

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

March 15, 2012

PRESENT: Councillor Jennifer Watts, Chair
Councillor Debbie Hum, Vice Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee
Mr. David Jackson
Mr. Walter Regan
Mr. Clive MacGregor
Ms. Elizabeth Pugh
Ms. Janet Barlow
Mr. Myles McCallum
Ms. Devon Peavoy

REGRETS: Mr. Lawrence Plug
Mr. John MacLennan
Mr. Troy Nauffts

STAFF: Mr. Paul Euloth, Regional Trail Coordinator
Mr. David MacIsaac, Supervisor, Transportation Demand
Management
Ms. Julie Vandervoort, Legislative Support

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. in Room 108, Bloomfield Centre.

2. UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were made:

- Mr. Regan stated that the Halifax Regional Trails Association will hold their Annual General Meeting April 2, 2012 at Shubenacadie Park; he will circulate an invitation to ATAC members by e-mail.
- Mr. Regan announced that the Chain of Lakes Trail Association would prepare a presentation for the April ATAC meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 16, 2012

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. McCallum that the minutes of February 16, 2012 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The Committee agreed to hear a presentation by Mr. Ross Soward, Community Planner, Cities & Environment Unit, Dalhousie University as item 7.3.

MOVED by Councillor Hum, seconded by Mr. Regan that the order of business be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

5.1 Status of Active Transportation Review – Chair

The Chair noted that when the position of Active Transportation Coordinator is filled, it will be possible to provide a more complete Active Transportation (AT) review, however, in the interim, she invited comments from members.

Mr. Regan stated that the priority is to obtain additional staff and infrastructure funding. He added that it is an issue for the Halifax Regionals Trails Association that it currently puts some of its resources into trails in local provincial parks, and that there are no consistent standards for trail construction, upgrades or maintenance.

Mr. McCallum stated that he would like to see HRM working with major business groups and large employers to promote AT in a way that changes transportation behaviour. He

added that it should be part of new development agreements that trails are included and built to standard.

Ms. Janet Barlow noted that the Ecology Action Centre has an “Our HRM” initiative to contain sprawl by strengthening walking and cycling paths. She stated that she would send the EAC presentation on this to the Legislative Assistant to be distributed to ATAC members.

Mr. Euloth informed the Committee that HRM has had good experiences with Halifax Water with regards to access roads and trails and that a possible Memorandum of Understanding is forthcoming on this issue.

In concluding the discussion, the Chair stated that these views need to be expressed at Regional Plan public consultations and she urged members to also use Twitter and Facebook options to promote awareness of AT. She stated that she would write a letter on behalf of the Committee to the Halifax Water Commission (copied to HRM Planning) requesting an opportunity to address the Commission on trail development. In response to a final comment from Mr. Regan, the Chair also stated that she would follow up with HRM staff on a possible acquisition process for the Hants-Windsor railway.

The Chair requested that the status of AT review return to the agenda for further discussion during the April ATAC meeting.

5.2 Status of Active Transportation Coordinator Position

Mr. MacIsaac informed the Committee that the interview process would be completed shortly and the successful candidate would likely be able to attend the April ATAC meeting.

5.3 Active and Sustainable Transportation – Mr. MacGregor

Mr. MacGregor informed the Committee that the Halifax Cycling Coalition Board had not met between the February and March ATAC meetings so he did not have an update but he would advise ATAC members of new information when it becomes available.

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS -- NONE

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence

7.1.1 Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee (PPPAC) Response to the Active Transportation Advisory Committee Dated March 8, 2012

The Chair referred ATAC members to the letter dated March 8, 2012 from the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee. Members agreed that the Chair and Councillor

Hendsbee would attend the April PPPAC meeting on behalf of ATAC. The Chair noted that she would contact Ms. Sarah Craig of I Heart Bikes to provide her with an update.

7.2 Petitions -- None

7.3 Presentation – Mr. Ross Soward

Mr. Soward provided a presentation on the Bikeways Plan supported by Dalhousie University, St. Mary's University, Capital Health and the IWK. He outlined current travel behaviour into that institutional district and stated that the goal of the Plan is to establish an environment that will attract new riders and encourage staff and students to switch to cycling. Components of the Plan include a network of routes, bike sharing, a high profile re-design of University Avenue, and integration of the Plan into the HRM AT framework. He noted that senior staff of the four institutions are close to formal approval of the Plan.

The Chair thanked Mr. Soward for his information and noted that she would forward the PDF of his presentation to Mr. Andy Fillmore, Urban Design Project Manager.

8. REPORTS

8.1 Updates

8.1.1 Safety and Education Sub-Committee

Mr. MacGregor informed the Committee that the Halifax Cycling Coalition handlebar flyer was close to completion and should be available by Bike Week.

8.1.2 Bike Week Sub-Committee

Mr. MacIsaac provided an update, stating that grant applications have been received for more than forty events, including two events for the visually impaired. He noted that bike-to-work was a strong theme in the submissions and there were applications involving bikes and the arts. He advised the Committee that a decision had not yet been made on using the Oval as part of Bike Week and that the final decision on allocating the grants would be made on or near April 10, 2012.

8.1.3 Halifax Regional Trails Association

Mr. Regan informed the Committee that the Halifax Regional Trails Association (HRTA) will be involved in a Trail Warden course and those interested in attending should contact Ms. Debaie, Assistant Regional Trails Coordinator. He also noted that HRTA will be present at upcoming provincial park association meetings.

8.1.4 Staff

The staff update was dealt with previously under items 5.2 and 8.1.2.

8.1.5 Committee Members

Mr. MacGregor informed members that the Halifax Cycling Coalition will sponsor a public information meeting on the Cross-Town Connector on March 29, 2012 at 7 p.m. at Bloomfield Centre. He stated that he would forward the invitation to the Legislative Assistant to be circulated to Committee members. He added that HCC Can Bike courses would be available soon.

Committee members entered into a brief discussion of HRM bike and trail maps. Several members expressed concern about maps being cluttered by colour codes or info keys and legends. Concerns were also raised that maps be clearly named, that they indicate whether infrastructure is completed or pending, and that single-use trails are identified as such. The Chair encouraged members to send their suggestions to Mr. MacIsaac. She requested that trail maps be placed on the April ATAC agenda as an item.

8.2 New Business -- None

9. ADDED ITEMS -- NONE

10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -- NONE

11. NEXT MEETING DATE - April 19, 2012

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Julie Vandervoort
Legislative Support