

# HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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## DARTMOUTH LAKES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

**April 25, 2007**

PRESENT: Ms. Audrey Manzer, Chair  
Mr. Pierre Clement  
Mr. Peter Connor  
Mr. Mark McLean  
Dr. Hugh Millward  
Dr. Mark Trevorrow

REGRETS: Dr. Klaus Hellenbrand  
Ms. Christine Hoehne  
Dr. Ron Beazley  
Councillor Gloria McCluskey  
Ms. Catherine Lunn, Vice-Chair  
Ms. Stephanie Bird

STAFF AND  
GUESTS: Ms. Cathy Spencer, Development Officer, Eastern Division, HRM  
Planning & Development Services  
Ms. Jillanna Brown, Environmental Design and Management Ltd.  
Dr. Don C. Gordon, Guest, Synoptic Water Quality Survey  
Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:27 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 28, 2007**

Change: Page 4: Last bullet – change to “production rating is over 2 megawatts” and replace “production capacity” with “it”. The last sentence should read “Funding through Natural Resource Canada would require a federal environmental assessment.”  
Page 6: Third bullet: Change “up to \$1 million” to “habitat”.  
Page 6: Last bullet: Change to “not desirable to encourage the building of another trail or boardwalk”

**MOVED BY Mr. Connor, seconded by Mr. McLean that the minutes of February 28, 2007, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

**MOVED BY Dr. Millward, seconded by Mr. Trevorrow that the agenda, as presented, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

**4.1 Dartmouth Crossing Update**

The Chair introduced Ms. Jillanna Brown of Environmental Design and Management Limited (EDM).

Ms. Brown advised that, due to the delay in the signing of the Ministerial Order, it would be preferable to provide an update at the next meeting. She offered to respond to any questions the Board may have at this time.

In response to an inquiry from the Board, Ms. Brown advised that the recent incident at Lake Mic Mac was due to a diversion at the catch basin being temporarily removed for an inspection and not replaced prior to the heavy rains. This matter has now been rectified.

Ms. Brown and Ms. Cathy Spencer, Planner, HRM, responded to the Board’s concerns with the amount of open soil located across from the Home Depot site advising that the soil will be used during construction and will not sit for long at that site. Ms. Manzer suggested

that the soil be covered in the interim. Ms. Brown and Ms. Spencer offered to speak with staff and the site manager.

During the ensuing discussion on floods/storm water retention in regard to the sign located next to the Home Depot site that states: "THIS AREA MAY FLOOD", Mr. Connor suggested that an animated PowerPoint presentation, or a successive set of still photographs, could be a useful design tool in regard to various flood events and their ebb and flow. (i.e. a 1 in 24 year or 1 in 100 year storm).

Ms. Brown further responded to the Board that:

- The Commodore and Wright Avenue road projects have been tendered. The street may be open to traffic by June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- There will be approximately six buildings constructed in Dartmouth Crossing in the next few months with the expectation of more building permits to come.
- In regard to the status of habitat restoration work in Frenchman's Brook; there are trout in the brook; spawning beds created; one last section of culvert to be removed and reinstated; uncertainty at this time if the opposite side of the brook will remain wooded. Staff have indicated that there is an interest in having that area dedicated as parkland.

The Chair, on behalf of the Board, thanked Ms. Brown for her comments.

**5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - None**

**6. REPORTS**

**6.1 Synoptic Water Quality Survey of Selected HRM Lakes from 2000**

- A copy of the Synoptic Water Quality Survey of Selected Halifax Regional Municipality Lakes report, dated March 28-29, 2000, was before the Board.

Dr. Don Gordon, assisted by Mr. Pierre Clement, presented the report. Highlights of the presentation are as follows:

- Water samples were collected from 51 Metro area lakes on March 28 & 29, 2000; repeating the synoptic survey of the same lakes conducted in 1980 and 1991.
- The water quality variables analyzed were pH, major ions, nutrients, organic matter and elements.
- Analysis over twenty years assists in determining trends. The most pronounced trend discovered was the increase in conductivity in most lakes. This was due to the increase in sodium/chloride. This increase may be attributed to the use of road salt.

- No long term change in pH. Acidity has decreased over the years which may be due to the widespread use of lime on lawns.
- Nitrate concentrations increased while other nutrients remained relatively constant.
- No clear trends in organic matter variables.
- Several lakes had high values for trophic status and can be classified as eutrophic (Bissett and Russell).
- The data should be interpreted with caution. The data serves as a good early warning system for lakes that may warrant a more detailed sample.
- 3 to 4 samples were taken from the larger lakes.
- Some lakes, such as Chocolate Lake, showed improvement. This may be due to the fact that First and Second Chain Lakes now flush out through Chocolate Lake.
- Analysis was done at detection limit levels which would not be the technique for measuring total phosphorous. In lake water, phosphorous is the key to eutrophication
- Would be good to do testing/sampling again in 2010.
- Once the French abstract has been completed, the report will be released. The document will be posted to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans website and will be available to the public.

The following comments were expressed by the Board during the ensuing discussion:

- The data being at the low detection level is good.
- Obtaining data from HRM on quantity of salt purchased/used over that time period may be helpful information. Consideration would have to be given to the shopping malls and others who also use salt. Mr. Clement responded that Environment Canada has rules in regard to road salt. There has been a reduction in road salt use since 2000. The use of road salt also depends on the winter. It would be interesting to see the water analysis results in 2010. Dr. Gordon commented that results show that HRM has been more careful in terms of road salt application. He added that there is no real biological concern but there is concern with the density. Mr. Clement added that the tests were done in early spring before the water flow into the lakes.

The Board congratulated Dr. Gordon and Mr. Clement for their work and thanked them for their presentation.

## **6.2 Chairman's Report**

Ms. Manzer advised of the following:

- She attended a Sullivan's Pond - Lake Banook Master Plan Workshop on April 4<sup>th</sup>, organized by Mr. Peter Bigelow, HRM Manager, Real Property Planning. All tables at the workshop presented similar ideas for Sullivan's Pond and Lake Banook. Ms.

Manzer will be serving on the Master Plan Advisory Committee. There will be approximately five meetings of the Advisory Committee to complete the draft Master Plan.

- Having received an e-mail from Mr. Walter Regan in regard to the provincial initiative on water strategy announced by the Minister of Environment and Labour, Ms. Manzer attended the meeting and press conference held by the Minister of Environment and Labour.
- She attended the HRM public consultation session at St. Patrick's High School, Halifax, in regard to how HRM is communicating with the citizens. She added that it was an interesting exercise.
- Councillor Gloria McCluskey has taken a leave of absence as of Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> due to her impending surgery. Councillor McCluskey will return to her duties upon recommendation of her Doctor.

### 6.3 Staff Update

Ms. Cathy Spencer advised of the following:

- Requested revisions have been made to the *Guidelines for any Development on a Waterfront Lot*. The document is now with the HRM Development Technicians and will be added to any permits for waterfront development.
- The silt boom on Lake Banook was removed on Monday morning. Dr. Millward suggested that procedures for the removal of the silt boom be written out to ensure the silt is removed at the same time using a method that would cause the least damage. Ms. Spencer will follow-up with Ms. Kenda MacKenzie, HRM Development Engineer, in regard to the By-Laws and whether or not the silt booms have to be removed, and; if so, when and how they are removed.

### 7. ADDED ITEMS - None

### 8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board is scheduled for Wednesday, May 30, 2007 at 5:15 pm.

### 9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Chris Newson  
Legislative Assistant