Council initiate discussions on how to mitigate the shortfall resulting from the 5.2% tax increase.
- Inquired about the status of the Bear Mountain Trailhead parking. Staff advised that the matter will be brought forward at an upcoming Economic Development Committee meeting.
- Inquired about the status of the Township assuming maintenance responsibilities for the Madawaska Cenotaph. Staff advised that this will be considered during budget deliberations.
- Inquired whether the previously passed resolution to the Ministry of Transportation regarding speed reduction had been sent out. Staff confirmed the resolution had been sent.

12. CORRESPONDENCE-Action Items

- Resolution of Support; RE: Municipality of Tweed, Challenges Faced By Small Rural and Northern Communities.
- Resolution of Support; RE: Municipality of West Nipissing. Moratorium on Aerial Spraying.
- Resolution of Support; RE: Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan, amendments to Bill C-2, Section 77.5.
- Resolution of Support; RE: Township of Nairn and Hyman, Opposition to the Transportation and Disposal of Niobium Tailings at the Agnew Lake Tailings.
- Resolution of Support; RE: City of North Bay, Northern Ontario Resource Development Support (NORDS) Pilot Program.
- 6) Resolution of Support; RE: FONOM, Nation-Building 2+1 Highway Initiative in Northern Ontario.

13. CORRESPONDENCE-Information Items Received and Filed;

- Draft July 9, 2025 Municipal Dog Pound Board Minutes.
- FONOM RE: Canadian Softwood Lumber.
- St. Francis Valley Healthcare Foundation RE: Emergency Department. Redevelopment & Enhancement of Ambulatory Care Service Project Update.
- MMAH RE: Save The Date - 2025 Northeastern Municipal Council Workshop.
- St. Francis Valley Healthcare Foundation RE: Thank You Letter & Receipt for M & L Recreation Committee Trivia Night Donation.
- Destination North RE: Tourism Sprint Program.

14. NEW BUSINESS:

- Councillor Florent provided a Notice of Motion for the October 1, 2025 Regular Council Meeting regarding a 10-year moratorium on wind turbines within the Township.

15. MOTIONS OF COUNCIL:

Moved by: Councillor Florent Seconded by: Councillor Collins Res. # 25-559

THAT: Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin supports the letter from the Municipality of Tweed addressing the challenges faced by small rural and northern communities; and

THAT this resolution, together with a copy of the letter, be forwarded to Minister Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; Minister Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance; Minister Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs; MPP Billy Denault; Robin Jones, President of AMO; and Christa Lowry, President of ROMA.

-Carried-

Council reached consensus to incorporate a friendly amendment to include MP Cheryl Gallant in the following motion.

Moved by: Councillor Florent Seconded by: Councillor Kuiack Res. # 25-560

THAT: Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin endorses the resolution passed by the Municipality of West Nipissing requesting a moratorium on aerial spraying, and further urges that such a moratorium be extended to include the Township of South Algonquin; and

THAT this resolution, along with a copy of the West Nipissing's resolution, be forwarded to Mike Harris Jr., Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry; Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health; MPP, Billy Denault; Robin Jones, President of AMO; Christa Lowry, President of ROMA; Bancroft, Minden Forestry Office; and MP Cheryl Gallant.

-Carried-

Moved by: Councillor Florent Seconded by: Councillor Pigeon Res. # 25-561

THAT: Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin authorizes the signing and circulation of the draft letter, prepared by FONOM in support of the Nation-Building 2+1 Highway initiative in Northern Ontario.

-Carried-

Moved by: Councillor Florent Seconded by: Councillor Kuiack Res # 25-562

THAT: Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin endorses the resolution passed by the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan pertaining to Bill C-2, section 77.5; and THAT this resolution, along with a copy of the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan's resolution be forwarded to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM); the Ontario Municipal Association; the Minister of Finance, Emma Harrison; MP Cheryl Gallant, and the Ontario Chamber of Commerce.

-Carried-

Moved by: Councillor Florent Seconded by: Councillor Rodnick Res # 25-563

THAT: Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin endorses the resolution passed by the Township of Nairn and Hyman pertaining to the opposition to the Transportation and Disposal of Niobium Tailings at the Agnew Lake Tailings Management; and

THAT this resolution, along with a copy of the Township of Nairn and Hyman's resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines; Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation; Todd J. McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; the Ontario Ombudsman; the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission; MP Cheryl Gallant; MPP Billy Denault; and the Association of Ontario Municipalities.

-Carried-

Moved by: Councillor Florent Seconded by: Councillor Collins Res # 25-564

THAT: Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin endorses the resolution passed by the City of North Bay pertaining to the Northern Ontario Resource Development Support (NORDS) pilot program to address municipal infrastructure pressures from natural resource sector activities; and

THAT this resolution, along with a copy of the City of North Bay's resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness; Minister of Infrastructure; Minister of Natural Resources; MPP Billy Denault; and Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA).

-Carried-

Council reached consensus to incorporate a friendly amendment to include Mike Harris Jr., Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry in the following motion.

Moved by: Councillor Florent Seconded by: Councillor Siydock Res # 25- 565

WHEREAS the Township of South Algonquin recognizes the importance of preserving the natural environment, including the river and shoreline habitat within the boundaries of Opeongo River Provincial Park; and

WHEREAS the Township also acknowledges the historic, recreational, and cultural significance of two long-established motorized trails within the park, one of which has been in continuous use for over 100 years, and another for at least 50 years; and

WHEREAS one of the trails in question follows a route historically used by horse and wagon, then by motor vehicles, and currently by all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), and provides access to an area known locally as the "5 Mile," which holds significant local and historical value tied to the era of river log drives; and

WHEREAS the proposed closure of these trails to motorized access would adversely impact individuals with limited mobility, including seniors and others who rely on ATVs to access recreational and hunting areas; and

WHEREAS the closures are being justified under environmental preservation and policy alignment, despite the park's status as non-operational, and without clear evidence that low-impact motorized use has caused significant harm to the integrity of the river and shoreline habitats; and WHEREAS the Township of South Algonquin was not consulted during the planning or decision-making process regarding the proposed closures, nor was public consultation conducted to gather community input; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin opposes the closure of motorized access to the two established trails within Opeongo River Provincial Park, and calls for a full public consultation process in which the Township is actively involved prior to any final decisions being made; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin urges the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, along with Ontario Parks, to pause any implementation of the proposed closures and to immediately begin meaningful consultations with municipal leaders, local stakeholders, and the broader public; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment Conservation and Parks; Billy Denault, MPP; Jason Dwyer, Manager of Operations, Algonquin Provincial Park and Jennifer Hoare, Zone Ecologist, Ontario Parks, Algonquin Zone and Mike Harris Jr., Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry.

-Carried-

16. BY-LAWS:

Moved by: Councillor Collins

Seconded by: Councillor Kuiack

Res. # 25-566

THAT:

- 1) By-Law 2025-843 Amending Agreement for Integrity Commissioner
- 2) By-Law 2025-844 Conditional Contribution Agreement with Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation
- 3) By-Law 2025-845 to Confirm the Proceedings of Council

BE READ A FIRST TIME AND BE DEEMED READ A SECOND TIME

-Carried-

Moved by: Councillor Kuiack

Seconded by: Councillor Rodnick

Res. # 25- 567

THAT:

- 1) By-Law 2025-843 Amending Agreement for Integrity Commissioner
- 2) By-Law 2025-844 Conditional Contribution Agreement with Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation
- 3) By-Law 2025-845 to Confirm the Proceedings of Council

BE READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED

-Carried-

17. CLOSED SESSION: None

18. ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by: Councillor Florent

Seconded by: Councillor Rodnick

Res. # 25-568

THAT: Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin adjourns the Regular Council Meeting of September 3, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.

-Carried-

The next regular council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 1, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Mayor Ethel LaValley

CAO/Clerk-Treasurer Bryan Martin