

**REGIONAL PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
November 21, 2007  
MINUTES**

**PRESENT:**

Mr. Fred Morley, Chair  
Councillor David Hendsbee, Vice-Chair  
Councillor Gloria McCluskey  
Ms. Heather Bown  
Mr. Paul Pettipas  
Mr. Robert Batherson  
Ms. Margo Grant  
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Deputy CAO, Operations

**REGRETS:**

Councillor Brad Johns  
Ms. Cheryl Newcombe  
Ms. Bonnie Ryan  
Mr. Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer

**STAFF:**

Mr. Roger Wells, Supervisor, Regional & Community Planning  
Ms. Susan Corser, Planner, Regional Planning  
Mr. Austin French, Manager, Planning Services  
Mr. Stephen King, Manager, Environmental Performance (air & land)  
Ms. Maria Jacobs, Planner, Regional Planning  
Mr. Marcus Garnet, Senior Planner, Regional Planning  
Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1.	CALL TO ORDER .....	3
2.	APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - October 3, 2007 .....	3
3.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS .....	3
4.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES .....	3
5.	CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS .....	3
6.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS .....	3
6.1	Correspondence .....	3
6.2	Petitions .....	3
6.3	Presentations .....	3
7.	REPORTS .....	3
7.1	Community Energy Plan - Discussion & Recommendation .....	3
7.2	Community Visioning - Community Selection Criteria .....	5
8.	NEW BUSINESS .....	7
9.	ADDED ITEMS .....	7
10.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING - December 19, 2007 .....	7
10.1	Approval of the 2008 Meeting Schedule .....	7
11.	ADJOURNMENT .....	8

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 3:07 p.m. in Halifax Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** - October 3, 2007

**MOVED** by Margo Grant, seconded by Paul Pettipas, that the minutes of October 3, 2007 be approved, as amended. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

The agenda was approved as distributed.

4. **BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

The Chair thanked members that attended the Team Building session on November 16<sup>th</sup>. He noted that members were able to learn more about each other and there was good participation. He indicated that he would like to go through the work done at the Team Building session at a future meeting.

5. **CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS** - None

6. **CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS** - None

6.1 **Correspondence** - None

6.2 **Petitions** - None

6.3 **Presentations** - None

7. **REPORTS**

7.1 **Community Energy Plan - Discussion & Recommendation**

C A memo dated November 15, 2007, on the above noted was before the Committee.

C The HRM Community Energy Plan Task 7 Final Report dated November 2007 was before the Committee.

C The revised Regional Plan Policy/Regulation/Strategic Initiative Amendment Criteria Checklist was before the Committee.

Mr. Roger Wells indicated that a report to Council on this matter will be brought forward at the November 27<sup>th</sup> Council session with Committee and staff recommendations. He noted that the shortlist was presented to the Committee at the last meeting with excellent feedback generated by members. Mr. Wells also indicated that the Regional Plan Policy/Regulation/Strategic Initiative Amendment Criteria Checklist has been updated and is before the Committee today for their reference.

Mr. Stephen King, Manager, Environmental Performance (air & land), Sustainable Environment Management Office, thanked the Committee for their discussion and feedback on the shortlist at the last meeting. He indicated that the Community Energy Plan is the compilation of six other plans, which will be provided to Council condensed in cd format. Mr. King advised that the final draft of the Community Energy Plan is before the Committee today for review and recommendation to Council.

Mr. Wayne Anstey clarified that the Community Energy Plan is a Functional Plan of the Regional Plan, and will not require an amendment to the Regional Plan. Mr. Wells indicated that an excerpt of the Regional Plan on Functional Plans is also before the Committee.

Mr. David Lea, Consultant, CBCL, reviewed the Community Energy Plan (CEP) Final Report with the Committee, including the following:

- C Setting the Context - The Challenge
- C HRM's Response
- C CEP Deliverables
- C Shortlist Examples:
  - C Goal 1 - Improve the Energy Efficiency of Buildings
  - C Goal 2 - Increase Transportation Choice and Efficiency
  - C Goal 3 - Increase Industrial Energy Efficiency
  - C Goal 4 - Encourage Energy Efficient Land Use Planning
  - C Goal 5 - Increase Efficiency of Infrastructure
  - C Goal 6 - Increase Energy Security and Diversity Supply
  - C Goal 7 - Educate and Engage the Community
  - C Goal 8 - Demonstrate Local Government Leadership

The Committee briefly discussed the Nova Scotia energy efficiency program.

The Committee discussed current and potential opportunities for HRM to educate and encourage industrial energy efficiency, including education on programs available, best practices, and review of practices of companies working with HRM.

Mr. Lea advised that they are also recommending an inventory of waste energy to see what is usable.

Councillor McCluskey noted the over use of street lights in some areas, in particular on 100 series highways. Councillor Hendsbee noted a need for more green roof policies within HRM.

At the request of the Committee, Mr. King commented that staff are working with Andy Fillmore to

ensure that the HRM By Design project and the Community Energy Plan work together based on the principles of sustainability.

Mr. Lea discussed the importance of life cycle costing for green buildings, noting that there are benefits to spending more on initial capital cost of construction of a building, to save on energy costs in the end.

The Committee discussed how to improve education and engagement of the community on energy issues. It was noted that the Naturally Green newsletter could use a facelift and it is difficult to find the CEP on the HRM website. Members also suggested advertising with Metro Transit and television commercials.

