

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

ENERGY AND UNDERGROUND SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
September 28, 2007

MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillor Andrew Younger, Chair
Councillor Sheila Fougere
Councillor Jim Smith
Councillor Debbie Hum
Councillor Linda Mosher
Deputy Mayor Sue Uteck

REGRETS: Councillor Stephen Adams, Vice Chair
Councillor Steve Streach
Councillor Becky Kent

STAFF: Mr. Angus Doyle, Manager of Utilities Coordination,
Traffic & Right-of-Way Services
Mr. Shayne Vipond, Senior Planner, Community Development
Mr. Julian Boyle, Energy Auditor, Transportation & Public Works
Mr. Roger Wells, Supervisor, Regional and Community Planning,
Community Development
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER	3
2.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES	3
3.	APPROVAL OF ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS	3
4.	BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/DEFERRED ITEMS:	3
4.1	Wind Energy Project - Update	3
5.	NEW BUSINESS:	5
5.1	Update on Dalhousie University's Heating Study	5
6.	ADDED ITEMS:	5
6.1	Nova Scotia Power - Tufts Cove Project	5
6.2	Demand Side Management - Update	5
7.	NEXT MEETING DATE	6
8.	ADJOURNMENT	7

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:51 a.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Hum that the minutes of September 7, 2007 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

- 6.1 Nova Scotia Power - Tufts Cove
- 6.2 Demand Side Management

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/DEFERRED ITEMS:

4.1 Wind Energy Project - Update

- A PowerPoint presentation was submitted.

Mr. Shayne Vipond, Senior Planner, provided an update on the Wind Energy Project. He indicated that at the time Regional Council approved this project, staff were unaware of concurrent processes going on that were impacting staff decisions. Mr. Vipond identified those processes as follows:

- new environmental assessment guidelines for wind energy–this has a direct impact in terms of staff's recommendations for discretionary approvals;
- the September release of the new Nova Scotia Wind Atlas data;
- the Nova Scotia Power RFP to identify potential wind farm development sites across N.S. to meet renewable energy targets;
- the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities RFP to prepare Best Practices and model Land Use By-law for wind turbines in Nova Scotia.

Additional points of his presentation are highlighted as follows:

- the likelihood of wind energy development in the short term for HRM is unknown at this point.
- in terms of large scale power generation for HRM, there are a few areas (a portion along the Chebucto Peninsula; the Eastern Shore) but the problem is that all areas have been settled or they have initiatives and policies in place that would compete with the site and the turbine.
- the studies carried out by staff show that the Chebucto Peninsula area would be the most contentious site.
- the overall question for staff to consider is *'is the harvesting of wind compatible with some of these more sensitive uses?'*

- staff have talked with the Bayers Lake and Burnside Business Parks Associations on this matter.

A discussion ensued with Mr. Vipond responding to questions. The following points were noted:

- a suggestion was put forward that Bayer's Lake would not be an appropriate location for windmills.
- currently, there are no regulations in regard to windmills; staff have issued two development permits for windmills.
- once this phase is concluded, staff will restrict applications to all of the urban portion, to allow for further study.
- the municipality has no mechanism for construction inspection of windmills.
- windmills are designed to meet the needs of the owner, only.
- concern was expressed that the wind turbines can be constructed without public consultation.
- it is the intention of staff to address the issue of large turbines connecting to the grid with regulations, with a target date for public hearing in November; at that time, staff will suggest that Regional Council give serious consideration to placing a moratorium on not only the large but the small turbines as well.
- it was noted that many provinces already have turbines operating properly in urban areas, and it was suggested that it may be more beneficial to proceed quickly with the public hearing process and regulations, rather than issuing a moratorium. In the interim, a development agreement process could be instituted.

Mr. Vipond concurred that the development agreement process was an option staff would consider.

Prior to concluding the discussion, the Chair requested Mr. Vipond to forward his presentation to the Legislative Assistant who would then distribute it to the Committee members.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

5.1 Update on Dalhousie University's Heating Study

Mr. Doyle advised that Dalhousie University is undertaking a study of the feasibility of tying into the new steam line at the Victoria General Hospital. He noted that the study is in progress and is supported by the Provincial Department of Energy. On another point, Mr. Doyle advised that at the last meeting, the Committee agreed that the Chair would meet with representatives from Dalhousie University, however, this has not yet happened.

Deputy Mayor Uteck pointed out that the entire site which is being referenced does not belong to the hospital, and she suggested that staff be cognizant of this point when referring to it, and refer to it as the new annex of the VG and not the QEH site.

6. ADDED ITEMS:

6.1 Nova Scotia Power - Tufts Cove Project

Ms. Donovan explained that the Utility and Review Board has a process for approval of projects over \$25,000. Noting that the Tufts Cove project is in the area of \$65 million, she advised that the process is more involved and will involve hearings. Ms. Donovan indicated that past practice has been that HRM has been an Intervener, and she suggested that if there is support from the Committee, staff will formally register as an Intervener.

MOVED by Councillor Fougere, seconded by Councillor Smith that the Energy and Underground Services Advisory Committee endorses staff registering formally as an intervener regarding the URB hearing on the Tufts Cove Project.

The Chair asked that the staff person involved in the hearing, contact Councillor Smith as he has received a number of noise complaints from the neighbourhood on the same part of the property.

Councillor Smith advised that he and the MLA of the area will be attending the hearing and speaking against the application. The Councillor explained that a number of residents have complained about vibration problems and this goes back as far as a year.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6.2 Demand Side Management - Update

Mr. Doyle advised that he was not aware if the schedule for the hearing for Demand Side Management has been set, but the first stage has completed, i.e. the Terms of Reference has been submitted.

Ms. Donovan provided an overview of the issue, noting that the question for consideration is whether Nova Scotia Power would run the programs or if a non profit organization would be accountable to the URB with respect to the success of the various initiatives that run through the DSM program. She added that various sectors have all expressed concern about the governance model and what it will ultimately look like.

Ms. Donovan added that the second issue is if there is only two percent of rates assigned to the DSM program, does HRM have any say over the spending of its money (i.e. its two percent), or will that money go to NSP or some other body to whom HRM would have to apply to as to how to spend any portion of the total program funds. Ms Donovan advised that staff believe this is an issue that should be brought forward to the hearing process.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Fougere that the Energy and Underground Services Advisory Committee endorse staff proceeding in bringing this issue to the hearing process; and that staff explore alternative governance models.

Mr. Doyle advised that the Utility and Review Board indicated that there is potential to expedite some of the obvious DSM program in order to speed them up because the process of developing an administrative structure could delay implementation of a lot of DSM. Therefore, he added, the URB may allow Nova Scotia Power to initiate some of the early programs prior to the evaluation of a governance model. Mr. Doyle also pointed out that the URB indicated in correspondence that they do not have a mandate to examine governance models outside their jurisdiction—in other words, they could not look at Conserve Nova Scotia, for example, as the administrator of DSM, as their focus is strictly on utilities.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7. NEXT MEETING DATE

The Chair noted that the next regular meeting date is October 19, 2007, however, two issues have come up which may require moving the meeting. He advised that staff have asked for extra time to work on a report; and the Mayor is holding a Council workshop on October 19, 2007 at the same time as the Committee usually meets. He asked if Committee members would be available to meet on October 26, 2007. It was agreed that the meeting would be rescheduled for Friday, October 26, 2007, 9:00 a.m., with the location to be determined.

Councillor Hum advised that she would not be able to attend in the morning.
Councillor Mosher advised that she had a prior meeting scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on that date.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:46 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant