

HALIFAX WATERSHED ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES

June 17, 2009

PRESENT: Ms. Ellinor Williams, Chair
Mr. Nathaniel Smith
Mr. Walter Regan
Mr. Derrill Hynick
Mr. Barry Thomas
Mr. Scott Herron
Mr. Ross Evans
Mr. David Ripley
Deputy Mayor David Hendsbee
Councillor Peter Lund

STAFF: Mr. Brian White, Planner
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Media Room, City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - February 18, 2009, March 18, 2009; April 15, 2009, and May 20, 2009

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Hendsbee, seconded by Mr. Regan that the minutes of February 18, 2009, March 18, 2009; April 15, 2009, and May 20, 2009 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

Deputy Mayor Hendsbee advised that he had another commitment this evening and would have to leave the meeting early.

4. ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO NEXT AGENDA

No items were put forward for the next agenda.

5.1 BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES/STATUS SHEET ITEMS:

5.1.1 Case 01178 Glen Baker Drive, Herring Cove - Approval of Recommendations

A draft HWAB report dated June 4, 2009 was submitted for final approval.

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Smith that the Halifax Watershed Advisory Board report dated June 4, 2009 regarding this matter be approved as presented, and forward to Community Council. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Mr. Ripley entered the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

5.1.2 Water Resource Protection Strategy (D. Hynick)

A draft document entitled, A Framework for a Watershed Protection Strategy in HRM was submitted.

Councillor Hendsbee excused himself and retired from the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

Mr. Hynick advised that the subcommittee did not meet to review and revise the document; however he went back and reviewed it.

Mr. Hynick explained that his purpose in presenting the document to the Board was to identify whether it is something the Board feels would be useful for HRM staff to adopt as a process for evaluating watersheds in HRM. If it were presented to staff, they could then provide feedback on the status of the issues relative to their action plan on dealing with watershed protection. Mr. Hynick added that if HRM has a watershed protection strategy, then the Board members would know, more definitely, what staff expect the Watershed Advisory Board to do relative to protecting the resource. He noted that he intended the document to go across government boundaries, and suggested that the Board submit the document to Council as is.

A discussion ensued.

Mr. Regan suggested that, prior to sending anything to Council, the Board should invite staff to attend a meeting to explain what is contained in the Regional Plan on this matter. He pointed out that a number of recommendations from the Dillon Report were put into the Regional Plan. Mr. Regan advised that the Board should find out first what is being done and then anything that is not being worked on, could be put on the list.

Mr. Ripley commented that he views the document as a work in progress, and that it needs more time. He advised that if it is to be presented to Regional Council as a framework for Water Protect Strategy, it needs to be very clear in terms of what the Board is expecting Council to do with it.

The Chair concurred with Mr. Ripley advising that she felt that the Board should have a good knowledge of what work is currently being done, and not submit a report to Council that maybe vague.

At 6:58 p.m. Councillor Lund entered the meeting.

Following a discussion in regard to the route the Board should take on this matter, it was generally agreed that as a first step, staff would be invited to attend a Board meeting to speak to the draft Framework.

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Thomas that HWAB invite staff to come and speak at a future meeting and review the HRM Water Resource Management Study (Dillon Report) and any other similar policy documents as they relate to the HWAB's current watershed protection strategy proposal and possibly to an HRM Watershed Protection Strategy Functional Plan in the future. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5.2 Status Sheet:

5.2.1 Watershed Studies for Board's Review (B. White)

Mr. White advised that he would follow up with a reminder to staff that the Board was told that it would get to review any Watershed Studies that the Municipality was going to undertake, prior to the tendering process.

A brief discussion ensued and it was noted that the Municipality's Procurement division

may have some concerns around confidentiality of submitting it to the Board prior to going to tender. It was suggested, therefore, in a situation such as this, that the Board could receive the 'scope of work component' for review.

5.2.2 Staff Report on Availability of Planners' Response to HWAB Recommendations (B. White)

The Chair indicated that this item had been placed on the Status Sheet because the Board would like to receive the Planner's response to its recommendations.

Mr. White advised that the request has been forwarded to Management for consideration.

5.2.3 Staff Report on MPS Policies that Relate to Water Quality Monitoring throughout HRM (B. White)

Mr. White advised that he and two other planners were working on this report, and he expected that it would be finished soon.

The Chair indicated that there are a number of other topics on which the Board frequently makes recommendations and suggested that it would be helpful to know which of these topics can be addressed under existing Municipal Planning Strategies. She questioned if this information was online such that she could review it on her own.

Mr. White responded that this would be a very daunting task, due to the nature of the way the policies are written, and that there were 29 Municipal Planning Strategies.

A discussion ensued concerning how the Board could determine which of its core recommendations are and are not included in HRM's Municipal Planning Strategies.

Mr. Smith advised of an opportunity through Dalhousie's School of Public Administration whereby the Board may be able to get a graduate student to carry out a project in which the Board could select one topic and the student would do the research and provide a research paper.

In this regard, the Board agreed that Mr. Smith would draft a project outline and bring it back to the next meeting, and at that time the Board will decide on a topic.

5.2.4 Water Quality Testing - Lakes in Industrial Parks (B. White)

The Chair advised that after the last meeting, she followed up with Jacques Whitefoord and received a response that their report was completed and submitted. Therefore, they are unable to include the lakes that were suggested at the last meeting in their report.

6. DEFERRED ITEMS: None

7. NEW BUSINESS: None

8. **CORRESPONDENCE**: None
9. **REPORTS**: None
10. **ADDED ITEMS**: None
11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**: July 15, 2009

The Chair advised that the July meeting would proceed unless staff advised that they had no reports to bring forward.

Mr. White noted that at the next meeting, he would be bringing another staff member with HRM, and who will be taking over as staff liaison. Mr. White advised that he was leaving HRM as he has accepted another job in Saint John, New Brunswick.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Herron provided his regrets for the July 15, 2009 meeting.

On a motion **MOVED by Mr. Smith, seconded by Councillor Lund**, the meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant

Information Items

- C HWAB Report to Chebucto Community Council RE: Case #01179, Rockcliffe Village Development Proposal, Northwest Arm Drive / Cowie Hill Road