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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7.01 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - October 22, 2009**

**MOVED BY Mr. Soudek, seconded by Mr. Lamplugh that the minutes from October 22, 2009 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions:

7.1 Rezoning of Drysdale Bog

**MOVED BY Mr. Maybank, seconded by Mr. Soudek, that the Order of Business as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - None**

**5. PRESENTATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE AND PETITIONS**

**6. REPORTS**

**6.1 Western Common Wilderness Common Master Plan**

Mr. Matheson informed members that the some language in the Master Plan has been edited with a sample of the edits provided to the Committee. He advised that the Open House, presenting the Western Common Wilderness Area Master Plan, will be held from 6:30 until 9:00 p.m. at Brookside Junior High on April 14, 2010. He added that HRM staff will be in attendance and committee members are encouraged to attend. He said that the Master Plan will be presented to the public for questions, comments and feedback.

Mr. John Charles, Planner, Real Property Planning reported that the edited language distributed is regarding to Part 4.2.4 of the Master Plan, Trail Development and Off Highway Vehicle Issues, which addresses use of the trails. He said that over the course of the phases, OHV access and uses will be moved Northward. Part 6.2.2 now details and rationale behind restrictions being put in place. He stated that the discussion in Part 4.2.4 addresses the challenges around land use and gives opportunities for compromise. Mr. Charles noted that full completion of Greenhead and Old Coach Road is slated for Phase 4 of the Master Plan.

Mr. Charles advised the Committee that HRM would post signs regarding trail use. He added that signage can be posted on the Greenhead Road, although not on the Old Coach Road as it is under Provincial jurisdiction. He stated that there has to be an education piece with the plan to relay information on the proper use of the trails.

Councillor Rankin said that it needs to be very clearly stated which roads and trails will be effected and monitored. He suggested that signage contain language that simply states

the permissive use adding that the sites would be monitored. He added that users must be aware that HRM has the ability to shut down the trail if guidelines are not followed.

The Committee commenced on a discussion regarding wet spots throughout the area and the requirement for maintenance of the wet land. Of particular concern by committee members the Prospect River as OHV crossings could cause water contamination. Mr. Charles reported that there have been provincial officers who have been stopping ATV's from driving through the watercourse.

Mr. Maybank expressed concern about the many ad hoc trails that exist. He suggested changing the wording from trail "development", as it implies that trails were intentionally developed by trail personnel, which they were not.

Mr. Bigelow reported that the model that the Province is going to use regarding OHV use is based on the snowmobile rules and regulations. He added that snowmobilers require stickers and that the snowmobile association polices itself. He added that he is not aware if the same currently applies to OHV users.

Mr. Charles stated that through the Provincial Memorandum of Understanding, environmental protection is foremost and that it has to contain language that everyone can agree to. He added that there have been precedence set in the MOU set between the Province and OHV users in the Ship Harbour and Chignecto areas noting that if OHV groups do not live up to terms of the MOU it can be terminated.

Mr. Maybank said the Western Common Wilderness Advisory Committee was formed to examine protection of these lands as a wilderness common. He raised concern that this land should be considered as one large park and not a series of small parks.

Mr. Bigelow stated that the under the HRM by-law no one other than HRM staff can operate a motorized vehicle on HRM owned park lands.

Mr. Charles stated the Western Common Wilderness Area, 1600 hectares, is designated park. He added that the Master Plan is a policy document that identifies all lands as a park.

Mr. Lamplugh spoke about the unknown effects of the plan over the long term. He added that the phased in approach is a different approach but not necessarily a bad approach.

Mr. Soudek questioned whether the Chebucto Peninsula Plan would be effected as the Master Plan suggests that multi purpose trails would go through the Five Bridges wilderness area. Mr Bigelow advised that the Master Plan had been well received as it related to this matter.

Mr. Cooling advised the Committee that this plan is not what he envisioned as he started working with the Committee. He reiterated the need for signage being posted to raise public awareness.

Mr. Maybank said that the Western Common Wilderness Advisory Committee should not be passive. He added that all land that is not the Greenhead Road should be designated park not park reserve. He stated that if the whole area were designated park, it would send a clear and strong message regarding the lands and their use.

Mr. Charles reported that every comment received regarding the Master Plan will be posted on the HRM website. He added that Committee members and the general public are invited and encouraged to submit comments. He noted that comments will be accepted by HRM until April 21<sup>st</sup> 2010.

Councillor Rankin suggested that there be a press release issued to encourage participation in the public consultation sessions.

## **7. ADDED ITEMS**

Mr. Matheson reported that there was a public meeting mid-January where there was talk of changing the zoning for the Drysdale bog area of Goodwood. He said that residents in Goodwood are opposed to heavy industrial uses of lands. Councillor Rankin will follow up with Richard Harvey the HRM staff person to get the recommendation.

Councillor Rankin and residents tried to have the Province conduct an environmental evaluation before development of the tire recycling plant started, but this has been declined by the Province. Mr. Matheson he was approached to have members of the WCWAC attend a tour of the new tire recycling plant set to be developed in Goodwood, however he indicated that this was not part of the WCWAC role.

**8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - Wednesday, April 28, 2010 - Captain William Spry Centre

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Barbara Allen  
Legislative Support