

HALIFAX WATERSHED ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
November 21, 2007

PRESENT:

Dr. Wayne Stobo
Ms. Ellinor Williams
Mr. Walter Regan
Mr. Derrill Hynick
Mr. David Ripley
Dr. Barry Thomas
Mr. Ross Evans

REGRETS:

Mr. Nathaniel Smith
Councillor Mary Wile

STAFF:

Mr. Richard Harvey, Planner
Ms. Barbara Coleman, Legislative Assistant
Ms. Sherryl Murphy

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - October 17, 2007

Corrections were noted: Mr. Ross Evans was present at the last meeting.

Item 5.1 Open Space Guidelines, page 3, para. 2 should read, "Dr. Stobo stated that there is not enough information provided to make a recommendation."

Item 5.1 Open Space Guidelines, page 4, para. 2 should read, "Dr. Stobo noted the Board does not receive any indication where the roads are going to be placed in the Concept Plan and the studies listed at Stage I are not provided".

The following notation should be added at Item 6.4 HWAB - page 6 - Checklist for Review of Development Applications, "It was agreed that Mr. Ripley would draft a revised Checklist for Review of Development Applications incorporating the Open Space Planning Document".

**MOVED by Ms. Williams, seconded by Mr. Hynick that the minutes be approved.
MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

5. DEFERRED AND STATUS SHEET ITEMS

5.1 OPEN SPACE GUIDELINES

This item will be taken off the agenda until such time it becomes a problem again. It was suggested that the next time we have a request for this type of advice that we evaluate the request to see if the Board was provided the adequate amount of information to formulate advice. If not, it should go back on the Status Sheet.

5.2 REQUEST FOR FUNDS RE WATERSHED STUDIES - WALTER REGAN

Defer to the next meeting.

5.3 PARKING

We received a letter from Ms. Annette Verge, HRM concerning parking space for our Watershed meetings. In the letter, Ms Verge informs the Committee that Councillor Mary Wile has a pass for our parking lot. Two parking passes are also available at the desk for Argyle St. Dr. Stobo proposed to write back to Ms. Verge asking her if HRM could develop some sort mechanism to allow members to access parking for our meetings. Should this be made available to the group, we should leave the two spaces free on Argyle St. This will still be under advisement.

5.4 HWAB - Checklist for Review of Development Applications

Group reviewed the checklist and made several amendments. Mr. Ripley to make the final edit of the HWAB checklist for development applications and then send to the Legislative Assistant to send on to the planning office for distribution.

6. REPORTS

Dr. Stobo will send the web address for the *Moose River Focus Report* to Ms. Coleman to distribute to the group by email. The deadline for responses is December 24, 2007. Should anyone want to make comments they must do on their own because of the time-frame involved. It would not be possible to discuss it in January.

7. ADDED ITEMS

7.1 CASE 01061: REZONING PA (PROTECTED AREA) ZONE TO R-1 (SINGLE UNIT DWELLING) ZONE LANDS LOCATED AT SARAH INGRAHAM DRIVE, WILLIAMSWOOD.

A presentation was submitted to the Committee by Mr. Brian White, Planner with the Western Regional office with HRM. A site plan was circulated to the group.

Ms. Bell, a representative of the Harrietsfield, Williamswood, Sambro Residents Association, told the group that there has been a substantial change in the lake over the years. There has been a dramatic drop in the amount of fish, bird and wildlife around the lake. There is limited access to the lake by the wildlife from other wilderness areas that surround the lake.

Following the presentation, questions of the Board were answered by Mr. White and Ms. Bell.

The following points were noted:

1. Should this re-zoning go ahead the maximum standards for septic fields should be maintained for the sake of the health of the lake. The minimal standards are not enough due to the type of land buffering the lake,
2. A large wilderness area was donated and we need to make sure that we do not restrict access of the wildlife to the lake and remove this wildlife corridor. The 30 feet of access for the wildlife that is proposed in the presentation is not adequate to allow their access to the lake.
3. Public access is a big concern for this Board. We are losing public access to most of our ocean frontage and lakes/ivers. Regional Planning makes a issue of maintaining and establishing wildlife corridors. Should we go ahead with the rezoning, we would be jeopardizing the very thing that we are striving for.
4. One important issue that was noted was that the lake in question is the health of the lake. This will be addressed separately.

It was agreed by the Board that Dr. Stobo will draft a recommendation with the rationale that we leave the land in its natural state and the land not be rezoned.

The rational behind this recommendation is:

1. Wildlife and public access to the lake,
2. Lack of any significant amount of any accessible publicly owned land around the lake,
3. Recognize that there would be no further significant negative impact on the lake.

Ms. Bell will give her address to the Legislative Assistant so that Ms. Coleman can send Ms. Bell a copy of the above-mentioned letter and any recommendations that the Board are making with regards to the lake.

It was agreed by the Board that Mr. Hynick will draft a separate document on the issue of the quality of the lake and testing of the lake to the Mayor and Council and send it to Ms. Coleman for distribution to the group before the next meeting. The background for the recommendations will come from the actual documentation of the presentation submitted tonight.

The recommendations for the testing are:

1. Water testing should occur,

2. Lake survey should occur,
3. There should be testing for fecal coliform bacteria sources around the shore line,
4. Water fall sampling of the four locations (Inlet and outlet of the lake, and the two deep spots on the lake) should occur during spring flush, summer low and in the late fall after the turnover has occurred.
5. Moody Lake is not on the list for annual for water quality but should be. The background for this should be that we need to establish a baseline.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The group agreed that there would be no meeting in December. The next meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2008

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Barbara Coleman
Legislative Assistant