

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

February 21, 2013

PRESENT: Councillor Jennifer Watts, Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee
Councillor Waye Mason
Mr. Walter Regan
Ms. Elizabeth Pugh
Ms. Janet Barlow
Mr. Gordon Smith
Ms. Allison Sparling
Mr. Mark Coffin
Mr. Matthew Worona
Ms. Cynthia Bryant

REGRETS: Mr. Clive MacGregor

STAFF: Ms. Hanita Koblents, Active Transportation Coordinator
Mr. David MacIsaac, Supervisor, Transportation Demand
Management
Ms. Julie Vandervoort, Legislative Support
Mr. Paul Euloth, Regional Trails Coordinator
Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Regional Trails Coordinator

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER.....	3
2.	WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS.....	3
3.	SELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR	3
4.	COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS	3
5.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 17, 2013.....	3
6.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS.....	4
7.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES	4
	7.1 Crosswalk Safety	4
8.	CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS -- NONE	4
9.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS	4
	9.1 Letter from Mr. Clive MacGregor	4
10.	REPORTS	4
	10.1 Updates	4
	10.1.1 Safety and Education Sub-Committee	4
	The Chair explained the role of this sub-committee to the new members..	4
	10.1.2 Bike Week Sub-Committee	4
	10.1.3 Halifax Regional Trails Association	5
	10.1.4 Staff.....	5
	10.1.5 Committee Members	5
11.	ADDED ITEMS	5
	11.1 Sidewalk Snow Removal	6
	11.2 Future agenda items/speed limits	6
12.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -- NONE	6
13.	NEXT MEETING DATE - March 21, 2013	6
14.	ADJOURNMENT	6

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. in Room 108, Bloomfield Centre.

2. WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The Chair welcomed new members and invited current and new members to introduce themselves, their interests and community affiliations.

3. SELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The Chair stepped down and the Legislative Support opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chair. It was moved by Mr. Regan and seconded by Ms. Bryant that Councillor Watts be nominated as Chair. Councillor Watts agreed to accept the nomination on the understanding that she would only serve one more year. There were no further nominations, all members were in favour and none opposed.

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Ms. Bryant that Councillor Watts be nominated as Chair for one additional year. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Watts assumed the Chair and called for nominations for Vice Chair.

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Ms. Barlow that Ms. Sparling be nominated as Vice Chair. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were made:

- Mr. Regan informed the Committee that the Halifax Regional Trails Association AGM would be held April 8, 2013 at the Fairbanks Centre and he would send an invitation to Committee members by email. He further noted that a workshop on the Bedford infill was scheduled for February 22, 2013.
- Councillor Hendsbee informed the Committee that a presentation on the Regional Plan would take place February 25, 2013 at City Hall.
- Ms. Koblents announced that the Carmichael Lecture would be held at Pier 21 on March 7, 2013 and the theme of the lecture is density.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 17, 2013

The Chair noted that Mr. Dave McCusker, Manager, Strategic Transportation Planning, was present at the January 17, 2013 meeting, not Mr. John Charles as stated in the minutes.

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Ms. Bryant that the minutes of January 17, 2013 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Ms. Barlow requested adding a discussion of future agendas as item 11.5.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Ms. Sparling that the order of business be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

7.1 Crosswalk Safety

The Chair provided an update on the recent discussion that took place at Regional Council about crosswalk safety. She noted that staff are collecting additional data and this item will return to the Transportation Standing Committee on February 28, 2013.

8. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS -- NONE

9. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

9.1 Letter from Mr. Clive MacGregor

The Committee acknowledged receipt of a letter sent by Mr. Clive MacGregor, ATAC member, dated February 20, 2013 that expressed the concerns of the Halifax Cycling Coalition about bike boulevard definitions and speed limits, crosswalk mechanisms and other safety issues.

10. REPORTS

10.1 Updates

10.1.1 Safety and Education Sub-Committee

The Chair explained the role of this sub-committee to the new members.

10.1.2 Bike Week Sub-Committee

Mr. MacIsaac stated that Bike Week would be held May 31 – June 9, 2013. He noted that more than 50 residents attended a recent planning session and generated several ideas. He added that a call for events would go out by the end of February and that there will be two categories for grants to allow for some larger events.

10.1.3 Halifax Regional Trails Association

Mr. Regan provided an update on the revised HRTA/HRM Capital and Maintenance agreement for changes for 2013/14 construction and maintenance. He noted that HRTA is pleased that the Regional Trails primary greenway corridors map may be added to the HRM Active Transportation Plan Review and the HRM Regional Plan Review. He further noted that Cole Harbour Parks and Trails has submitted a proposal to NS Moves and that funding has been granted for 2013/14 for the Forest Hills Extension Project. He emphasized that HRTA is very interested in the Windsor Hantsport Rail Line acquisition as part of an AT corridor and that the Sackville and Bedford HRTA groups are organizing a strategic planning committee on this matter. He also provided an update on the Halifax to Lunenburg Trail promotion project, noting that three HRM Trails are part of the project. He also circulated a Get Out Check it Out promotion page that will be mailed to residents.

10.1.4 Staff

Mr. Euloth, Regional Trails Coordinator, and Ms. Debaie, Assistant Regional Trails Coordinator, provided a presentation on Regional Trails funding (capital and operational) and on the procedure involved in the Windsor Hantsport Rail Line acquisition. They circulated maps and also a graph that explained the funding of several trail projects in such categories as committed funds, pending, or phased implementation.

Ms. Koblents, Active Transportation Coordinator, informed the Committee that the staff report on the north-south bike corridor was expected in April 2013. The Chair provided an outline of how the final route decision would be made and the budget process to implement the route. Ms. Koblents also discussed how the HRTA Greenway network plan and vision will be included in the AT Plan Review including the following: clarity on the types of bike route signage, strategic connectivity, the focus on new bike route users and on the regional centre, making the AT Plan user-friendly, and identifying specific projects with a priority rating and a budget.

Mr. MacIssac circulated an information sheet on upcoming AT Plan Review Open House (public engagement) meetings; he stated that he would confirm dates and details within a few days.

10.1.5 Committee Members

Ms. Barlow informed the Committee of recent Ecology Action Centre grants obtained from the provincial Department of Energy including a Tiny Travel daycare project and a project involving metro transit users. She also circulated a 2012 study titled "Cycling Infrastructure + Gradients – Halifax Peninsula".

11. ADDED ITEMS

11.1 Sidewalk Snow Removal

The Chair noted that initiatives are being considered with a focus on assisting pedestrians. She added that a motion aimed at the priority clearing of snow at bus stops would be returning to the Transportation Standing Committee.

11.2 Future agenda items/speed limits

Ms. Barlow requested a staff presentation at the next ATAC meeting about the new traffic roundabout proposals and the safety of pedestrians and cyclists. The Chair emphasized the Shape Your City handout and encouraged ATAC members to attend these public meetings. Ms. Pugh noted that there is a provincial staff person very knowledgeable about traffic roundabouts and she could facilitate inviting this speaker to an ATAC meeting if HRM staff indicated they would find this helpful.

Ms. Barlow also informed the Committee that it is possible to reduce speed limits on streets, without amendments to the provincial *Motor Vehicle Act*, if certain conditions are met.

12. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -- NONE

13. NEXT MEETING DATE - March 21, 2013

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Julie Vandervoort
Legislative Support