

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING  
March 14, 2022**

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:10 p.m., in the Multi-purpose Room, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., with the following members present:

- Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson - Chair
- Jody Crook
- Shaun Hatfield
- Andrea Mood-Nickerson
  
- George El-Jakl – absent due to work commitments
  
- Chris Frotten, CAO
- Lesa Rossetti, Municipal Clerk

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Being duly moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Being duly moved and seconded that minutes of the regular meeting held February 22<sup>nd</sup> and special meeting held March 7, 2022, be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

TITAN MARITIME RE: FEDERAL GHOST GEAR FUND

Michael Ernst and Al Munroe of Titan Maritime of Mahone Bay appeared before the committee, virtually, and explained their program to remove abandoned Ghost Gear, techniques used for locating and removing the gear and the negative impact it has on the marine environment.

Federal funding supporting this program is scheduled to expire on March 31, 2022 and the group is therefore requesting Council to write a letter to the Federal Government encouraging the continuance of the Ghost Gear Fund for a period beyond 2 years.

A copy of their request and slide presentation are attached and forms part of the minutes.

Mr. Ernst and Mr. Munroe were thanked for their presentation and left the meeting.

Their request was considered later in the meeting since another presentation was schedule to commence at this time.

NSFM PRESENTATION RE: ORGANIZATION RESTRUCTURING

Juanita Spencer, CEO of NSFM and Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson, NSFM Rural Caucus Chair attended the meeting virtually for the purpose of explaining their plan for restructuring the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities. In advance of the meeting members were provided with a copy of the "NSFM 2022: Plan for Organizational Change" dated February 2022, a copy of which is attached and forms part of the minutes.

During discussion it was noted that each recommended change will be rolled out individually and the membership will be asked to vote, virtually, on one item at a time. NSFM hopes to have changes implemented by June, 2022, as that is when the resolution process is scheduled to establish resolutions for the next three years. NSFM does not feel that the resolution process is working and priorities need to be established in a way that tracks progress and gives a mandate to respond to emergent concerns and opportunities.

Concern was expressed regarding the tight timeline of June, 2022.

Ms. Spencer and Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson were thanked for their presentation and left the meeting.

CONTINUATION - TITAN MARITIME RE: FEDERAL GHOST GEAR FUND

Resolution COW220302

Being duly moved and seconded that it be recommended to Council that a letter of support be forward to the Federal Government encouraging the continuance of the Ghost Gear Fund, as requested by Titan Maritime.

AFFIRMATIVE

Shaun Hatfield  
Andrea Mood-Nickerson

NEGATIVE

Jody Crook  
Eddie Nickerson

Motion defeated.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There were no matters arising from previous meetings.

UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN RELIEF EFFORTS

In advance to the meeting members were provided with a copy of a letter received from the Municipality of Guysborough advising of their decision to donate \$25,000.00 to the Canadian Red Cross Ukrainian Crisis Appeal Fund. It was noted that the Canadian Government has pledged to match the donation for a total contribution of \$50,000.00.

Page 3, Committee of the Whole Council Meeting, March 14, 2022.

Moved that it be recommended to Council that \$2,000.00 be provided to the Canadian Red Cross Ukrainian Crisis Appeal Fund.

There being no seconder to the motion, the motion was declared lost.

#### PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO POLICY 74 "PROCLAMATION POLICY"

As requested by Committee, Policy 74 "Proclamation Policy" has been revised by removing the following two sections and renumbering remaining sections:

2. It shall be the policy of the Municipality of the District of Barrington not to endorse any proclamations.
3. Section 2 is in no way to be interpreted as lack of respect for the excellent efforts of any organization that may request the Municipality of the District of Barrington to endorse a proclamation.

Notice is given tonight, that proposed amendments to Policy 74 "Proclamation Policy" will be considered by Council at their meeting to be held March 28, 2022.

#### MODERNIZATION EDUCATION SESSIONS

Previously, members were provided with correspondence from the Municipality of Shelburne advising that they are organizing "Councillor Education Sessions on Municipal Modernization". At that time, members requested information on potential dates, topics and speakers. As a result, the following information has been obtained:

- Proposed date - May, 2022
- Topics – unification, amalgamation, dissolution and shared services.
- Speakers – Barry Carol, CAO for the Municipality of Guyborough who has been involved in dissolutions and amalgamations, a member of the Co-ordinating Committee of the Windsor/West Hants unification, Mark Phillips, CAO of the newly formed West Hants Regional Municipality, Jack Novak who has extensive knowledge of governing models and representatives from organizations like the Lunenburg County Municipal Joint Services Board or Strait Area Inter-Municipal IT Services.

#### Resolution COW220303

Being duly moved and seconded that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality accept the invitation from the Municipality of Shelburne to attend "Councillor Education Sessions on Municipal Modernization" and any councillor wishing to attend may do so.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary for the Meeting





**FORM "A"**  
**TO BE COMPLETED BY ANYONE**  
**WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL**

**Names of individuals making the presentation:**

Michael Ernst, possibly Zack Green or Al Munroe from Titan Maritime, Mahone Bay

**Points to be made:**

Discuss with Council the Federal Government's Ghost Gear Fund

**Purpose and any requests that may be forthcoming from the presentation:**

That Council consider writing a letter to support the continuance of the fund after March 31, 2022.