At the request of the Committee, Mr. King spoke to HRM involvement with the Provincial Energy Roadshow, noting that HRM has formal representation on the Committee. Mr. Anstey discussed HRM efforts to encourage energy efficiency with the Province and Nova Scotia Power Inc.

The Committee discussed the Provincial Eco-Trust program. Staff advised that everything is in place to be able to apply for funding through Provincial and Federal grants.

Mr. Batherson retired from the meeting at 4:02 p.m.

At the request of the Committee, Mr. King advised that the Wind Energy Plan is a part of the Community Energy Plan, and staff will be bringing proposed policies to Regional Council over the winter and hold a public hearing.

Mr. King clarified that each action item will have a monitoring plan and targets to measure progress.

The Committee discussed the Nova Scotia EnerGuide Program.

**MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Margo Grant, that the Regional Plan Advisory Committee recommend that Regional Council endorse in principle the Community Energy Plan, which is consistent with the policies and intent of the Regional Plan and further the goals and policy directives of the Regional Plan. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Mr. Austin French, Manager, Planning Services, arrived at 4:26 p.m.

Councillor McCluskey retired from the meeting at 4:27 p.m.

## **7.2 Community Visioning - Community Selection Criteria**

C A memo dated November 15, 2007 on the above noted was before the Committee.

Mr. Wells thanked the Committee for the good feedback received at the last meeting on the criteria

for community selection for the next phase of the Community Visioning project.

Ms. Maria Jacobs and Mr. Marcus Garnet, Planners, Regional Planning, advised that when considering timing for a visioning process for a community, it is helpful to consider the following questions:

1. Are there opportunities to proceed directly to implementation?
2. Is there foundational work?
3. Are there potential synergies?
4. Are there immediate “drivers”?

The Committee discussed watershed studies, which would be an example of foundational work. Staff advised that the Regional Plan identifies rural communities that may be considered for potential piped services and watershed studies will help provide a basis for determining the feasibility of such services in relation to receiving waters and the amount of development.

Ms. Jacobs reviewed the timing criteria developed by staff in relation to the above noted questions, to assist in developing recommendations for the timing of visioning processes for each community, as follows:

- C Direct Implementation (Table 1)
  - C Master Plans
  - C Streetscape Plans
- C Foundational Work (Table 2)
  - C Watershed Studies
  - C Community Initiative
  - C Other Analysis
- C Potential Synergies (Table 3)
  - C Visioning with other agencies
  - C Consultation through other projects
  - C Visioning supporting future projects
  - C Visioning to review recent projects
- C Immediate Drivers (Table 3)
  - C Opportunity Sites for early redevelopment
  - C Major piped infrastructure investment
  - C Major roadway projects
  - C Major transit investment
  - C Socioeconomic opportunities

Ms. Jacobs clarified that communities are ranked in the order they appear within the Urban, Suburban, and Rural categories.

At the suggestion of the Chair, staff indicated that there may be future opportunities to combine the community visioning projects and community master plans.

Councillor Hendsbee noted that the watershed study for North Preston should already be complete as the existing facility just went through a retrofit and expansion. He also noted that Porter's Lake should be higher on the list as it is the largest growing business centre east of Dartmouth, has high population growth, will soon have express transit service and a new school, and also has septic issues. Councillor Hendsbee also noted that the library in Woodside is undersized for the population and staff should look at opportunities for a new Woodside library.

Mr. Anstey suggested that staff give the criteria to members of Council for input on any other factors that should be considered and have them rank communities on the list within their own districts.

The committee discussed opportunities for the Penhorn area.

Responding to questions and suggestions from Committee members, staff advised the following:

- C Staffing resources will be addressed through the next business planning budget process;
- C Staff will be seeking a recommendation from the Committee to Council on the prioritization of community visioning communities at the December meeting;
- C Staff wish to present to Council the community visioning prioritization plan for the next three years;
- C The watershed studies will be led by the Manager of Environmental Performance with the Sustainable Environment Management Office, in cooperation with the Halifax Regional Water Commission.
- C Staff are working on developing a Memorandum of Understanding with Lunenburg County for a joint visioning process for the Hubbards area;
- C Spryfield has a community profile prepared and community members are eager to begin the community visioning process for that area;
- C Staff hope to build a community visioning tool kit, to provide to communities with a lot of social capital, for them to undertake the process on their own with outreach from HRM staff.

Committee members noted the need for objective and defensible criteria for the prioritization of communities.

Mr. Anstey suggested more detail be included the rural communities.

Councillor Hendsbee suggested that it also be noted in Upper Tantallon that Metrolink service is forthcoming and the area is experiencing development pressure. He also suggested that the watershed study list be prioritized in order to budget for the prioritization of communities.

The Chair suggested that figures for population growth be collected for each community, which could assist with prioritization.

## 8. **NEW BUSINESS**

9. **ADDED ITEMS**

10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - December 19, 2007

The next meeting of the Regional Plan Advisory Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, December 19, 2007.

10.1 **Approval of the 2008 Meeting Schedule**

C A memo on the above noted dated November 13, 2007 was before the Committee.

**MOVED by Paul Pettipas, seconded by Margo Grant, that the Regional Plan Advisory Committee approve the 2008 meeting schedule as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Jennifer Weagle  
Legislative Assistant



The following information item was before Council:

1. Information Report dated November 6, 2007 to Regional Council re: Wind Turbines - Project Update and community consultation Phase II