

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

WESTERN COMMON WILDERNESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 12, 2009
010

PRESENT: Mr. Bill Matheson
Mr. Dusan Soudek
Ms. Kelly Morrissey
Mr. Michael Lamplugh
Mr. Alan Kitz
Ms. Susan Smith
Mr. Lorne Logan
Mr. Blake Maybank
Councillor Reg Rankin

REGRETS: Mr. Darrell Cooling
Mr. Phillip Cochrane
Ms. Jane Sears

STAFF: Mr. Peter Bigelow, Manager, Real Property Planning
Mr. Jan Skora, Coordinator, Real Property Planning
Mr. Paul Euloth, Regional Trail Coordinator, Real Property
Planning
Ms. Melody Campbell, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER	3
2.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES	3
3.	APPROVAL OF ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS.	3
4.	BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES	3
5.	PRESENTATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSION	
	5.1 Mr. Paul Euloth, HRM Trail Coordinator	3
	5.2 ATV Usage - Western Common Wilderness Area	3
6.	ADDED ITEMS	5
7.	NEXT MEETING DATE	5
8.	ADJOURNMENT	5

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Bill Matheson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Lakeside Recreation Centre.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 11, 2009

MOVED BY Mr. Soudek, seconded by Mr. Kitz, that the minutes of February 11, 2009 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Addition:

1. Website - Real Property Planning

MOVED BY Mr. Lamplugh, seconded by Mr. Kitz, that the Order of Business, as presented, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Mr. Maybank advised he presented the GPS coordinates to EDM as had been requested at the February 11th meeting.

Mr. Lamplugh requested clarification of time frame of the final draft from EDM. Mr. Skora advised that he has not received the draft. Mr. Bigelow advised that there have been issues regarding the timelines of information to HRM, due to staffing changes in EDM.

MOVED BY Mr. Lamplugh, seconded by Mr. Maybank, that the Western Common Wilderness Advisory Committee advise HRM of its concern regarding EDM and its inability to meet the deadlines set out by the Halifax Regional Municipality. The Committee requests that HRM advise HRM of the timeline concern. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. PRESENTATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE AND PETITIONS

5.1 Mr. Paul Euloth, HRM Trail Coordinator

5.2 ATV Usage - Western Common Wilderness Area

Mr. Paul Euloth, HRM Trail Coordinator, provided an overview of the Regional Trails Program.

As discussion ensued, Item 5.1 Trails and Item 5.2 Trail Usage were discussed concurrently.

During the Committee discussion the following issues were brought forward:

- HRM manages formal trails and makes it a part of the HRM trail system

- not all trails are formal trails
- HRM works with other levels of government in its trail management, coordinating standards, discussing trails to be developed and trail financing
- HRM works with other levels of government in its park planning
- HRM works extensively with community groups as part of the trail initiatives, community groups are often the success of the trail program
- the Western Common Wilderness trails can be developed with two trail types, a main trail and loop trails
- the Western Common Wilderness contains three major trails, Greenhead Road, Old Coach Road and the river/lake system
- HRM supports and promotes active transportation
- HRM does not have jurisdiction over Old Coach Road
- Canoe Nova Scotia is working on a map of canoe routes in HRM
- it was questioned whether multi use include ATV usage
- it is three times more maintenance to an ATV trail
- trail and width bases are different for ATV trails
- HRM cannot and will not minimize or reduce trail standards
- it was noted that there are requirements for eight metres of width for one ATV to pass another
- ATVs are not compatible with other types of trail use, as often one type of recreation cannot be mixed with another
- it was noted that jet skis and canoes are not compatible, as with some bike trails, such as mountain bikes as compared to recreational bikes
- there was discussion on the use of the K class road
- under the HRM park by-law, no hunting or motorized vehicles are permitted in HRM parkland, motorized needs a special dispensation from Council
- concern was raised that some maps show ATV trails, and it was advised this is not determined, as it is noted in the mapping, it has not been accepted
- types of use and how much use of a trail needs to be defined
- HRM trails need to be accessible to the 8-80 year rule, meaning accessible to ages 8 to 80
- sustainability and carrying capacities of the Western Common Wilderness trails needs to be developed
- snowmobile trails do not permit ATV use, the use is not compatible
- the stakeholders need to know that the area is promoted and used in order to develop and maintain trails
- it was noted that the WCWAC when started was open to all residents of the area, so, as a member of the Committee, each member is present to provide their recommendations
- HRM Park Patrol and Halifax Regional Police have jurisdiction to police the parks
- a number of initiatives are needed in the Western Common Wilderness area, campsites and walking trails for example
- it was noted that dollars are not plenty and each dollar needs to be spread around
- environmental damages on the area need to be addressed, as it relates to use, motorized use, and wilderness connectivity and habitats
- noise pollution may also be an issue related to motorized use

6. ADDED ITEMS

6.1 Website - Real Property Planning

In response to a concern by the Chair of the Committee, staff advised that the Western Common Wilderness section of HRM Real Planning website will be updated.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. April 16, 2009.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Melody Campbell
Legislative Assistant