

**HALIFAX WATERSHED ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES**

February 15, 2006

PRESENT:

Dr. Wayne Stobo, Chair
Ms. Ellinor Williams, Vice Chair
Mr. Walter Regan
Mr. Derrill Hynick
Mr. Ross Evans
Dr. Sankar Ray
Mr. David Ripley
Councillor Mary Wile
Dr. Barry Thomas

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Richard Harvey, Planner II
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant
Mr. Frank Hope, Observer

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1. **Call to Order**

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

2. **Approval of the Agenda and Additions/Deletions**

The agenda was accepted as presented.

The Chair noted that Ms. Anna McCarron will defend her thesis in March and he suggested the Board consider requesting her to make a presentation at its April meeting.

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Evans that a request be forwarded to Ms. Anna McCarron that she provide a presentation on her thesis at the April meeting. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Chair introduced and welcomed Mr. David Ripley, and advised that his appointment to the Board was recently approved by Peninsula Community Council and that Mr. Ripley was the representative for District 14.

The Chair advised that another appointment the Board had recommended to Chebucto Community Council had been deferred for a month.

3. **Items to be added to Next Agenda**

- Daylighting of Rivers - Draft Policy (Tony Blouin, Environmental Management Services). Information will be circulated in next agenda package.

4. **Approval of the Minutes**

The Chair referred to page 5, item 5.1 of the January 18, 2006 minutes and advised that the Board had agreed that once the revisions to the recommendations were incorporated, he would send them directly to staff, and not bring them back for final confirmation at the February meeting.

MOVED by Councillor Wile, seconded by Mr. Regan that the minutes of January 18, 2006, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

In response to a question by Ms. Williams, the Chair advised that the Legislative Assistant will send out the final recommendations on the concept plans for Glen Arbour, Phases 7 and 8 in the next agenda package.

5. **Business Arising from Minutes/Deferred Items:**

5.1 Case 00829: Development Agreement for Commercial Development on South Side of Sackville Drive near the Millwood Drive Intersection

- Draft recommendations, dated February 2006, were submitted.

The Board discussed the draft recommendations and, along with minor revisions, agreed to include in Number 7 a comment that the Board recommends a 30 metre setback and that remedial action be taken to preserve the area with native species, and to maintain the trees.

The Chair advised he would revise the document and forward to the Legislative Assistant, who will send it to staff, the proponent, and Community Council.

5.2 Municipality of East Hants - Letter Requesting Board Member to sit on Source Water Protection Advisory Committee

- A letter dated January 25, 2006 from Mr. Terry Matheson, Municipality of East Hants was submitted.

The Chair advised that Mr. Matheson would like someone from HWAB to sit on their Source Water Protection Advisory Committee.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Regan and Dr. Stobo agreed to share the responsibility of being the Board's representative on the Committee. The Chair asked the Legislative Assistant to follow up with a letter to Mr. Matheson.

5.3 Concept Plan - Sheldrake Heights

The Chair indicated that this was an information item. He advised that it would be dealt with if time permitted at the end of the meeting.

5.4 Concept Plan - Valleyfield Farms, Hammond Plains

- Draft recommendations pertaining to this matter were submitted.

The Chair indicated that, recently it came to his attention there is some question as to whether or not the proponent owns the property.

A discussion ensued and the Board agreed that it would forward recommendations to staff, but ask that the comments be held until ownership of the property is established.

Board members reviewed the draft recommendations and the following comments were put forward:

- without a residential layout, it is more difficult to provide meaningful advice.
- include pertinent excerpts from the Board's Guidelines.
- recommend a 30 metre buffer around watercourses.
- include the last paragraph of the document as recommendation #12, and clarify the last sentence to ensure that the public access will not intrude on any wetlands.

6. New Business:

6.1 Halifax Watershed Advisory Board Webpage on HRM Website

Dr. Thomas requested the addition of this item to the agenda at the Board's January meeting.

Dr. Thomas expressed concern that, with the removal of Shalom Mandaville's website, it also removed access to extensive material relating to the Board's work. Dr. Thomas pointed out that the HRM HWAB webpage contained the membership list and minutes, but that was the extent of it. He suggested the Board contact HRM's webmaster and see other information, or at least the Board's Guidelines, could be uploaded to the web page.

The Legislative Assistant advised that she was responsible for uploading information to the Board's webpage. She went on to note that HRM requires certain standards with regard to formatting and consistency of appearance of its webpages, however she did not think it would be a problem to upload the Board's Guidelines and recommendations.

A brief discussion ensued concerning Mr. Mandaville's website and it was noted that, previously it was mentioned that HRM had purchased the website material from Mr. Mandaville. The Legislative Assistant was asked to follow up with staff in regard to the status of this matter.

Ms. Williams asked that an introductory paragraph on the Board be placed on the Board's web page, below the Board title.

6.2 Stormceptor Workshop held in December

Dr. Stobo requested the addition of this item to the agenda at the Board's January meeting.

Dr. Stobo advised the Board of a workshop he attended in December which, essentially, explained how stormceptors worked. Dr. Stobo elaborated on some of the issues discussed at the workshop and circulated material for the Board's information.

At this time, the Board recessed for 10 minutes.

6.3 Nutrient Enrichment Study

- A letter dated February 7, 2006 from Thiyake Rajaratnam was submitted.

In reference to the submitted letter, the Chair advised that this individual is a student at Queens University who is considering a study of a number of Halifax lakes, and is looking for suggestions for lakes that would be suitable for top-bottom and down-core analyses.

A discussion ensued and the Chair asked members to forward him their suggestions by Tuesday, February 21, 2006, and he would compile the information and send it to her.

6.4 Concept Plan - Leeward Phase 2, Highland Park, Hammonds Plains

- A concept plan pertaining to Leeward Phase 2, Highland Park, Hammonds Plains was submitted.

The Board discussed the concept plan and agreed to prepare recommendations which will be forwarded to staff. Ms. Williams volunteered to prepare the recommendations.

Comments put forward were as follows:

- note in the preamble that the lands to the north are designated park land.
- include a comment in regard to onsite disposal field.
- 30 metre undisturbed buffer.
- rather than any impervious surface, allow for infiltration.
- the proposed drainage corridor should be designed to all allow for water filtration, polishing, and retention such as Green Gabion or similar landscaping.
- include a separate paragraph on the vulnerability of Camp Hill Lake.

Sheldrake Lake

The Chair advised that in his response to members at the last meeting to forward him their comments on the Sheldrake Lake concept plan, Mr. Hynick had submitted a letter in response to this, however, his comments also addressed a larger issue than Sheldrake Lake. The Chair advised that the letter, essentially, suggests HRM should carry out comprehensive watershed analysis and planning based on watershed absorption capabilities.

Mr. Hynick explained that he believes watershed based planning is the only tool that can be used to protect the water resources. He pointed out that we should know something about receptor environments before development occurs, and that no one is looking at the cumulative affects of development on watersheds. Mr. Hynick indicated that the purpose of his letter was to question what approach could be taken to get HRM to look at this situation in a different way.

The Chair concurred with Mr. Hynick, pointing out that the Nine Mile River is an example of a situation whereby no one considered the cumulative effect of development on the River.

A discussion ensued and the Board agreed to make a presentation to Council on this issue. Ms. Williams, Mr. Hynick, and Mr. Ripley agreed to work on the presentation and the Board agreed on a timeline of presenting to Council in the fall of 2006.

7. Date of Next Meeting

March 15, 2006

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant