

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

SOLID WASTE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OCTOBER 10, 2002 MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillor Reg Rankin, Chair
Councillor Jim Smith
Councillor Gary Hines
Councillor Gary Meade
Councillor Dawn Sloane

STAFF: Mr. Brian Smith, Director of Solid Waste Resources
Mr. Jim Bauld, Diversion Planning Coordinator
Mr. Kurt Pyle, Planner
Ms. Sherryll Murphy, Assistant Municipal Clerk

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1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

MOVED by Councillor Meade, seconded by Councillor Sloane that the agenda, as distributed, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - June 10, 2002

MOVED by Councillor Meade, seconded by Councillor Hines that the minutes of June 10, 2002 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

3.1 Mr. Dan O'Sullivan, Fall River Laundry

Mr. O'Sullivan gave a presentation regarding the use of cloth diapers including the following points:

- Intent of presentation is information not promotion. Cloth diapers as opposed to disposable diapers is a large issue which is being addressed, with some success, in other parts of the world
- Mr. O'Sullivan's first provided the following statistics, recognizing that tonnage is the primary concern of the Committee:
 - < Disposal - Cost \$1.5 to \$1.7 million per year (does not include adult diapers)
 - < 4.8% of total tonnage in HRM (England has 4%)
 - < # of people using disposable diapers has risen over the last 20 years. Approximately 97% use disposable diapers. 15,000 children target for diaper product
- Size of diapers has increased as absorbency has increased
- Use of disposable diapers delays pottie training (i.e. absorbency)
- As a point of information - 400 diaper services reduced to 50 in the US
- None of the diapers are made in Canada representing approximately \$9.2 million dollars flowing out of HRM annually.
- Alternatives: Diaper Service/Home Washing - Diaper Service is still most expensive (i.e. \$2,800 annually for service he provides)
- In England support from House of Commons - created "Nappie Week" to encourage cloth usage. Each Consul (municipal government equivalent) has awareness initiatives
- In Austria there is a cloth diaper leasing initiative
- IWK offers no cloth diapers - (Previous initiative has died out)
- Diapers are not regulated

In conclusion, Mr. O'Sullivan referred to the recycling process which is being tried in Toronto and provided information in that regard.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - None

5. SOLID WASTE OPERATIONS REPORT

Mr. Smith, referring to the announcement regarding the shut down of Otter Lake, advised that a body had been found in front end processor at Otter Lake. RCMP have issued an order for the closure of the facility.

Mr. Smith then distributed a Mass Balance document and briefly reviewed the year to date results. He noted that for the first time actual figures are available relative to C&D waste. He further indicated that these figures did not recognize recycling.

After a brief discussion regarding the reversal of the decline on the commercial side, Mr. Smith noted that at least one commercial operator who was taking refuse outside of HRM has returned in compliance with By-law S-602.

The Chair noted that the Solid Waste Association of Nova Scotia has taken action to test the validity of By-law S-602 in the Supreme Court. Further discussion with regard to this will be undertaken during the In Camera session.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Plastic Bag Recycling - EPIC

Mr. Bauld, by way of introduction, noted that HRM has had difficulty with contamination of plastic bags in the recycling process. He went on to note that the Environmental Plastics Industry of Canada (EPIC) undertook an audit of the plastic bag recycling in HRM and as a result have agreed to underwrite the cost of a promotion regarding the proper handling of plastic bags for recycling in an effort to enhance the quality. Mr. Bauld noted that a series of television ads will be running beginning this week for five (5) weeks followed by one (1) week of radio ads.

The Chair commented that this was a fine example of national stewardship and requested that staff forward a letter to EPIC thanking them for their stewardship. He went on to recognize Jim Bauld's leadership role relative to stewardship citing the EPIC partnership, and his work with the dairy and newspaper industries.

Responding to concern expressed by Councillor Sloane with regard to the disposition of plastic types 3,5,6,7, Mr. Bauld noted that staff is very aware of the problem and continues to work toward a resolution.

6.2 C&D Strategy Implementation

- An information report dated October 3, 2002 submitted by Jim Bauld, Acting Director of Solid Waste Resources, was before the Committee for consideration.

Mr. Bauld reviewed the October 3, 2002 report noting that five items were outlined in response to questions from members of Council. Mr. Bauld confirmed that this matter was being considered by this Committee as the issues involved were more appropriately dealt with under the C&D Licensing By-law than as a land use issue. The intent is to provide a more in depth discussion of the issues.

The Chair, seeking to provide more clarity, indicated that the Committee is not expected to provide a recommendation, but to clarify the By-law. The following issues, as outlined in the staff report, were discussed by the Committee:

1. 2Km Separation Distance from a Park and Wilderness Area

- < Consideration must be given to the potential future development of property in locating these facilities
- < Separation distance from a park or wilderness area is a Provincial responsibility and the Province will be advising the proponents on these distances (Mr. Pyle provided clarification later in the meeting that Council could, if they so desired, establish a separation distance different from that required by the Province)
- < Care must be taken in developing standards to ensure that all possibility of a facility is not eliminated. Separation distance is only one of the components of protecting the environment and residents. A number of other devices are required which help to ensure this protection.

2. 500 Meter Separation Distance from a Watercourse

- < Council enhanced the Provincial requirements when it considered the Licensing By-law
- < Staff indicated that they could provide to the Committee the impact of the proposed enhancements to the separation distances utilizing the GIS application

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Smith provide to the Committee the impact of proposed enhancements to the all three separation distances utilizing the GIS application. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. 1 Km Separation Distance from an Active Quarry

- < Concern held by both HRM staff and the Province is the impact of blasting on the liner. Staff indicated this would require more consultation with the Province relative to what they would consider to be appropriate

A discussion ensued regarding the deferral provided to Metro Construction in terms of providing information relating to their application. Mr. Pyle noted that at the time of deferral no date was attached to the deferral. He went on to suggest that this Committee make a recommendation to Council that Metro Construction be advised that Regional Council's deferral was for a period of six months, after which the application will no longer be considered.

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Sloane that the Solid Waste Advisory Committee recommend to Regional Council that the deadline for submission of a complete application from Metro Construction be six months from the date of deferral of the application by Council. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Liability and Insurance Coverage

- < Note was made that any increase to Liability and Insurance coverage will in all likelihood have an impact on tipping fees
- < Staff advised that there are two levels of bonding required, one by the Nova Scotia Department of the Environment and one under the By-law
- < During discussion of the By-law, Council increased the \$1 million coverage to \$2 million.

MOVED by Councillor Hines, seconded by Councillor Meade that the Solid Waste Advisory Committee recommend that with regard to the level of Liability and Insurance coverage the status quo be accepted. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. C&D Disposal Facility Liner Requirements

- < Liner requirements are a Provincial responsibility
 - < Note made that the request regarding synthetic liners was in addition to the clay liner
- MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Smith that staff report on examples of different C&D sites across the country relative to the requirements for liners and leachate collection systems. MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.**

MOVED by Councillor Hines, seconded by Councillor Meade that the Solid Waste Advisory Committee recommend that HRM maintain the Provincial standards.
MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Referring to the 2 Km separation distance from a Park and Wilderness Area, it was **MOVED** by Councillor Hines, seconded by Councillor Meade that it be recommended that the requirements under the C&D Licensing By-law, and the Nova Scotia Department of the Environment Regulations, with regard to separation distances from a park and Wilderness area stand. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Councillor Rankin requested that staff provide an update on the Preston C&D site to Regional Council at an upcoming In Camera meeting.

7. **ADDED ITEMS** - None

8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee is to be held on November 28, 2002 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Sherryl Murphy
Assistant Municipal Clerk