



**ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY
STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
May 1, 2014**

PRESENT: Councilor Barry Dalrymple, Chair
Councilor Jennifer Watts, Vice- Chair
Deputy Mayor Darren Fisher
Councilor Lorelei Nicoll
Councillor Bill Karsten
Councillor Steve Craig

REGRETS: Councilor Reg Rankin

STAFF: Ms. Jane Fraser, Director Planning and Infrastructure
Mr. Richard Maclellan, Manager Energy and Environment
Ms. Laurie Lewis, Diversion Coordinator
Ms. Karen Brown, Solicitor
Mr. Quentin Hill, Legislative Assistant

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee are available online:

<http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/SCenv/index.php>

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m. and the Standing Committee adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. in the Dartmouth Council

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 6, 2014

MOVED by Councilor Karsten, seconded by Councilor Nicoll that the March 6, 2014 minutes be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Additions: 9.1.3 Solar City Update
9.3 Regional Chairs Report
9.1.4 Real Electricity Opportunities

Deletions: 9.2. Council Report on Pesticides

Councillor Dalrymple advised that the Report on Pesticides would not be dealt with at the meeting as there was going to be supplementary information provided to the Committee and it was not available.

MOVED by Councilor Nicoll, seconded by Councilor Watts that the agenda be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

5. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE

6. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

8.1 Correspondence

8.1.1 Results – Municipal Energy Efficiency Opportunities

The Committee accepted the correspondence.

8.1.2 Tony Charles – Greening the NS Economy

The Committee accepted the correspondence.

8.2 Petitions

8.3 Presentation

8.3.1 Heritage Gas

Mr. Michael Sarrouy, Mr. Larry Moores, Ms. Colleen Rollings and Ms. Alice McCarron provided the presentation to the Committee. The group then responded to questions from the committee and provided the following information/clarification:

- Are working to be an alternative energy choice for residents of HRM as outlined in the Community Energy Plan Objectives.
- New Process allows Heritage Gas to only require 50% expression of interest in natural gas for project to move forward; old process required 1 to 1 ratio prior to construction.
- 2013 seen 357 residential customers and 364 commercial customers activated.
- 5200 customers since 2003; Heritage Gas serving 20,000 homes businesses and institutions in HRM.
- Targeting to activate 900 new customers in 2014.

Councillor Dalrymple thanked the representatives from Heritage Gas for their presentation.

8.3.2 Green Energy Education Network

This item was moved to the last presentation due to technical difficulties, see page 4.

8.3.3 DAN-X Recycling

Mr. Dave Hall and Mr. Dana Emerson provided the updated presentation to the Committee. Mr. Hall noted that they had previously presented to the Committee but had updated information. They then responded to questions from the Committee and provided the following information and highlights:

- Dan-X is the only company with permits and approvals from the Department of Environment to recycle any type of mercury bulb. This had happened since the previous presentation to ESSC.
- Approached by Clean NS to recycle CFL bulbs, have recycled over 300,000 of the bulbs with no requirements to do so at this point.
- Dan – X has the ability to recycle any type of light bulb.
- Would like to see HRM facilities recycle all their bulbs at the Dan X facility.
- Have a contract with SNC Lavalin to recycle all their bulbs.

- End of life use for all materials of a light bulb have been identified; metal is sold to local metal recyclers and crushed glass is sent and reused in New Glasgow ; a process in place where phosphorus gets further processed and sold back to light manufacturers.

Ms. Laurie Lewis, Diversion Planning Coordinator advised that staff would need to meet with facilities and operations within the Municipality to see what the current waste handling practices are for mercury containing lamps. It would be important to have a reference point to see how much waste is produced and be able to look at what the program expectation and funding required to resource this activity. She felt that it was good news that the presenters have shown that there is a full lifecycle and recovery of all the lamp parts.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Fisher, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request a staff report including budget implications, to consider a stewardship program whereby HRM disposes of all light bulbs used at all municipal buildings at a proper recycling facility designed to handle all types of HRM bulbs.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Dalrymple thanked the representatives from Dan-X for presenting and providing an update on their operations.

8.3.2 Green Energy Education Network

Ms. Adrienne Schmalz and Ms. Emi Beliveau Thompson students from Dalhousie University provided the updated presentation to the Committee. The group had created a video based on the Community Energy Plan to help educate people about sustainability and climate issues. The goal was to also help residents understand what HRM was doing in the areas of sustainability and climate change. They also did sustain-a-stories video series which were short interviews with residents who were actively involved in energy issues. The group used online platforms such as a website, Facebook, Twitter and You Tube to provide the information to the public. The group encouraged and requested that Council use their work in the future to help further educate residents.

Members of the Committee applauded the work completed by the students and wished them luck in their future endeavours.

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Community Energy Plan Consultation

Mr. Richard MacLellan, Environmental Performance Manager advised that staff had expanded the Community Energy Plan (CEP) consultation as requested by the Committee. The Shape your City Website has been successful with 1200 people participating in the CEP. He noted that they had participated in the renewable energy conference and hosted a session at it. He added that they are working with the Chamber on a survey to be sent out to 100 businesses.

Councillor Watts questioned when the consultations will come back before the Committee for discussion. She wondered if there was the possibility of missing the next year's budget to implement any projects if nothing came back to the Committee sooner. She requested that there be further updates provided at future meetings.

Mr. Maclellan advised that it was a 24 month project and it is on schedule to return to the Committee. He added that it has been a bit slow on the current consultation but will start into the next phase after staff has gone over the current results. He added that there are a number of projects already on the go and some bigger projects planned for the next year and did not see any budget barriers.