**Please attach a copy of your written or power point presentation.**

Slide package attached, along with information for inclusion in the Council agenda package

**Time requested for presentation:** 30 minutes - 10 to 12 minutes for the presentation, additional time for questions. Titan Maritime has done work in the Municipality of Barrington under the Fund. Council may have questions

**Signature** *Michael Ernst*

**Print Name:** Michael Ernst

**Mailing Address:**

**Phone Number:**

**E-mail address:** [Mike.Ernst@TitanMartime.ca](mailto:Mike.Ernst@TitanMartime.ca) or, [sailmahonebay@auracom.com](mailto:sailmahonebay@auracom.com)

- Will you require a projector and computer for your presentation ?**  
Hope to do this virtually.

**NOTE: Individuals or groups making presentations are required to address their comments and questions to the Chair of the Meeting only. No decision will be made at the same meeting as your presentation.**

To Warden Nickerson and Council, Municipality of Barrington

The aim of our presentation at your Council meeting is to discuss the Federal Ghost Gear Fund, formally known as the **Sustainable Fisheries Solutions and Retrieval Support Contribution Programme. (SFSRSCP)**

Since the Fund's inception in 2019, \$16.7 million in funding has been distributed to support 49 projects on Atlantic/Pacific Coasts, and Internationally.

In September 2021 our Mahone Bay company, Titan Maritime, was granted monies by the Federal government to remove abandoned Ghost Gear. Our trained crew acted on this opportunity at short notice, as they had already identified potential sites.

Under SFSRSCP guidelines, removal of Ghost Gear finished on November 30, 2021 and all funding terminates on March 31, 2022.

Our presentation has two objectives. First is to explain the techniques for locating and removing Ghost Gear, and discuss its negative impact on the marine environment.

The second objective has two parts.

Initially we request that Council write a letter to the Hon. Joyce Murray, Federal Fisheries Minister, supporting the continuance of this initial two year fund.

Ideally though, a longer term would allow:

- an opportunity to locate and collect a significant amount of the Ghost Gear
- the proper training of staff
- a return on equipment investment for Ghost Gear collection
- the founding of strong research and education programmes
- the establishing of a recycling program

Secondly, we ask Council to encourage Lunenburg residents to pick up and recycle litter that they find when visiting coastal areas. Removal of shore line litter can contribute significantly to protecting marine life, and keeping our oceans clean.

Abandoned, Lost, and Discarded Fishing Gear not only affects the health of our tidal waters, but can also have an impact on the livelihood of many residents who rely on the fishing industry in our coastal communities.

It is common knowledge that Municipal Government is the level most responsive to its residents. Thank you for the opportunity to make this presentation.

*Titan Maritime*

## For more information please visit-

Govt. of Canada 'Ghost Gear Fund' site explains the Ghost Gear Fund in detail and identifies projects funded in Canada and abroad.

<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/management-gestion/ghostgear-equipementfantome/program-programme/projects-projets-eng.html>

Ghost Gear Recycling programme, Ocean Legacy Foundation  
Canada's First 'Marine Debris Solutions Centre™'!

<https://oceanlegacy.ca/marine-debris-solutions-centre/>

[www.facebook.com/TitanMaritime/](https://www.facebook.com/TitanMaritime/) for more photos and videos of Ghost Gear work carried out by Titan Maritime.

## Ghost Gear Removal carried out by Titan Maritime

Abandoned aquaculture site gear  
retrieved at North West Cove,  
St.Margarets Bay, 55,000lb of nets and  
traps recovered



200 lobster traps recovered in the  
Tusket Islands area.



Approximately 15,000 lbs of  
Polypropylene lines and nets  
removed from derelict trawlers in  
Bridgewater and recycled.



## Services Include ...

- Ocean Research Charters
- Consultation Services on Marine Research, Ocean Technology, Operations, Project Management
- Environmental Clean Up, Impact Assessments and Remediation
- Hydrographic/Bathymetric Surveying/Side Scan Sonar operations
- Commercial Diving and Underwater operations
- Salvage and Recovery including Grappling
- Support to Govt. Agencies
- Engine Maintenance
- ROV Surveys and Recovery
- Aquaculture Support Services
- Delivery to Island and Remote Locations



**Our team includes Master Mariners** (over 100 years of sea time)  
**Certified Divers, Surveyors, ROV Operators and Hydrographer.**

**Since September 2021 the location  
and retrieval of Ghost Gear**

# What is Ghost Gear ?



**ALDFG -**

**Abandoned, Lost or otherwise  
Discarded Fishing Gear**

# **Government of Canada**

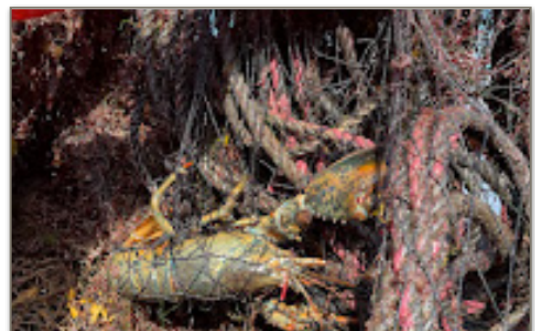
## **Ghost Gear Recovery Fund**

**(formal name Sustainable Fisheries Solutions and Retrieval Support Contribution Programme)**

- **Since its inception in 2019, the \$16.7 million fund was allocated to 49 projects on Atlantic, Pacific coasts and Internationally**

**4 Components**

- Ghost gear retrieval**
- Responsible disposal**
- Technology Development**
- International Leadership**



**Ghost Gear keeps on fishing indefinitely, causing entanglement of marine species that can lead to injury and death.**

We ask that Council consider...

- writing a letter to the Federal Government encouraging continuance of the Ghost Gear Fund

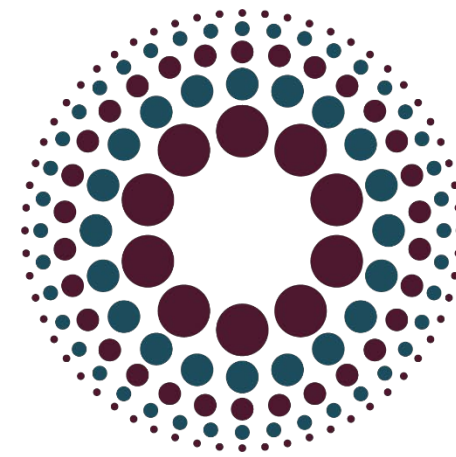
### **Long Term...**

- ask residents to assist in the clean up of local shoreline areas, and when possible recycle the items collected
- encourage the responsible disposal of Ghost Gear through coordination at all levels of government, industry and other parties

**Thank you for your time and consideration of these requests.**

Presented by





NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION  
OF MUNICIPALITIES

# NSFM 2022: PLAN FOR ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE

February 2022

**Better government. Stronger communities.**





# AGENDA

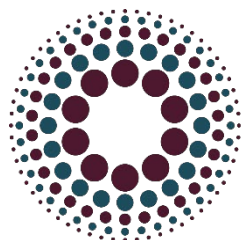
1. Purpose of this Presentation
2. Overview of Proposed Changes
3. Brief Explanation of Each Proposed Change
4. Feedback/Questions

# PURPOSE OF THIS PRESENTATION

- Outlining the organizational changes that are supported by the Board
- Gathering your thoughts on these proposed changes

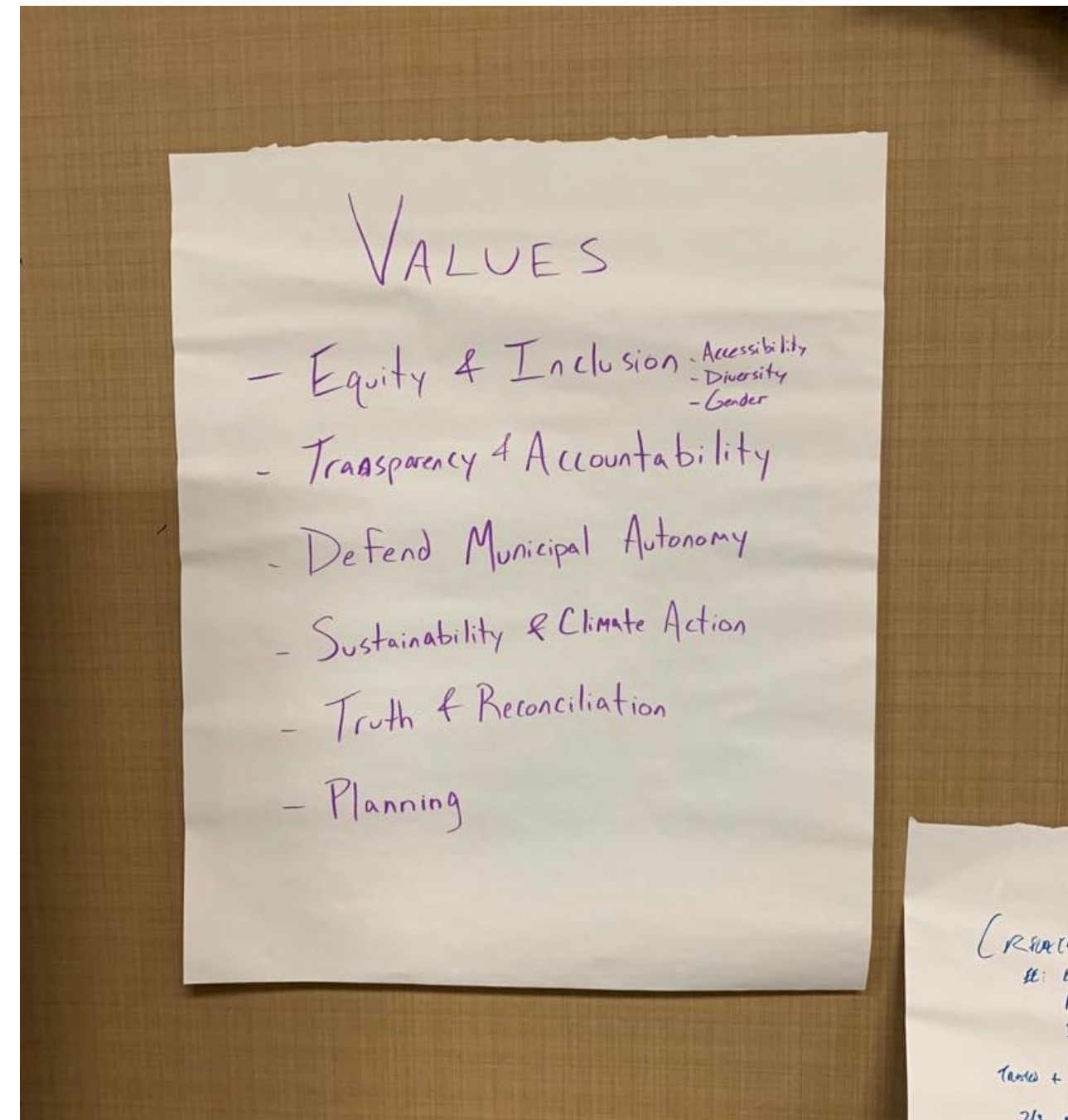
# OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED CHANGES

