

**DARTMOUTH LAKES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
November 29, 2006**

PRESENT: Ms. Audrey Manzer, Chair
Ms. Catherine Lunn, Vice Chair
Mr. Mark McLean
Mr. Pierre Clement
Ms. Christine Hoehne
Mr. Peter Connor
Dr. Hugh Millward

ABSENT: Councillor Gloria McCluskey (regrets)
Dr. Mark Trevorrow (regrets)
Dr. Klaus Hellenbrand (regrets)
Dr. Ron Beazley
Ms. Stephanie Bird

STAFF: Ms. Cathy Spencer, Development Officer
Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. **without a quorum.**

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - None

The minutes of the October 25, 2006 meeting are not yet available.

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

The Board agreed to move the following items to the first order of business:

- 4.2 Sullivan's Pond Fountain - Guest: Mr. Tim Olive, Executive Director, Dartmouth Downtown Business Commission
- 5.2 Sewer Line - Update on Landscaping
- 4.1 Dartmouth Crossing Update

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

The Committee had agreed, during the approval of the agenda, to deal with Item 4.2 at this time.

4.2 Sullivan's Pond Fountain - Mr. Tim Olive, Executive Director, Dartmouth Downtown Business Commission

Mr. Olive passed around photographs taken of the fountain during a test run the previous week, and provided an update on the Sullivan's Pond Fountain, noting the following:

- C The fountain will open on December 2, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. during the Christmas Tree lighting at Sullivan's Pond;
- C Research and fundraising for the fountain was undertaken by the Dartmouth Downtown Business Commission;
- C The fountain was funded by the Halifax Foundation and the Kiwanis Club of Dartmouth;
- C HRM completed the installation of the fountain;
- C Consultation with the Department of Environment was undertaken, and it was determined that there would be minimal negative impact to the pond;
- C The fountain will promote irrigation of the pond, pumping 500 gallons of water per minute, and is placed at the deepest part of the pond in approx. 5 ½ to 6 feet of water (the equipment requires a 3 foot clearance);

- C The fountain is anchored to the bottom and the shore by steel cables, and can be removed from the pond, however not easily, weighing 500 lbs;
- C Different coloured lights and different water spray heights reaching 45 feet high and 100 feet in diameter are programmed through a timer on shore;
- C Operating costs for the fountain are estimated at \$8,000 per year, of which HRM will be absorbing electrical costs and other costs from park maintenance;
- C An additional piece of equipment was purchased to regulate the spray height according to wind speed, in order to control spray from the wind, at an extra cost of \$1,200;
- C Another piece of equipment was also purchased at an additional cost of \$2,400 to automatically shut off the motor if the water level of the pond decreases to a certain level;
- C The fountain will be operating 24 hours per day, 365 days per year;
- C There is a larger water nozzle for use in the winter, and the water spray height will be lowered for the winter months to prevent freezing;
- C Maintenance checks will be completed by HRM staff every three months, and two HRM employees have been trained to operate and maintain the fountain;
- C Tests runs have revealed that the ducks are not bothered by the presence of the fountain, and duck faeces will not be an issue.

During the presentation, Mr. Pierre Clement arrived at 5:17 p.m. and Ms. Catherine Lunn arrived at 5:28 p.m., at which time a **quorum was achieved**.

Mr. Olive responded to questions of the Board, and the Chair thanked Mr. Olive for attending.

The Committee had agreed, during the approval of the agenda, to deal with Item 5.2 at this time.

5.2 Sewer Line - Update on Landscaping

Mr. Rob Jahncke, Senior Parkland Planner, updated the Board on this matter, noting that the trunk sewer construction in Shubie Park was spearheaded by the Dartmouth Crossing project, and his role is to assist with reinstating the Park once sewer construction was completed. Ms. Christine Hoehne commented that she walked the trail that morning and was pleased with the progress. Mr. Jahncke went on to note the following:

- C This project is also an opportunity to improve the trail system through the Park;
- C The sewer line links at Lakeshore Park Terrace, where a secondary trail was installed;

- C Vegetation was also a focus of improvements to the park, and work in this area will be completed in the spring with the installation of nursery plants;
- C “Forrest sod” was used to transplant pieces of forest area, and any other disturbed areas have been hydro seeded;
- C A post and rail fence will be installed this week along the retaining wall;
- C The culvert was channelled under a sewer pipe under the trail.

Mr. Jahncke explained the linking of the secondary and TransCanada Trails.

Responding to questions of the Board, Mr. Jahncke advised that the cedar mulching that is currently in place will remain. The Chair commented that veterinarians are warning that there is a risk of cedar mulch growing a poisonous mould, which is very harmful to animals if ingested.

Mr. Jahncke advised that the trails will be covered with Class A gravel, and not crusher dust, because of the proximity to the lake and in anticipation of possible paving, as part of the Active Transportation Plan. The Board discussed the pros and cons of Class A gravel, noting that the gravel is difficult for cycling and strollers.

The Chair indicated that she located a set of drawings for a park/trail at Cranberry Lake from 1994, which was recently inquired about at a Board meeting. Mr. Jahncke indicated that he spoke with Mr. Steve Oakey, Parkland Planner, and a trail has been constructed in this location. Mr. Jahncke indicated that Mr. Oakey advised that plans include a passive recreation park with benches, however, it is unclear whether this will be included in the 2007/08 budget.

The Chair thanked Mr. Jahncke for attending.

4.1 Dartmouth Crossing Update

Mr. Brian White, Environmental Design and Management Limited (EDM) provided a Power Point presentation to the Board including aerial photos of the Dartmouth Crossing site, the watershed area of Lake Charles, Lake Banook, and Lake MicMac, and development patterns of the site, noting the following:

- C Most roads within the site are now paved, and HRM will soon take over ownership of the roads, with the rest remaining privately owned;
- C An underpass has been constructed on Wright Avenue to enter the site;
- C 17 officials from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans attended for a site tour on November 17, 2006, at the invitation of Dartmouth Crossing Ltd.;

- C Landscaping and re-vegetation of the site has not yet commenced, but is part of the next phase;
- C The site still operates under the Ministerial Order, for which daily inspections are still completed, however an application will be made within the next few weeks to lift the Order;
- C Stores will begin opening in January 2007 and landscaping and re-vegetation of Frenchman's Brook will follow;
- C Trail construction at Grassy Brook including the construction of a pedestrian bridge will also commence in 2007.

Mr. White indicated that the developer is striving for a culvert free site, and he reviewed photos of a pool which forms an artificial spawning bed. He clarified at the request of the Board that the large berms near the highway will remain.

Mr. White advised that updates will be posted on the Dartmouth Crossing website, along with construction photos, environmental programs and protocols. He noted that he will attend the January Board meeting with an update, and will attend bi-monthly or at the request of the Board after that.

The Chair thanked Mr. White for attending.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

5.1 General State of Lake MicMac (oral)

Mr. Tony Blouin, Manager, Environmental Performance (Water), addressed the Board, noting the following:

- C A sampling program of all lakes within the Shubie Canal system was started including Lake Charles, Lake MicMac and Lake Banook;
- C Lakes are sampled 3 or 4 times a year, and are tested for water quality, excluding testing for metals;
- C The test results from the fall testing of Lake MicMac have not yet been received;
- C One location in each lake is tested, and the test area is separate from the faecal coliform testing locations.

Mr. Blouin indicated that he will forward the test results for Lake MicMac when they are received, and these and other test results will be posted on the web. He will forward the link for the website.

5.2 Sewer Line - Update on Landscaping

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting. See page 4.

5.3 Sewage Problem Above Russell Lake

Mr. Tony Blouin, updated the Board on this matter, noting the following:

- C In late August Jacques Whitford was undertaking sampling of Russell Lake on behalf of Clayton Developments;
- C Jacques Whitford advised HRM that high faecal coliform levels were detected in the north end of the Lake;
- C By the time HRM staff completed testing of the Lake, faecal coliform levels were much lower.
- C Both Jacques Whitford staff and HRM staff were unable to determine the source of the high levels, and staff believe this was a transitory event of unknown origin.

5.4 Grassy Brook - Update (oral)

Mr. Tony Blouin reminded Board members that there was a problem identified with low oxygen levels and high organic levels in Grassy Brook earlier this year. Mr. Blouin noted the following:

- C Grassy Brook drains from the upper end of Burnside Industrial Park close to Dartmouth Crossing, where HRM had been doing work for a development;
- C There was an area where peat had been removed and stockpiled in an area where mineral soil and rock had previously been stored;
- C The peat subsequently leached down into the soil and into Grassy Brook, creating the low oxygen levels and high organic levels;
- C HRM had the peat material relocated to a more suitable location and further tests indicate that the oxygen levels are returning to normal;
- C A study is currently underway of the entire length of the Brook, the results of which will be available shortly.

Ms. Hoehne commented that the unnamed tributary that comes across the highway from Dartmouth Crossing and empties into the canal was full of foam and silt yesterday and requested that someone look into the source of the pollution. It was noted that the Department of Environment should be made aware of this situation and that the contact person for the Department of Transportation is Mr. Brad McInnis.

5.5 Wildlife on Dartmouth Lakes - (Guest Speaker - TBA)

The Chair indicated that she was not able to make contact with a person from the Provincial Department of Natural Resources that was highly recommended as an expert on wildlife in Dartmouth Lakes. She indicated that she will attempt to have the guest speak for the January or February meetings.

5.6 Chairman's Report (oral)

The Chair did not have an update for the Board.

5.7 Staff Update (oral)

The Chair introduced Ms. Cathy Spencer, Development Officer, who is the new staff representative on the Board. She noted that Mr. John MacPherson has accepted a position with the HRM Real Estate department.

The Committee added and agreed to deal with item 8.1 at this time.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Trunk Sewer - North Dartmouth

This item was added to the agenda at the request of Mr. Clement.

Mr. Clement indicated that at the last meeting, members expressed concern with the many scenarios proposed for the trunk sewer construction in North Dartmouth.

Mr. Peter Duncan, Manager, Environmental Assets, indicated that there is a section of the trunk sewer missing, which is being temporarily filled by the Lakeshore subdivision pumping station. He advised that HRM has hired CBCL to undertake a study to determine the best solution, which is anticipated to be completed in February. Mr. Duncan indicated that he has asked CBCL to come before the Board for input and feedback prior to finalizing the report for the study.

Mr. Connor commented that it was his understanding that Dartmouth Crossing Limited committed to completing the missing section of the trunk sewer. Mr. Duncan indicated that it is unclear at this point whether it will be completed as a gravity trunk sewer or remain as a forced drain. He noted that it will have to be upsized at some point, and it is unclear who will be responsible for the costs associated with that. Mr. Ian Guppy, Senior Environmental Engineer, noted that Dartmouth Crossing Ltd. will be responsible for a share of the costs, however the exact percentage is unclear at this time.

Mr. Duncan advised that an update will be provided to the Board at the January or February meeting when further details are available.

Mr. Conner left at 6:30 p.m., at which time a **quorum was lost**.

6. REPORTS

6.1 Proposed Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board Meeting Schedule for 2007

The Board agreed to meet on the last Wednesday of each month, excluding July, August, and December, at 5:15 p.m. at the Findlay Centre, 36 Elliott Street, Dartmouth, as follows:

January 31, 2007

February 28, 2007

March 28, 2007

April 25, 2007

May 30, 2007

June 27, 2007

September 26, 2007

October 31, 2007

November 28, 2007

7. ELECTION OF CHAIR / VICE-CHAIR

At this time nominations were received for the position of Chair.

The Board agreed that Ms. Audrey Manzer be re-appointed as Chair of the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board.

Ms. Manzer resumed the position of Chair and called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair.

The Board agreed that Ms. Catherine Lunn be re-appointed as Vice-Chair of the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Trunk Sewer - North Dartmouth

This matter was dealt with earlier in the meeting. See page 7.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board is scheduled for Wednesday, January 31, 2007 at 5:15 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Jennifer Weagle
Legislative Assistant