

COUNCIL COMMITTEE – PRESENTATION MEETING

The Council Committee/Presentations Meeting of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was conducted virtually via Zoom Webinars and in person, on Tuesday, May 5, 2026.

In peace and friendship, and in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, it was acknowledged that the Municipality of Colchester is in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Christine Blair	
Councillor Paul Weatherby	District 1
Deputy Mayor Laurie Sandeson, Chair	District 2
Councillor Sheldon Richardson	District 3
Councillor Mike Cooper	District 4
Councillor Tim Johnson	District 5
Councillor Nigel Leggett	District 6
Councillor Sherry Martell	District 7
Councillor Marie Benoit	District 9 (absent)
Councillor Lisa Patton	District 8
Councillor Charlene Fletcher	District 10
Councillor Allan Kennedy	District 11

Others Present

Dan Troke, CAO
 Suzanne Graham, Recording Secretary
 Jeanette Himmelman, Systems Analyst
 Phil Redden, Director of Solid Waste

Presentations:

Natural Forces Solar – Colchester Solar Projects
Mitchell Van Oosten, Manager of Product Development and Roby Douglas,
President

Mr. Van Oosten and Mr. Douglas appeared before Council to request a letter of support for their Colchester solar project.

The presentation included information on the company, who do engineering, procurement, construction and maintenance of large scale solar systems. They provided examples of previous projects which includes one at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, a project which is 1.6 acres in size and produces 620 MWh per year.

Mr. Van Oosten then went through the three projects being proposed for Colchester County.

Newton Mills – one of the more advanced projects in development, it would produce 5.8 mega watts AC. This project would produce enough power for the equivalent of 900 homes.

Glenholme – the largest project in development, it would produce 6.3 mega watts AC. The project would generate power for the equivalent of 1,000 homes. They are aware that Colchester is developing a community solar program on the same distribution zone as this project. This doesn't mean both projects can't move forward. It may mean the second project would need to go through additional transmission impact study.

Lower Harmony – the smallest of the three developments, it would produce 4.4 mega watts AC. It would generate power for the equivalent of 700 homes.

Discussion was held on:

- Who will buy the power? Although there is no contract for who will get the power yet, but the intention is for local businesses and/or households to receive bill savings from this project.
- The value of the project. The Colchester portion would be values in the low \$40M range.
- What is the benefit to the landowner? This varies. It could be a percentage of top line revenue. It could be a flat rate. Or it could be a combination of both.
- What is the plan for encroaching growth over the 30-year life of the panel? The area will be mowed or they will potentially bring in sheep herds as they have at a previous location.
- Is there a plan for decommissioning the panels? These projects are typically built with a screw pile, meaning they can be easily removed and recycled. It is also a requirement of their financing that they have a plan in place.

Moved by Councillor Weatherby
Seconded by Councillor Kennedy

“That the presentation be received”.

Motion Carried.

Adjournment:

Moved by Councillor Patton

“The meeting adjourn at 6:40 pm.”

Suzanne Graham
Recording Secretary