1. Guiding Principles
2. Recognition of Municipal Units as Members
3. Caucuses
4. Creation of Regional Electoral Boundaries
5. Resolutions and Statements of Municipal Interest



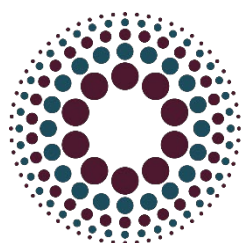
# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Establish core guiding principles
- Clarify to the membership, the general public, other orders of government, and for internal decisions
- NSFM staff will propose a list of guiding principles



# MUNICIPAL UNITS AS MEMBERS

- Recentering membership engagement on municipal units, as stated in our current by-laws
- Will increase general awareness of NSFM's work
- Will increase consistency and coordination
- A role for individuals to participate in elections will be maintained
- Staff will map out necessary changes and ensure that new procedure is crystal clear



# CURRENT

# PROPOSED

## Election and Membership Structure



All Members send dues to NSFM

Voting delegates from Municipalities that are able, attend the conference.



A vote is held for the President, Vice-President, Caucus Representatives by those in attendance at the Annual General Meeting.



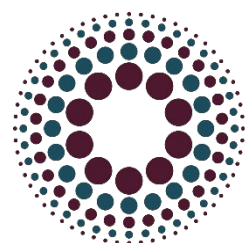
All Members send dues to NSFM

All Municipal Elected Officials vote in their Member Municipality



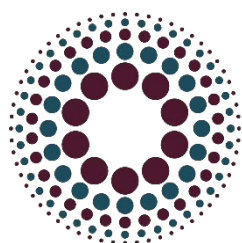
Confidential Individual Votes are collected by NSFM

Winners are announced at the Annual General Meeting



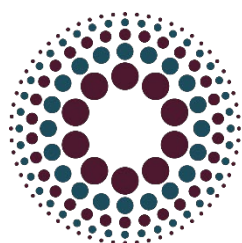
# DEPARTURE FROM CAUCUSES

- The more unified we are, the stronger and more effective we become
- Caucuses can create unnecessary divisions rather than collaboration on common concerns
- Will change the composition of the Board of Directors and how members participate in the election of Board positions



# NEW ELECTION PROCESS

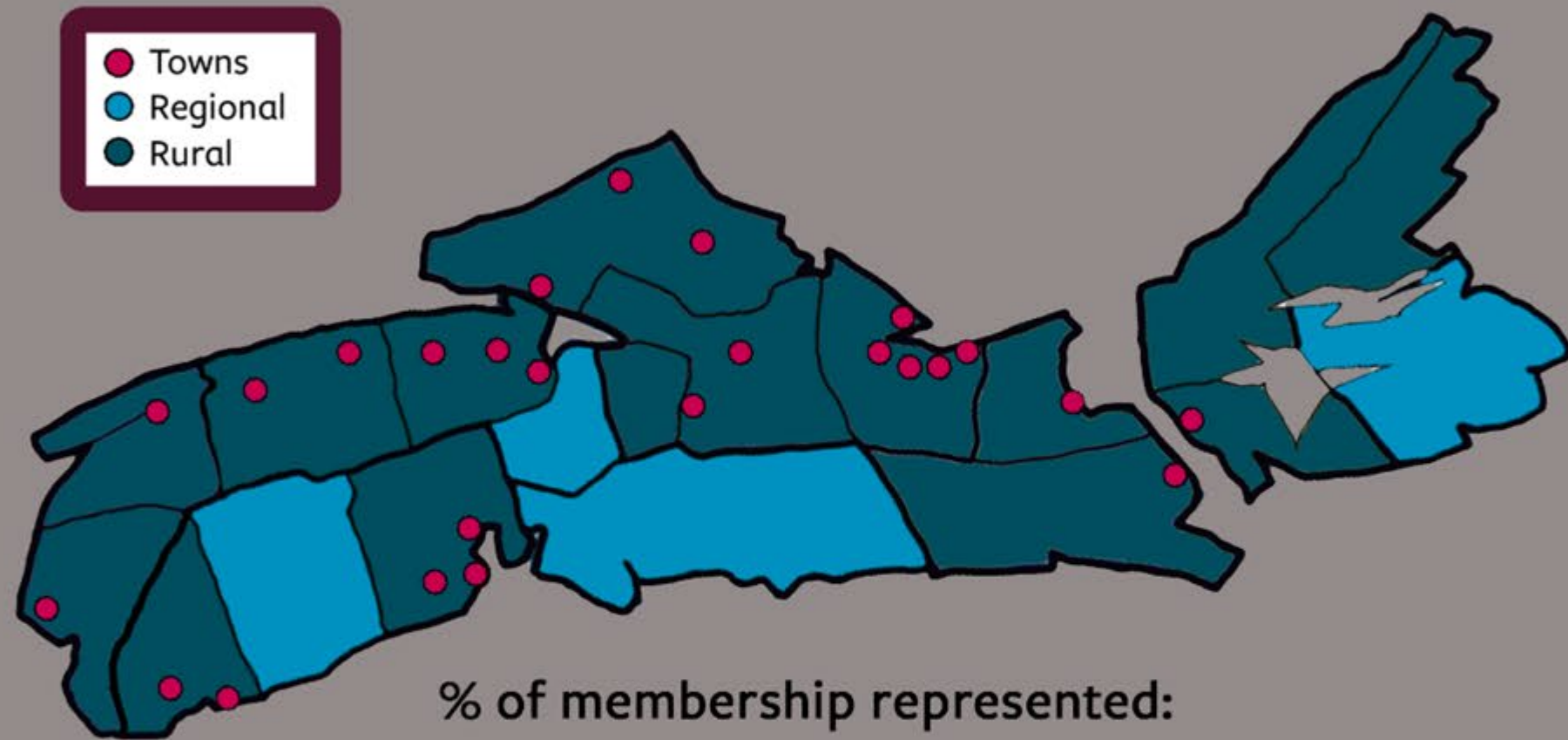
- Regional Groups will replace caucuses as the forums in which members vote for Representatives on the Board
- Ensures representation of NSFM members across Nova Scotia on the Board
- Staff will map out necessary changes to by-laws and policies and develop guides for membership participation



