

**REGIONAL PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 20, 2010**

PRESENT: Mr. Fred Morley, Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee, Vice-Chair
Ms. Alison Baker
Ms. Margo Grant
Councillor Peter Lund
Mr. Floyd Dykeman
Ms. Cheryl Newcombe
Ms. Carole Pelletier
Mr. Paul Pettipas

ABSENT: Councillor Gloria McCluskey
Mr. Robert Batherson (regrets)

STAFF: Mr. Roger Wells, Supervisor, Regional & Community
Planning
Ms. Maria Jacobs, Planner, Community Planning
Mr. John Charles, Planner
Ms. Barbara Coleman, Legislative Assistant

GUESTS: Councillor Barkhouse
Councillor Watts

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:12 p.m. at Helen Creighton Room 2nd Floor, Alderney Gate Library, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

- **Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Members of the Committee raised concern regarding the status of their membership. Some members had received letters extending their terms to November 30, 2010, but others had not. Further concern, regarding quorum was raised. The Legislative Assistant was instructed to clarify the status of the current memberships and inquire when new members would be appointed to the Committee.

The Chair turned the meeting over to the Legislative Assistant.

The Legislative Assistant called for nominations for Chair.

MOVED by Mr. Paul Pettipas, seconded by Ms. Cheryll Newcombe that Mr. Fred Morley be nominated as Chair MOTION PUT AND PASSED

The Legislative Assistant called three times for nominations for the Chair.

The Legislative Assistant called for a motion to cease nominations.

MOVED by Mr. Paul Pettipas, seconded by Mr. Floyd Dykeman that the nominations be ceased. MOTION PUT AND PASSED

Mr. Morley assumed the Chair.

MOVED by Ms. Cheryl Newcombe, seconded by Councillor Lund that Councillor Hendsbee be nominated as Vice-Chair MOTION PUT AND PASSED

The Chair called three times for nominations for the Vice-Chair.

The Chair called for a motion to cease nominations.

MOVED by Mr. Floyd Dykeman, seconded by Ms. Cheryll Newcombe that the nominations be ceased. MOTION PUT AND PASSED

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - November 25, 2009

Correction: Mr. Batherson was in attendance at this meeting. Regrets had been sent.

MOVED by Mr. Paul Pettipas, seconded by Ms. Cheryll Newcombe, that the minutes be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED

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

MOVED by Ms. Cheryll Newcombe, seconded by Ms. Margo Grant, that the Order of Business be Approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - None

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - None**• CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS:****6.1 Correspondence**

- A memorandum dated January 7, 2010 from Mr. Paul Morgan, Planner, Community and Regional Planning, regarding ~~Requests to initiate~~ Secondary Planning Processes was before the Committee.

Mr. Roger Wells, Supervisor, Regional & Community Planning reviewed the memorandum noting this matter would be brought back to a future meeting.

6.2 Petitions: None**6.3 Presentations:****6.3.1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning for Halifax Harbour (Staff)**

- A presentation, Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning for Halifax Harbour was distributed to the Committee.

Mr. John Charles reviewed the presentation to the Committee noting the science, methodology used in the development of plausible sea level rise scenarios in Halifax Harbour, including various storm events, in 100 years time.

Highlights of the presentation were as follows:

- the study was the product extensive collaborative effort on the part of the scientific community and professionals at the three levels of government, universities and certain private sector stakeholders
- this study considered global trends in sea level rise as well as sea level rise characteristics at the regional/local level
- the study utilizes the best available digital ground elevation data - Light Detection Radar (LiDar)
- applies to sea level rise scenarios based on the best available climate change scenario

The presentation reviewed a model which incorporated various storm events scenarios and presented the combined sea level rise/storm surges results depicting flood risks for harbour front properties.

Next steps would include:

- public stakeholders consultation
- determine the vulnerability of all harbour front properties
- complete wave run up modeling
- develop adaptation options and strategy
- incorporate policies/regulations in the Halifax Harbour Plan

Staff advised that they are requesting feedback and the Committee to approve in principle, Scenario 2c which states:

- Relative Sea Level Rise by year 2100 = 0.73 metres
- Storm Event (50 year return period) = 1.74 metres
- Add buffer for wave-run-up (1 to 2 metres) = 3.67 to 4.67 metres

With the committees acceptance of this recommendation, staff would be able to proceed to the Committee of the Whole to request Council's approval to conduct public/stakeholder consultations and to further develop and refine appropriate adaptation measures.

Staff would then return to this Committee to review draft policies and regulations regarding these issues to incorporate into the Halifax Harbour Planning document.

Discussion ensued on the presentation with questions being answered by staff: Highlights of this discussion were as follows:

- designers of the waterfront development such as the King's Wharf are adopting this data into their designs
- the Halifax and Dartmouth treatment plants were constructed recognizing the data

MOVED by Mr. Pettipas, seconded by Ms. Cheryl Newcombe that the Regional Plan Advisory Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve in Principle:

- 1. Scenario 2c of the presentation dated January 20, 2010, and**
- 2. Request staff to conduct public/stakeholder consultation.**

Discussion ensued on the motion noting the following:

- actual data such as Hurricanes Hortense, Bill, or Juan should be used as well as projected data
- the model of Hurricane Juan shows a true picture of the hurricane as documented by photographs
- if Hurricane Juan occurred during full tide, the magnitude of the damages would have increased severely
- the January 2nd storm hit with a greater intensity than that of Hurricane Juan
- most of the damage from these storms hits the harbour with a basin effect known as *seiche*. This is the back and forth swishing of the water in the harbour hitting each side with growing magnitude every time the water hits.
- other communities along the Eastern seaboard should be considered in this study
- Insurance Boards and financial consultants such as mortgagers are cognizant of this information
- cost of disaster scenarios in the future can not be calculated as no one can predict the costs in the future
- If this study is adopted, land use by-laws, the Red Book and other regulatory tools would need to be changed to incorporate the findings of this data
- setbacks, for waterfront properties in the Regional Plan, are 2.5 metres

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

- 7. REPORTS - None**
- 8. ADDED ITEMS - None**
- 9. NEXT MEETING DATE - February 17, 2010 (Helen Creighton Room, 2nd Floor Alderney Gate Library)**

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Barbara Coleman
Legislative Assistant