



Public Statement: Sidewalk Patio and Bylaw Review - July 8, 2025, 5:00 p.m.

Mahone Bay Town Council has heard extensively from residents and business owners regarding a recent installation of a sidewalk patio in Town. We thank all those who have taken the time to share their perspectives.

Council has held several meetings on this matter, and during the July 8th Council meeting, two motions were passed to ensure a thorough review of the current permitting process and the Town's Streets and Sidewalks Bylaw:

Council directed staff to provide a report on the permitting process for sidewalk patio installations, addressing questions concerning the approval process and design guidelines and that this report be provided to the regular Council meeting on July 31st.

Council also directed staff to prepare a second report on potential updates to the 2008 Streets and Sidewalks Bylaw, including best practices from other Nova Scotian municipalities with bylaws governing sidewalk patios. The report should address the impact of sidewalk patios on pedestrian safety, accessibility, provide design recommendations aligned with Council's commitment to safety, and outline a consultation process for bylaw revision and/or development of a separate Sidewalk Café Bylaw, consultation involving the Mahone Bay Tourism and Chamber of Commerce, local businesses, and residents.

Council is committed to considering bylaw revisions before any further sidewalk patio permits are issued. We appreciate the community's continued engagement and will ensure that safety and accessibility remain at the forefront of any future decisions.

Further updates will be shared following the July 31st Council meeting.