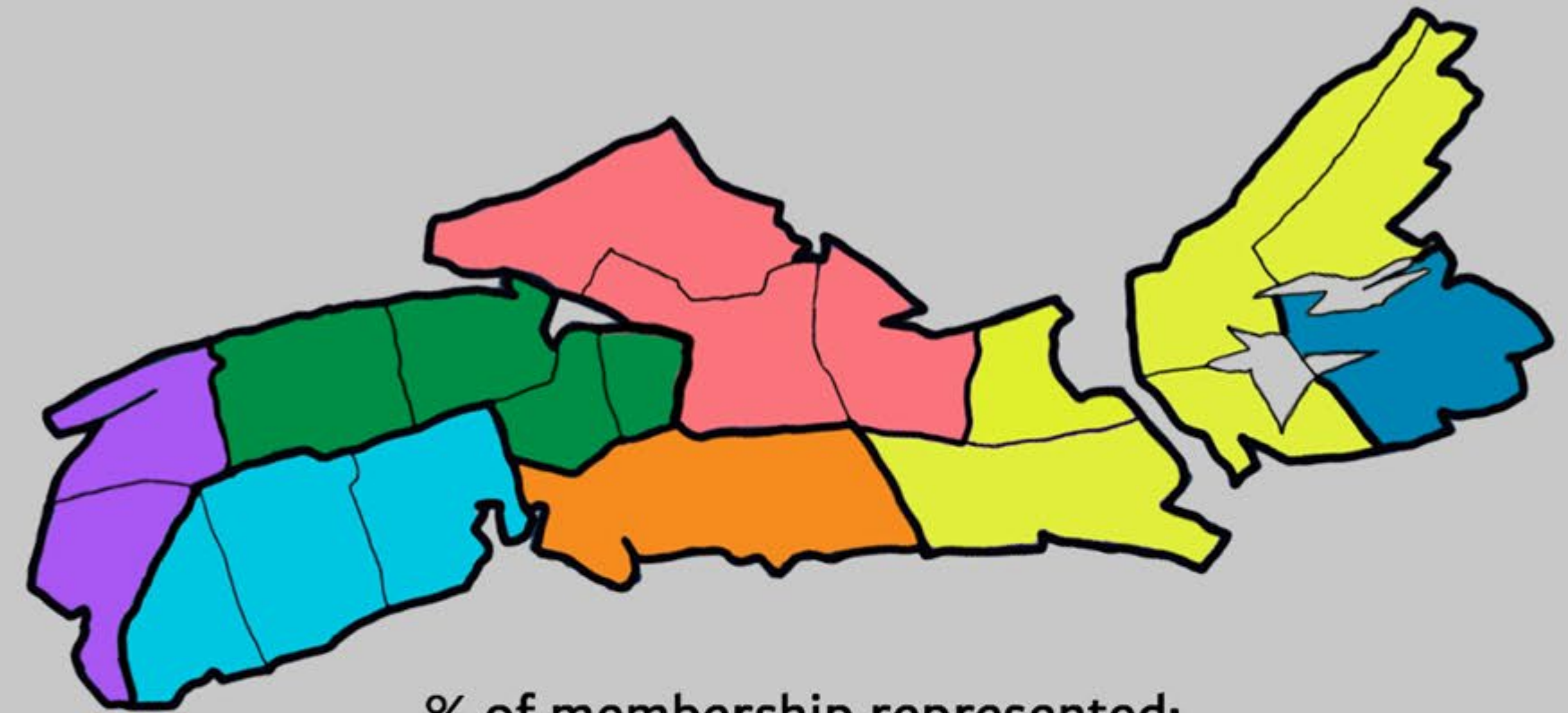
# CURRENT

# PROPOSED

## Caucus Structure



Regionals (3 seats, 8%)  
Towns (3 seats, 51%)  
Rurals (3 seats, 41%)



Southwestern Shore (8/49 units, 16%)  
CCP (12/49 units, 24%)  
Valley (9/49 units, 18%)  
South Shore (9/49 units, 18%)  
Cape Breton-Strait (9/49 units, 18%)  
HRM (1/49 units, 2%)  
CBRM (1/49 units, 2%)

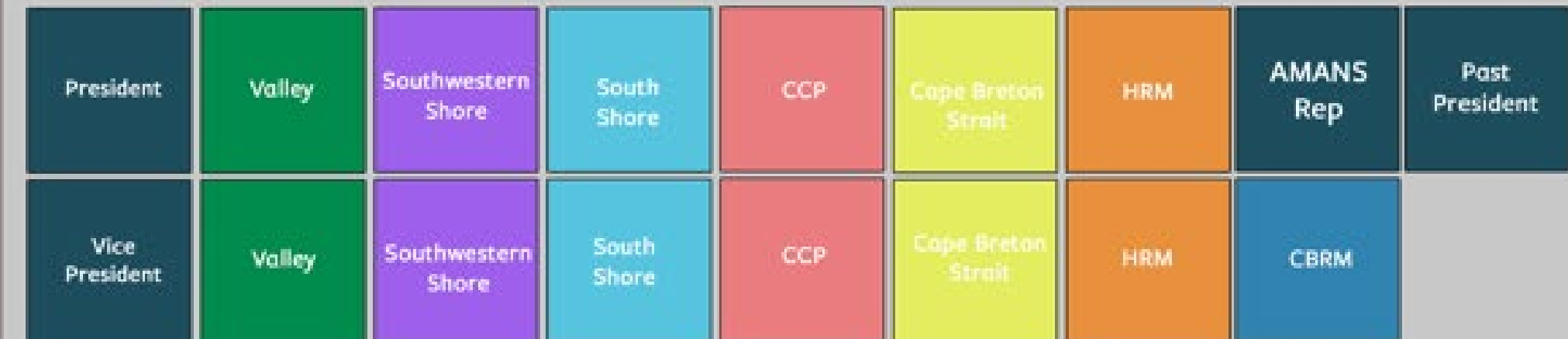
# CURRENT

# PROPOSED

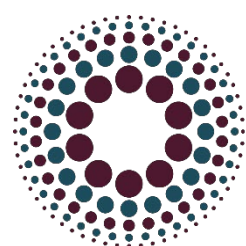
## Board Layout



**Board Composition:** Election of President and Vice-President currently conducted at-large at annual general meeting.

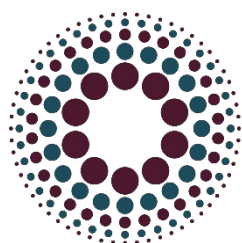


**Board Composition:** Election of President and Vice-President will be held at-large, based on votes from individual elected officials.



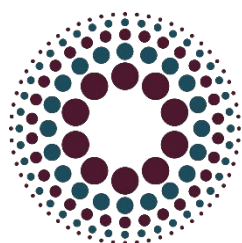
# DEPARTURE FROM RESOLUTIONS

- Need to move on from static priorities and become more agile
- Need to establish priorities in a way that
  - tracks progress on agreed upon priorities
  - gives a mandate to respond to emergent concerns and opportunities
- Resolutions process set to begin in June to establish Resolutions for the next three years
- Resolutions are not working, we need to find another way



# ADVISORY COMMITTEES - STATEMENTS OF MUNICIPAL INTEREST

- Board members will establish areas of general municipal interest and strike advisory committees
- Emergent concerns will also be considered
- Advisory committees will produce Statements of Municipal Interest
- Each governed by Terms of Reference and reviewed at a regular interval
- Advisory Committees will respond to membership requests to investigate an issue
- NSFAM staff will support a sub-committee to devise policy and procedure to enable this new practice



# CURRENT

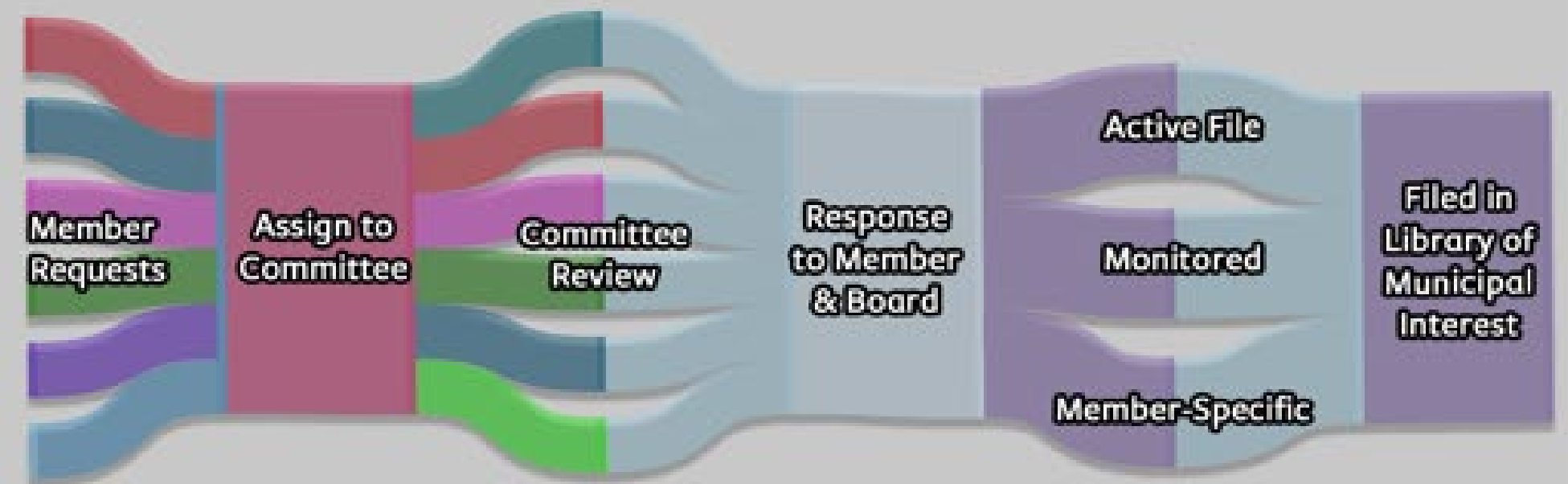
# PROPOSED

## Determining Advocacy Priorities



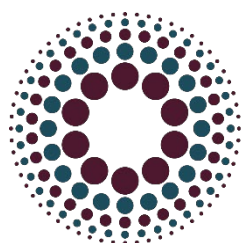
Every three years members vote on the top five issues of importance facing Nova Scotia Municipalities

These issues form our Resolutions, which determine the areas of focus for the work of NSFM.



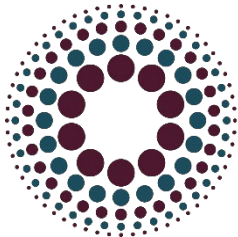
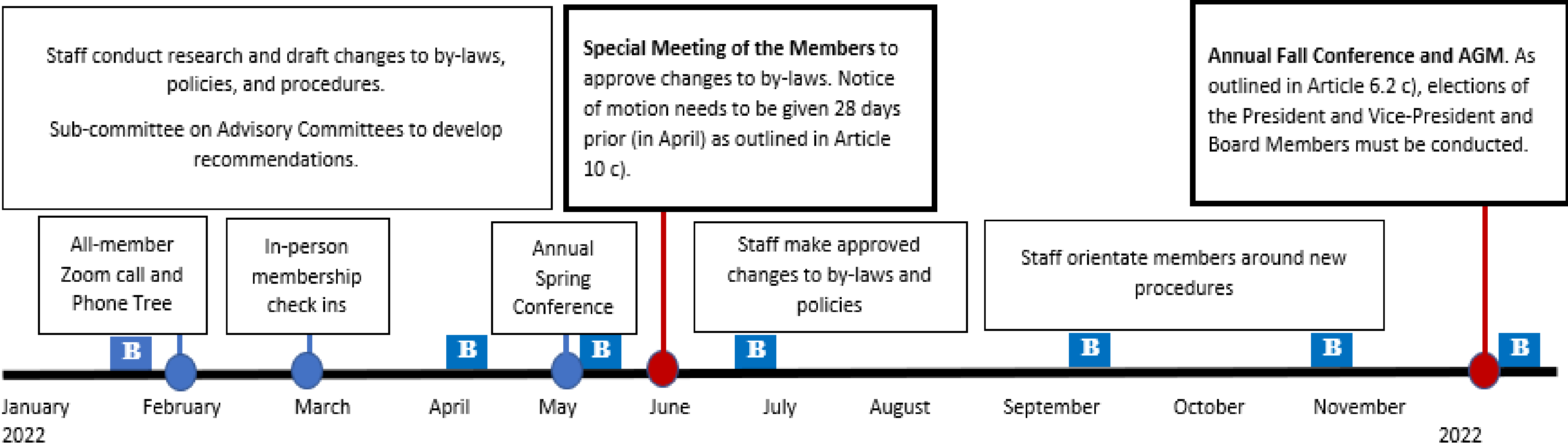
# NEXT STEPS

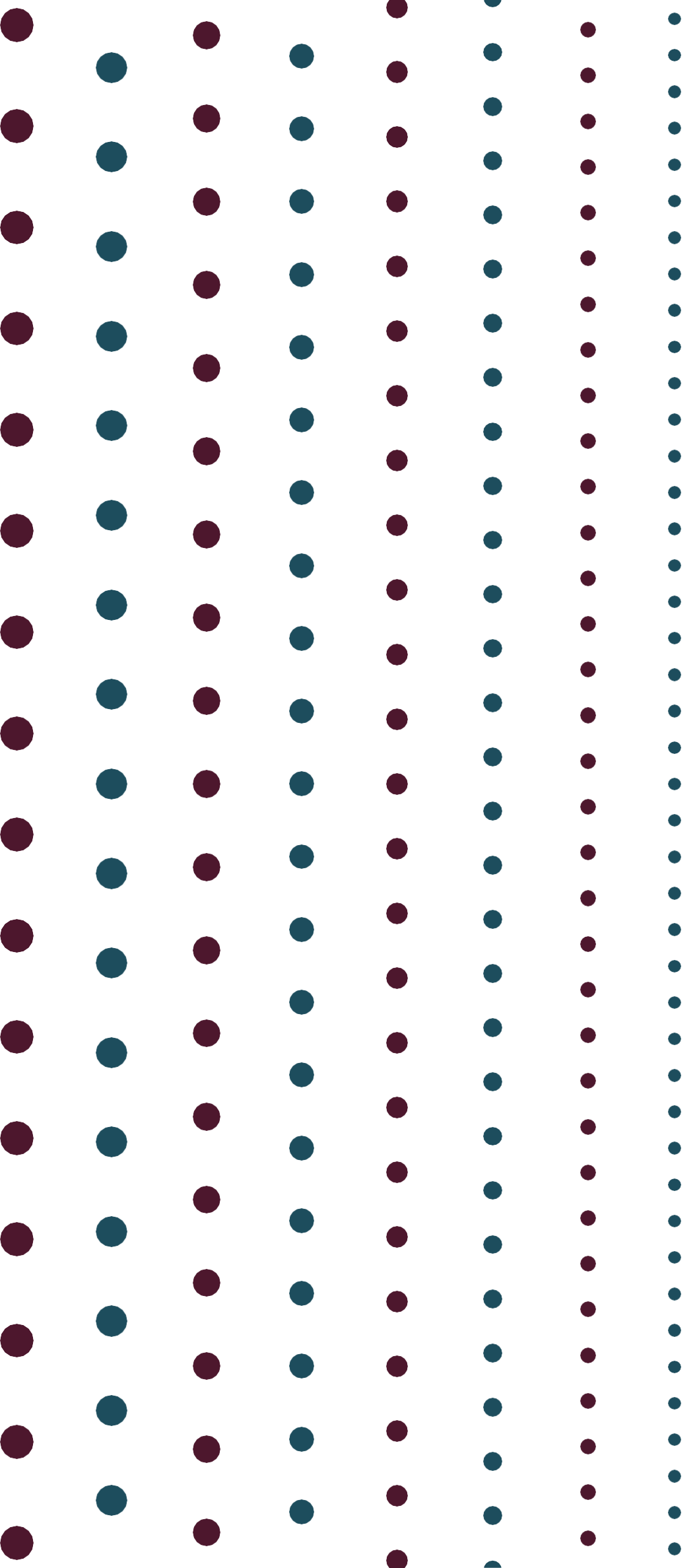
- Engage with members to explain these proposed changes and get feedback
- NSFM Staff are directed to review relevant by-laws and policies and prepare motions for a Special Meeting of the Members
- Subcommittee to be struck to develop the plan for advisory committees and Statements of Municipal Interest
- By-law changes must be announced by a Notice of Motion 28 days in advance.



# NSFM 2022 Timeline

**B** scheduled Board meeting





# QUESTIONS, FEEDBACK, DISCUSSION

This is going to be a big year for all of us.