



Town of Small Point to Adams Cove

What We Heard - Town Hall #7 Meeting Summary

Date: May 14th, 2026

Introduction

Town Hall #7 was held on May 14, 2026, bringing together 45 residents (23 in person 22 online), representatives from the Department of Forestry, Agriculture and Lands (FAL), and North Shore Volunteer Fire Department (NSVFD) Chief Roger Gillingham to discuss wildfire recovery, fire mitigation, public safety, and the long-term future of North Shore communities.

The Town opened to speak about the Adam's Cove Fire Anniversary took place on May 7th. Thank you to Rob Hudson for his dedication and commitment and all the partnering agencies that attended.

The Town then launched the [Town's Recovery and Resilience Plan](#). This plan outlines recovery initiatives that will guide the community moving forward. Ongoing recovery working group initiatives, including social activities and trainings, housing advocacy, civic numbers initiatives, and long-term mitigation projects, were highlighted.

The Town spoke about the \$25 million dollars that the GNL 2026 budget allocated to support the recovery of CBN, and ensured residents they would seek clarity about how the funds will be spent. The Town also reminded residents that the application for the [CFNL North Shore Recovery Fund](#) would be closing on June 7th.

The Town gave updates on two of the long term mitigation projects. The *Broad Cove Park Development* (initial funding by Newfoundland Power Envirofest grants) will aim revitalize public green space in the broad cove area. This will include remediation, walking trails beautification, community gardens, and tree replanting. The *Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan* (funded by the FAL Community Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Program) is a regional initiative with the unincorporated areas that will outline measures to reduce hazard risks from Kingston to Burnt Point. Planning includes hazard mapping, vegetation management, emergency preparedness improvements, FireSmart implementation, and regional resilience strategies. The Town also spoke about ongoing conversations with FAL regarding reforestation and replanting of the area. This replanting will be a multi-year phased approach; site and species selection will be informed by natural regrowth cycles in the area.

Chief Roger Gillingham and forestry representatives explained wildfire prevention strategies, fire weather index levels, outdoor burning restrictions, campfire safety requirements, and the newly approved municipal fire policy bylaw designed to strengthen wildfire prevention efforts within town boundaries. Residents were encouraged to complete the [Fire Smart 101 Course Training](#) to better understand wildfire risks and property protection measures. Officials also directed residents to review wildfire preparedness resources through [FireSmart Canada](#) and monitor daily wildfire conditions using the Province's [Fire Hazard Map](#). Fire department representatives stressed the importance of public awareness, vegetation management, emergency planning, and community cooperation during periods of elevated wildfire risk.

Representatives from Forestry, Agriculture and Lands (FAL) provided detailed information surrounding provincial burn policies, fire permits, fire weather index classifications, and wildfire prevention regulations. Officials explained that all open fires during fire season require permits and reminded residents that permits are automatically suspended

whenever fire hazard levels reach “High,” “Very High,” or “Extreme.” Residents were directed to the Province’s GNL Fire Permit information page for permit applications, restrictions, and safety guidelines along with the [town's fire ban bylaw](#). Discussions also focused on replanting and environmental restoration projects planned throughout wildfire-affected areas, including donated tree planting initiatives, soil remediation work, vegetation management, and future reforestation efforts being developed collaboratively between forestry officials, recovery groups, and local communities. Forestry officials emphasized that wildfire mitigation and environmental restoration will remain long-term priorities as recovery continues across the region.

Questions & Answers Discussed During the Meeting

Q: Does the \$25 million announced in the 2026 Provincial Budget include the provincial matching funds from previous wildfire fundraising campaigns?

A: The Town clarified that the \$25 million identified in the 2026 Provincial Budget is separate from the earlier provincial matching fund commitments connected to the Canadian Red Cross campaign and the “We Stand On Guard” fundraising concert. Those matching contributions were part of a previous budget cycle. The newly announced funding is expected to support broader community rebuilding and recovery priorities identified within the Town’s recovery plan, though officials noted that full details on how the funding will be allocated have not yet been released.

Q: How does the Town’s new fire by-law relate to provincial fire regulations?

A: The Town explained the Town’s new fire by-law works alongside provincial wildfire regulations and uses the Province’s fire hazard index to automatically trigger local fire bans during “Very High” or “Extreme” conditions. The by-law strengthens local enforcement and public awareness while still aligning with provincial fire restrictions and permit rules.

Q: How will residents know when a fire ban is in place?

A: The Town confirmed fire bans will be communicated through the municipal Facebook page, website updates, and potentially future roadside fire index signage to improve visibility for residents and visitors.

Q: Are propane fire pits and propane barbecues allowed during a fire ban?

A: Yes. the Town confirmed propane appliances, including propane fire pits and propane barbecues, are permitted during fire bans because they are considered controlled gas-operated appliances. Charcoal barbecues, however, are prohibited during high fire risk conditions.

Q: What is a burn permit and how do you get one?

A: A burn permit gives a FREE temporary license to an individual to have an open fire for *vegetation, wood, and paper*. You can get a burn permit by phone or in person by contacting Paddy’s Pond District Office Forest Office during office hours, calling (709) 729-4180, or by emailing PaddysPondForestry@gov.nl.ca. Permits can be emailed or mailed once approved. More information can be found [here](#)

Q: Can the Department of Forestry help residents assess if trees on their private property are still healthy?

A: Yes. FAL staff can come out and help identify and assess trees on private property. Please reach out to the Paddy's Pond District Office Forest Office by emailing PaddysPondForestry@gov.nl.ca or calling (709) 729-4180 during office hours to make arrangements.

Q: Are there plans to rebuild the Adams Cove School site?

A: The Town stated there are currently no finalized redevelopment plans for the Adams Cove School property, though discussions are ongoing regarding memorialization, historical recognition, and possible future community uses for the site.

Q: Will unincorporated areas be included in wildfire resiliency planning?

A: Yes. The Town confirmed surrounding unincorporated communities are participating in the new regional wildfire resiliency initiative and will be included in hazard mapping and future wildfire mitigation planning efforts.

Q: What should you do if you are concerned about fire hazards on neighbouring properties?

A: Please contact the Town office to discuss concerns and solutions for hazards on private properties.