

COMMUNITY DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

May 15, 2013

PRESENT:

Ms. Dale Godsoe, Chair
Mr. Fred Morley, Vice Chair
Dr. Gaynor Watson-Creed
Mr. Eric Burchill
Mr. Geoff Le Boutillier
Mr. Bill Book
Councillor Gloria McCluskey
Councillor Waye Mason
Councillor Jennifer Watts

REGRETS:

Ms. Joanne Macrae
Councillor Lorelei Nicoll
Mr. Peter Moorhouse

STAFF:

Mr. Austin French, Manager, Planning and Infrastructure
Ms. Jane Fraser, Director, Planning and Infrastructure
Ms. Leticia Smillie, Cultural Planner
Ms. Susan Corser, Project Coordinator
Ms. Julie Vandervoort, Legislative Support

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 11:39 a.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 3, 2013, April 17, 2013 and May 1, 2013

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Mr. Morley that the Minutes of April 3, 2013, April 17, 2013 and May 1, 2013 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Mr. Burchill, seconded by Mr. Book that the agenda be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES -- NONE

5. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

5.1 Correspondence

The Chair noted an email submitted by Mr. Phil Pacey, dated May 14, 2013, circulated to Committee members.

5.2 Petitions -- None

5.3 Presentations -- None

6. REPORTS

6.1 Staff

6.1.1 Review of Draft Regional Plan (Chapters 3,7,9,10)

The following documents were before the Committee:

- Stantec Final Report “Quantifying the Costs and Benefits to HRM Residents and the Environment of Alternate Growth Scenarios” dated April 2013
- Executive Summary “Costs and Benefits of Growth in HRM – Stantec Quantifying Study” dated May 15, 2013
- Revised Regional Municipal Planning Strategy Draft 2 of Chapters 3, 7 and 9 (Chapters 9 and 10 combined), dated May 10, 2013
- Revised Regional Municipal Planning Strategy Draft 2 of Chapter 4, dated May 14, 2013

- Comments from Committee members:
 - Councillor Nicoll dated May 15, 2013
 - Mr. Le Boutillier dated May 14, 2013

Mr. Austin French, Manager, Planning and Infrastructure, noted that Chapter 4 of the draft RMPS had been recirculated to the Committee with the incorporation of substantial input from Committee members and that Mr. Paul Morgan, Planner was revising other chapters.

Mr. French then provided a presentation to the Committee on RP+5 opportunities and challenges, the definition of the “Greenbelting Framework” and staff analysis of Councillor Mason’s Proposal for RP+5. Mr. French also provided information on the proposed Rural Settlement Strategy including area maps and details on conservation design, limits on new roads, rural growth centres and development between centres. In response to questions from Committee members he clarified the following points:

- what phosphorous counts indicate and how phosphorous is controlled by limiting density and protecting existing vegetation and wetlands
- park acquisition and protection including negotiations with Birch Cove property owners
- the Generalized Future Land Use Map (GFLUM) and Greenbelting Strategy including changes to property design rather than to property rights and the protection of connected green spaces through development agreements
- how suggestions by CDAC members can be included in information provided to stakeholder and public information sessions

The Committee moved into a discussion of Chapter 3; Settlement and Housing. Mr. Le Boutillier noted that he had provided his feedback to staff in his email of May 14, 2013 and he emphasized the wording changes he suggested on page 2 of his email. Dr. Watson-Creed asked why phrases such as “healthy communities” and “community gardens” had been dropped from previous drafts of this chapter and suggested that “community gardens” is a more specific or accurate phrase than “agriculture”. Mr. French agreed that this wording could be re-integrated. He added that the sessions with stakeholders will be conducted by non-HRM facilitators, results from the stakeholder sessions will be conveyed at the public consultations, and both parts of the process will influence the wording used in the final report. Councillor Watts noted that the design of some recent retail and service centres were unhelpful in terms of Active Transportation and mobility issues and that AT-friendly designs must be emphasized.

The Committee then discussed Chapter 7: Cultural and Heritage Resources. Some members expressed concern about the phrase “founding cultures”. Ms. Letitia Smillie, Cultural Planner, noted that she would take the concerns into consideration and that the phrase is used in the context of historical resources or assets.

The Committee then discussed Chapter 9: Governance and Implementation. The Chair noted that section 9.2.2 was unclear in that the “Community Visioning” referred to is a

completed process, not a current one. Mr. Le Boutillier added that Upper Tantallon participated in a visioning process but is not included in the list in 9.2.2. Mr. French agreed to clarify both points. He added, in response to questions, that a community vision or plan must conform with the Regional Plan unless Regional Council provides alternate direction by passing an amendment to the Regional Plan.

Committee members also discussed the possibility of changing the minimum twenty metre setback from watercourses to thirty metres. Mr. French advised the Committee that such a decision should not be undertaken without an analysis of the impact. Councillor Mason requested that the Plan move towards the objective of a thirty metre setback subject to analysis and consultation.

The Chair requested that a future agenda item clarify the timeline for when the next five year review is triggered relative to this process being completed. Councillor Mason added that timelines are also needed to measure and monitor progress on the objectives. The Chair also confirmed with staff that stakeholders will be made aware that the measurement chapter (now Appendix A) was not reviewed by CDAC and that the Committee wished to review it once the stakeholder comments are available.

6.1.2 Review of Phase 3 of the Community Engagement Plan

Ms. Corser, Project Coordinator, presented a proposed schedule of stakeholder and public meetings. She noted that three stakeholder consultations will be held (by invitation) with facilitators conducting half day sessions, and staff present to answer questions. Provincial representatives will be available at the second and third stakeholder consultation. Following that process, there will be three public open houses (Clayton Park, Fall River, North Preston) and one Regional Open House and Public Forum (Dartmouth) as well as written and online submissions and a public opinion survey. She added that a Citizen Open House and Closing Forum is then scheduled for June 17, 2013 that will present the proposed plan and include a keynote address and a moderated Q&A component.

Councillor Watts expressed concern that no CDAC Councillors will be available for the first stakeholder consultation on June 3, 2013 as they are attending a meeting out of province. She also stated her concern that the number of stakeholder and public meetings have been reduced from what was initially proposed. The Chair requested that staff re-examine the issue of the number of sessions. Dr. Watson-Creed noted that the language directed at stakeholders -- “vibrant, mobile, liveable” – is not the same language that is used in the draft 2 RMPS and this could confuse participants. CDAC members suggested that all the sessions be called the Regional Plan+5 Consultations. They further requested that when open house policy questions focus on public support for specific initiatives such as increased watercourse buffers on private land, a Transit Service Boundary, or phased-in underground power lines, that the cost estimates of such initiatives also be provided.

Ms. Corser noted the concerns and agreed that she will examine the community engagement schedule and that CDAC members will be copied on the information package that goes out to stakeholders.

**MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Mason that the revised draft Regional Municipal Planning Strategy be released for public consultation.
MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

7. ADDED ITEMS -- NONE

8. NEXT MEETING DATE – June 19, 2013

The Committee agreed that it would cancel its meeting scheduled for June 5, 2013 and would decide on the remaining CDAC schedule during the June 19, 2013 meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

Julie Vandervoort
Legislative Support