9.1.2 Council Report on Pesticides – Committee Discussion

This item was deleted during the Order of Business. See page 2.

9.1.3 Solar City Update

The following was before the Committee:

- *A staff recommendation report dated March 11, 2014*

Mr. Julian Boyle, Strategic Energy Initiatives and Policy Manager provided the presentation to the Committee. He provided the following highlights from the first year of the Solar City project:

- 252 homes signed an agreement to install a solar system and 1200 homes had a free solar assessment completed on their home
- 10 open houses held with over 500 people in attendance.
- More than 1000 new homes have registered since March 2014.
- 252 homes will save over \$5.1 million over the next 25 years

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee direct staff to prepare and present an evaluation report of the Solar City Program.

Councillor Watts applauded the solar city program and the fact that the municipality took it on when it was outside their mandate. She requested further information on the water conservation information and wondered if there was any collaboration with Halifax Water.

Mr. Boyle advised that the solar systems heat the home hot water and there is a link between the performance of the systems and how much hot water residents would consume. He added that they had worked with FCM on the targets and the solar systems had shown a reduction in water

use by an average of 25%. He further added that all this additional information would be included in the report.

Councillor Karsten encouraged staff to submit applications for the Green Champions Award program as he felt that the Solar City program would have been a good candidate. He added that there is great work being done in the municipality and should be showcased on a national level.

Deputy Mayor Fisher expressed support for the Solar City Program and suggested that a similar funding model be set up for other energy efficiency programs.

Mr. Boyle noted that other municipalities have looked at HRM's funding model and have suggested that they may use a similar funding model for other programs. He added that energy efficiency is complex and by having the funding model in place allowed for a boundary to be put around the program and it is why HRM has been successful in doing energy efficiency programs.

Councillor Nicoll questioned what could be done differently in the program to prevent loss of interest in the program by residents who initially signed up. She also wanted to know how these different programs could be done at multi district facilities.

Mr. Boyle stated that it was difficult to sign people up and try to implement the program over a two year period. He added that over the two year period a number of variables would affect why residents would become disinterested in the program. He clarified that HRM continues to implement a number of programs at HRM facilities including the multi district facilities.

Councillor Craig stated that looking at the numbers there seems to be a gap on the expectation on uptake in the program. He wondered how the performance of the contractors would be tracked and wondered if all the objectives planned were being achieved. He requested that information be included in any report back to the Committee.

Mr. Boyle advised that the contractors have done a great job so far in the program and staff meet with them every couple weeks. He added that there are capacity issues and they also meet to address any gaps in the program. Residents are provided with the best and any information available to help make their decision if they want to enter the program.

Ms. Jane Fraser, Director Planning and Infrastructure advised that the intention of the evaluation to be able to answer the questions in an objective way as opposed to what is thought to be happening. It will also help staff answer questions if they have set the right targets, done enough education and what lessons have been learned before expanding the program further.

MOTIOPN PUT AND PASSED.

9.1.4 Retail Electricity Act

Councillor Watts advised that the provincial government is currently having a review of the Electricity Reform Act and are looking for consultation on it. She wondered if there was something that the Committee would like to provide to go forward as part of the formal review.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Fisher, seconded by Councillor that ESSC request the Mayor to invite the Provincial Energy Minister or his designate to an upcoming ESSC meeting to discuss opportunities related to the Electricity Reform Act.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.2 Halifax Water Commission

9.2.1 Councillor Nomination to Halifax Water

Councillor Dalrymple stepped down from the Chair and Councillor Watts assumed the Chair at 3:25 p.m.

Councillor Watts called for nominations for representative to the Halifax Water Commission Board.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councilor Karsten that Councillor Barry Dalrymple be nominated as the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee representative on the Halifax Water Commission Board.

Councilor Watts called three times for any further nominations. There being none, it was:

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Nicoll, that nominations for the Halifax Water Commission Board be closed. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Watts declared Councilor Barry Dalrymple the ESSC representative on the Halifax Water Commission Board.

9.3 MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE

9.3.1 Regional Chairs Update

The following was before the Committee:

- *A Regional Chairs update report dated April 25, 2014*

Councillor Watts provided the Committee with the Regional Chairs meeting update and advised there was a report circulated to the Committee that covered some of the work being completed. She advised that solid waste managers and directors were asked by Service Nova Scotia to determine the costs of the provincial 300kg/capita EGSPA waste reduction goal. She added that HRM had completed their report and it was also circulated to the Committee and encouraged members to review it. She advised that some ESSC members did attend an information session at the Dartmouth Sportsplex which highlighted some of the future changes and the state of the solid waste system in the province and the municipalities' future role in the extended producer

responsibility program. Councillor Watts added that the province will be consulting with municipalities on new solid waste resource regulations. She requested staff to provide a brief update on how the consultation process would take place.

Ms. Laurie Lewis, Diversion Planning Coordinator stated that the province would be releasing a document that would outline areas of change from provincial to municipal responsibility. She added that Department of Environment would consult with stakeholders over a 60 day period. She noted that staff would provide the committee an information report that would identify the areas of change and any impacts on the municipality.

Councillor Watts suggested that the information report come forward at the June meeting so that all the information could be reviewed by the Committee and any recommendations to Regional Council before the 60 day consultations were completed.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10. MOTIONS

10.1 Councillor Craig

MOVED by Councilor Craig, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the ESSC invite Nova Renew Inc and Sustane Technologies to a future meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee to be determined through agenda planning.

A brief discussion ensued.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11. IN CAMERA

12. ADDED ITEMS

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – June 5, 2014

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Quentin Hill
Legislative Assistant