



STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 26th, 2026

10:00 a.m.

Oxford County Administration Building Room 129

1. Call the Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Marcus Ryan at 10:00 a.m. and a quorum was present.

Attendees:

Marcus Ryan, Bernia Martin, Nick Novacich, Peter Heywood, Tina Diamond, Ayesha Sajid, Sarah Hamulecki, Amy Humphries

2. Review of Agenda for meeting of January 26th, 2026

Resolution No. 1 Moved by: P. Heywood
 Seconded by: B. Martin

RESOLVED that the agenda for the Safe and Well Oxford Steering Committee meeting of January 26th, 2026, be approved.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

3. Review of Minutes of December 1st, 2025, meeting

Resolution No. 2 Moved by: T. Diamond
 Seconded by: N. Novacich

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Safe and Well Oxford Steering Committee meeting of December 1st, 2025, be approved as presented.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

- Canadian Index of Well-Being Survey
 - SWPH is working on the analysis to summarize themes and highlights from the data.
- Updated Community Safety and Well-Being Plan
 - The updated draft plan was reviewed by the Committee.
 - The new Plan has been presented to and approved by 6 of the area municipal Councils. Warden Ryan reported that the delegations were well received and that the Councils posed constructive questions.
 - Staff reports were drafted in collaboration with the Clerks so that the presentation of the new plan was not only deemed a delegation but also considered a staff recommendation to the Council.
 - S. Hamulecki reported that people were happy that the feedback provided at the Summit was considered and incorporated into the Plan.
 - B. Martin inquired about the new Area Municipal representatives who will be part of the Advisory Committee. There was discussion about whether criteria and a skill set should be established for these roles. S. Hamulecki stated that there will be further discussions with the Clerks and CAOs to determine what roles will be best suited for the position.
 - Oxford County Council approved the request for a full-time Community Safety and Wellbeing Coordinator. The job will be posted in February with a planned start date of the beginning of April. S. Hamulecki indicated that the Action Coalitions that were formed from existing committees would continue in the interim (i.e. DART, OMHAAC), but that the DEI Action Coalition could pause until implementation of the new plan begins, unless there are existing projects or work pending.
- Police Updates
 - Chief Novacich provided the following 2025 statistics on behalf of the Woodstock Police Service:
 - 1220 homeless encounters
 - 1381 unwanted person calls
 - 194 person with addiction encounters
 - 254 mental health/suicide attempt calls
 - Woodstock Police are using virtual reality to improve training opportunities.
 - Body cams now include translation services to improve communication and interaction with diverse populations.

5. Action Coalition Updates (Round Table)

- Oxford Housing Action Collaborative (on hold)
 - Warden Ryan advised that there continues to be space in the shelter.

- Oxford Mental Health and Addictions Action Coalition (Peter Heywood)
 - OMHAAC met on December 4th, 2025, for the annual Year-end Reflection and Celebration.
 - Oxford County presented the new Homelessness Strategy and highlighted the positive impact of the new transitional housing project. The importance of establishing a new centre for unhoused people was emphasized.
 - Woodstock Hospital provided an update on the HART Hub. As of December 1st, clients have begun accessing the space. They are still looking for space in Ingersoll.
 - An update on the Planet Youth work was received. Just under 900 consents were returned. Reports should be coming back sometime in March. The funding challenges for year 2 were noted. They will connect with municipalities and community partners to secure additional funding.
 - CMHA reported that Families Care is doing another round in Oxford and that Nurturing Yourself while Nurturing Someone Else is also starting.
 - The Oxford Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy is currently undergoing a comprehensive refresh aimed at ensuring that its recommendations are both relevant and practical for the upcoming three years. This crucial update process involves engaging local stakeholders, reviewing recent data, and assessing the effectiveness of current initiatives to better align with the community's evolving needs. The refreshed strategy is expected to be completed by the third quarter of the year, paving the way for enhanced support services and initiatives to effectively address substance use challenges in Oxford. This initiative reflects a commitment to creating a safer and healthier community for all residents.
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Action Coalition (Ayesha Sajid)
 - No updates
- Domestic Abuse Resource Team (Ashley Brown)
 - No updates

6. Next Steps & New Business

- 2026-28 Safer and Vital Communities Grant: Call for Applications
 - The Ministry of the Solicitor General is now accepting applications from community-based, not-for-profit organizations for the 2026-2028 Safer and Vital Communities (SVC) Grant.
 - The theme for the Grant is "Preventing Hate Motivated Crime through Community Collaboration." It supports an integrated community-based approach to addressing issues related to hate motivated crime. It also addresses the increase of police-reported hate crime in Ontario. The Ministry is requesting proposals that focus on bringing together different sectors to combat hate motivated crimes in Ontario.
 - Completed applications, along with all supporting documentation, must be

- submitted through TPON no later than 4:00pm on February 11, 2026.
- SWPH can lead an application on behalf of SWO in partnership with the police. P. Heywood, A. Sajid, and N. Novacich will discuss further to determine if there is data that supports an application.

7. Upcoming Meeting Dates – Oxford County Administration Building – Room 129

- 2026 Meeting Dates: The following dates were set for the first quarter of 2026. The remaining dates will be set once the new Advisory Committee is established
 - February 23
 - March 23
 - April 27

8. Adjournment

Resolution No. 3 Moved by: P. Heywood
 Seconded by: T. Diamond

RESOLVED that the Safe and Well Oxford Steering Committee meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried