

**Halifax Regional Municipality**  
**Western Common Wilderness Advisory Committee**  
**General Meeting 005**  
**Minutes**

**Date:** September 26, 2007

**Time:** 7:00 pm

**Location:** Lakeside Community Recreation Centre

**Present:** William Matheson - Chair, Darrell Cooling, Alan Kitz, Blake Maybank, Susan Smith, Dusan Soudek - Vice Chair, Councillor Reg Rankin,, Michael Lamplugh, Jane Sears, Peter Bigelow ( HRM), Jan Skora (HRM), Doug Branscombe (HRM), John Charles (HRM), Michael MacDonald (HRM)

**Regrets:** Philip Cochrane, Lorne Logan, Kelly Morrissey

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**1. Approval of the proposed Agenda for Meeting 005**

The proposed Agenda of the September 26, 2007 was approved as presented.

**2. Approval of the Minutes from Meeting 004**

Minutes from Meeting 004 approved as presented.

### 3. **A Planning Process for Open Space System of the Chebucto Peninsula**

Current status and interaction of this process with planning process for Wilderness Common portion of Western Common presented by John Charles, Planner - Real Property Planning, HRM

Before coming to this unit, I worked on the Regional Plan for the last 4 years, working on the environmental policy of the Regional Plan. Part of the Regional Plan perceived something called Milton's Base Function plan and within that is the idea for wildlife corridors and the whole connectivity of the region, being able to continue what we have & try to continue in keeping it together & being continuously being fragmented by new development. When I came in, I heard some people talking about flying over HRM & seeing the green space & the whole idea of looking at natural landscape having natural and as you start carving off little pieces it loses its inherent value

With the Regional Plan, we identified conceptual corridors. You can see in that map, in blue, different corridors, one extending from Peggys Cove, one from Terrance Bay, one from Penant, & what we did in the Regional Plan, was to set out goals of trying to find ways to protect them. Because we are a municipality, these corridors are Crown Land owned by the province. There is a Crown Land committee with Natural Resource in process now & HRM is part of that process. The Province has realized that everyone has to be involved. So what they have done is to organize a committee for an overall plan for the Chebucto Peninsula & HRM is part of that committee. We have approached the province & said we see some strong opportunities for us & our Open Space Functional Plan coming out of our Regional Plan & your Crown Land planning. Would you be interested in partnering in a study & the province has said initially has said yes. We think it is a good idea. & obviously the Western Common is part of that study area. Generally, within the study is connectivity, i.e., looking at air photos, lots of forested areas, etc. but we want to look 25 years in the future & see what the potential impacts would be. Different types of connectivity, there is cultural, i.e., the Old St. Margerets Bay Coach road. There are recreational corridors, so if you paddled from Big Hubley

Lake down to Shad Bay you know there are many canoers there. With proper planning we might be able to preserve these & look at those in the future.. DNR asked me to do a complete & utter fabrication at this point, it is not the final document & I presented it to DNR & their committee. The only way it is going to make sense is to send out Issue Papers. So that the very next step that we are going work on is sending out requests for issue papers. We would probably send requests out to this committee to see if there is any connectivity in the Chebucto Peninsula, cultural, recreational, wildlife, & you will notice that all our waterways are chronically polluted in these areas. St. Margarets closed to shellfish harvesting has increased 1500% in the past decade largely due to land-based pollution. Marking a small group of people on the Committee to start, scoping workshop so we can a clear idea of the scope.

Inception of a group of NGOs around the Chebucto Peninsula, some of you are members of these groups, primarily lead by ?? & they developed with the province & the municipality, over the course of a year, how to engage the public in public decision-marking around public lands. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> pilot project utilizing that methodology & the entire Chebucto Peninsula. Connectivity & ?? - All the different agencies, different levels of government, i.e., federal, provincial, & municipal, as well as community groups will be involved.

I think we have a good track record re: Birch Cove Blue Mountain Regional Park plan, in partnership with TPW, NSEL, & DNR - the methodology just won the top award in Canada - plan was accepted.

The additional site visits will be necessary to confirm and verify existing site conditions. The current process relied on studies that had previously been done. Contribution of Canoe/Kayak Nova Scotia, the Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society, etc. The principal of that plan was John Heseltine(?), he had first worked on that plan back with the City of Halifax. DNR is the lead on this project - HRM to partnership with DNR. It has been a whole year of land planning process where HRM supplying the main funding, DNR supplying the people, some funding, expertise, etc.

The question is... Can we designate all the land to wildlife preserve? If this will be a case how this impact other land uses in this area.

The idea is... No hunting nor motorized vehicles in parks.

**4. Prospect Road Community Centre**

Review of the planning and design process for Prospect Road Community Centre was presented to WCWAC members. The critical aspect of the site plan design is location of the access point to the site. The recommended location is in the North East end of the existing street frontage. The access will allow for future regional access point to Wilderness Common part of Western Common.

Review of the access opportunity to “Nichols Lake Park” and Wilderness Common.  
Michael MacDonald, Project Manager, Capital Projects - HRM

**5. Exploration of waterways located in Wilderness Common portions of Western Common.**

Presentation and review of the September 23, 2007 site visit to Big Indian Lake & MacDonald Lake areas.

Presentation by Dusan Soudek

**6. Wilderness Common - site visits**

Presentation and Review of the site visits to Wilderness Common portion of Western Common by Blake Maybank

**7. New site visits to Wilderness Common area.**

Review of the existing land features which require a site visit before Terms of Reference of the project will be initiated.

Bill Matheson

**8. Access to MacDonald Lake in Brookside**

Review of the available access points to MacDonald Lake. The existing access point to the lake has been identified on the plan.

Jan Skora (HRM)

**9. New business and date for next meeting.**

Next Meeting to be held on November 14, 2007 at 7:00 pm.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM