

**REGIONAL PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

May 19, 2010

- PRESENT:** Mr. Fred Morley, Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee, Vice Chair
Mr. Paul Pettipas
Ms. Margo Grant
Ms. Talia D'Alessio
Ms. Christina MacLeod
Mr. Sam Metlej
- REGRETS:** Councillor Peter Lund
Councillor Gloria McCluskey
Mr. Dan English
Ms. Carole Pelletier
Mr. Floyd Dykeman
Ms. Cheryl Newcombe
Mr. William Book
- STAFF:** Mr. Roger Wells, Supervisor of Regional and Community
Planning
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m. in the Helen Creighton Room, Alderney Gate Library, Dartmouth.

The Chair welcomed new Committee members; Ms. Talia D'Alessio, Ms. Christina MacLeod and Mr. Sam Metlej.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - April 21, 2010

Amendment:

Page 5 - Fall River should be referred to as *one of* the fastest growing communities within HRM

MOVED BY Mr. Pettipas, seconded by Ms. Grant, that the minutes of April 21, 2010 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

The agenda was accepted as presented.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence

6.1.1 HRMbyDesign May 5, 2010

- A letter dated May 5, 2010 from the Urban Design Task Force was before the Committee.

The Chair indicated that the Committee had received correspondence from Ms. Dale Godsoe, Chair of the Urban Design Task Force. He stated that the correspondence dated May 5, 2010 encouraged the Regional Plan Advisory Committee to stay the course on the intent of the Regional Plan. In closing, the Chair advised that his response would be thank

Ms. Godsoe for her letter; noting that the subject matter the Task Force was referring to would be dealt with by the Committee soon.

For the benefit of the new members, Mr. Roger Wells, Supervisor of Regional and Community Planning, stated that in October of 2009 the Committee had received a report regarding requests from three proponents to consider initiating secondary planning strategies with the purpose of opening lands for development. He indicated that the lands were located in Port Wallace, Sandy Lake and the 102 West Corridor; noting that the Committee had heard presentations from staff as well as the three proponents and it was requested that staff have further discussion with the proponents as well as further analysis and come back to the Committee with a supplementary report. Mr. Wells advised that staff were hoping to have that report ready for the June meeting.

The Chair noted that the originating report from the October meeting would be forwarded to the Committee as a refresher.

The Committee was encouraged to contact Mr. Wells with any questions they may have.

6.2 Petitions - None

6.3 Delegations - None

7. REPORTS

7.1 Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Functional Plan - Staff Presentation

C The TDM Functional Plan Executive Summary was before the Committee.

Mr. Wells stated that staff were unable to answer every planning question when the Regional Plan was approved in 2006 and, as a result, in every chapter of the Regional Plan a Functional Plan was called for; noting that there were 23 Functional Plans in total. He indicated that these Functional Plans were either complete, underway or in the stages of initiation. In closing, Mr. Wells advised that the normal course of action with a Functional Plan was that it go to the Regional Plan Advisory Committee as a staff report seeking the Committee's approval in principle, however, sometimes that was not possible due to time constraints as was the current case.

Ms. Roxane MacInnis, Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Planner, provided the presentation on the TDM Functional Plan. She stated that all recommended

strategies had been included in the agenda package and that a report would be going to the Committee of the Whole session of Council on June 8, 2010. Highlights of Ms. MacInnis' presentation were as follows:

- The TDM Functional Plan is one of the five Functional Plans included in the Transportation Master Plan
- Three of these Functional Plans have already been adopted by Council
- Parking incentive programs already exist in HRM
- Provincial legislative changes would be required in order to permit neighborhood zero emissions vehicles
- One of the largest components of Transportation Demand Management was working with people to change behaviors
- There is currently no minimum parking requirement in downtown Halifax
- A cash in lieu program could be initiated for transit

A discussion ensued with staff responding to questions.

In response to a question regarding plug in car infrastructure, Mr. Richard MacLellan, Manager of the Sustainable Environment Management Office, indicated that a group had looked for funding from the Province to help HRM develop their own policy, however, some items required amendments and discussions were ongoing.

It was noted that car free zone streets should be implemented with caution as they had the potential to become dead zones.

Ms. MacInnis stated that this was an issue and such streets would probably be most beneficial in centres with high pedestrian use.

Several Committee members expressed concern with approving this Functional Plan in principle without a report or the use of the checklist which was a method that allowed them to understand the cost and benefits for a particular proposal.

It was decided that the report be forwarded to Council and presented as information.

MOVED BY Mr. Pettipas, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee, that the Regional Plan Advisory Committee forward the Transportation Demand Management Functional Plan presentation to Regional Council as an information piece and request that staff bring the Plan back to the Committee when fully developed. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.2 Road and Road Network Functional Plan - Staff Presentation

- C The Roadway Network Functional Plan Executive Summary dated May 2010 was submitted.
- C A presentation titled the Roadway Network Functional Plan was submitted.

Mr. David McCusker, Manager of Strategic Transportation Planning, provided the presentation on the Road and Road Network Functional Plan. Highlights were as follows:

- The list does include provincial projects
- The Functional Plan for Bayers Road in conjunction with the province will be going to Council
- HRM does have funding through Transport Canada for the Eco Mobility Program

A discussion ensued with staff responding to questions.

Regarding how this Functional Plan ties in with the Active Transportation Plan, Mr. McCusker stated that this Plan identifies what changes to the roadway network were required; noting that bike lanes and bus lanes were identified via other plans. He indicated that both the Active Transportation Plan and Road and Road Network Functional Plan set targets for shifting from driving to active transportation commuting.

Mr. McCusker indicated that cost sharing referred to cost sharing with other levels of government and that capital cost contributions were not included.

Mr. McCusker advised that an agreement on a third harbour crossing location would be going to Council within two weeks of the two presented Functional Plans going forward.

MOVED BY Mr. Pettipas, seconded by Ms. Grant, that the Regional Plan Advisory Committee forward the Road and Road Network Functional Plan presentation to Regional Council as an information piece and request that staff bring the Plan back to the Committee when fully developed. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.3 Water Quality Monitoring Functional Plan - Executive Summary and Staff Presentation

- An information report dated May 3, 2010 was before the Committee.
- The Stantec Final Report: Water Quality Monitoring Functional Plan Executive Summary was before the Committee.

Mr. MacLellan provided the presentation on the Water Quality Monitoring Functional Plan. Highlights were as follows:

- Council made a recommendation regarding water testing in April 2010
- Each of the HRM Water Boards have received this presentation
- The Province is about to create a Water Resource Management Strategy and comments are due by June 7, 2010
- The Stormwater Management Functional Plan has been delayed due to the transfer of environmental services to Halifax Water
- The Functional Plan went to Council quickly due to timing issues
- Staff's intent was to not make a recommendation to the Committee or Council until the Stormwater Functional Plan was ready
- Staff was willing to provide a technical review for the Committee

A discussion ensued with staff responding to questions.

Mr. MacLellan noted that the Provincial Plan would have a large effect on the Water Quality Monitoring Functional Plan as the Province was in charge of lakes. He stated that the strategy would enable HRM staff to know what support they had from the Province who planned to announce their final Water Resource Management Strategy by the end of the summer.

Mr. MacLellan indicated that he did not expect staff to make a recommendation on either the Water Quality Monitoring Functional Plan or the Stormwater Functional Plan this calendar year.

Mr. Wells noted that staff were trying to figure out the jurisdiction between HRM and Halifax Water as stormwater was now under Halifax Water.

Regarding the Provincial Coastal Strategy, it was noted that there would a workshop at Mount St. Vincent University in late June 2010 where staff would be able to provide comments and there would be a public consultation at the end of May.

The Chair thanked Mr. MacLellan for the presentation and requested that he report back to the Committee in October or November of 2010 when more clarity emerges.

8. ADDED ITEMS - NONE

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for June 16, 2010.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

Shawnee Gregory
Legislative Assistant

The following item was added as information:

Correspondence RE: Nova Scotia Wetland Conservation Policy:

- C Letter from Mayor Kelly
- C Letter from RPAC