

CHEBUCTO COMMUNITY COUNCIL
February 2, 2009

MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillor Linda Mosher, Chair
Councillor Mary Wile, Vice Chair
Councillor Stephen Adams
Councillor Russell Walker
Councillor Debbie Hum

STAFF: Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

As the Chair, Councillor Mosher, had advised that she would be late for the meeting; the Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 5, 2009

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Hum, that the minutes of January 5, 2009, be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

- 12.1 Councillor Hum: Traffic and Safety, Melody Drive/Skylark
- 12.2 Correspondence: Mr. Bob MacDonald, Treasurer of Halifax North West Trails Association
- 12.3 Chocolate Lake Recreation Centre
- 12.4 Project 01150: Birch Cove Design Study
- 12.5 Citizen Reappointment to Boards and Committees

The Community Council agreed to defer item 7.1. until Councillor Mosher arrived.

MOVED BY Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Adams, that the agenda be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES:

4.1 Status Sheet Items:

4.1.1 Tremont Park Alternate Main Entrance

Councillor Hum requested an official update on this issue. She indicated that she would like it to remain on the Status Sheet.

4.1.2 Sherbrooke Stormwater Flooding Issues

Councillor Hum requested an official update on this issue. She indicated that she would like it to remain on the Status Sheet.

4.1.3 Intersection of Herring Cove Road and Purcell's Cove Road

On behalf of Councillor Mosher; Councillor Walker advised that there was no update on this issue and indicated that she would like it to remain on the Status Sheet.

4.1.4 Bike Lanes

On behalf of Councillor Mosher; Councillor Adams advised that there was no update on this issue and indicated that she would like it to remain on the Status Sheet.

4.1.5 Crown Drive - Request for Speed Humps

On behalf of Councillor Mosher; Councillor Walker advised that there was no update on this issue and indicated that she would like it to remain on the Status Sheet.

4.1.6 Seawall Restoration - Regatta Point and Sir Sandford Fleming Park - North West Arm

On behalf of Councillor Mosher; Councillor Walker advised that there was no update on this issue and indicated that she would like it to remain on the Status Sheet.

5. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION - NONE

6. MOTIONS OF RECISSION - NONE

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

7.1 Traffic Concern - St. Margarets Bay Road - Potential Truck Route Change

This item was dealt with later in the meeting. Please see page 8.

8. HEARINGS:

8.1 Public Hearings - None

8.2 Variance Appeal Hearings - None

9. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

9.1 Correspondence: None

9.2 Petitions: None

9.3 Presentations: None

10. REPORTS:

10.1 Staff:

10.1.1 Case 01221: Rezoning of 3 Sylvia Avenue, Halifax

C A report dated December 12, 2008 was before the Community Council.

MOVED BY Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Walker, that Chebucto Community Council give First Reading of the proposed rezoning and schedule a public hearing for March 2, 2009. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.2 Councillor:

10.2.1 Maintenance of the Dunbrack Street Rose Bushes - Councillor Walker

MOVED BY Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Adams, that this item be deferred until the March 2, 2009 meeting of Chebucto Community Council. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Walker advised that staff would be in attendance at that time.

11. MOTIONS - NONE

12. ADDED ITEMS

12.1 Councillor Hum: Traffic and Safety, Melody Drive/Skylark

Councillor Hum advised that she had received correspondence from two residents regarding long standing concerns with traffic and safety issues on Melody and Skylark Drive. She noted the following concerns and requests:

- C Concerns with speeding;
- C Concerns with traffic shortcutting from the Bedford Highway;
- C Request for an updated traffic count for both Melody and Skylark Drive;
- C Request for an update on a new sidewalk;
- C Request for the possibility of an all way stop at Melody and Skylark Drive;
- C Request for speed humps or barriers on Melody Drive;
- C Request for a review of on street parking on Skylark Drive; particularly during the winter months;
- C Request for police enforcement for speeding and parking violations;
- C Request for an evaluation of a crossing guard at the intersection;
- C Request for a review of the possibility to install traffic light signalization or a merge light at the Flamingo Drive and Bedford Highway intersection.

MOVED BY Councillor Hum, seconded by Councillor Walker, that Chebucto Community Council request a staff report to respond to residents' concerns regarding traffic and safety issues in the Melody and Skylark neighbourhoods. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2 Correspondence: Mr. Bob MacDonald, Treasurer of Halifax North West Trails Association

C Correspondence from Mr. Bob MacDonald, Treasurer of Halifax North West Trails Association, was circulated to the Community Council.

MOVED BY Councillor Wile, seconded by Councillor Hum, that a copy of Mr. MacDonald's letter be forwarded to the Bayers Lake Business Association, the consultants and staff working on the Bayers Lake Functional Plan and the Active Transportation Advisory Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Mosher entered the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

12.3 Chocolate Lake Recreation Centre

Councillor Mosher advised that she had met with staff at the facility about various concerns including increased operational costs, safety and inefficiencies.

MOVED BY Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Walker, that Chebucto Community Council request a staff report on the Chocolate Lake Recreation Centre including current and future required operating costs to maintain the facility and, further, any options for the continuation of core programming for the future. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Mosher assumed the Chair at 7:15 p.m.

12.4 Project 01150: Birch Cove Design Study

The following was addressed at the earlier In Camera session and was now before the Community Council for ratification:

MOVED BY Councillor Hum, seconded by Councillor Walker, that Chebucto Community Council:

- 1. Appoint the following volunteers to a steering committee for the Birch Cove Design Study: Mike Horwich, Terry Drisdelle, Anne Muecke, Wayne Ingalls, Manon Gilroy, Colin Darlington, Maria Medioli and two alternates; Michael Delli Colli and Patricia Portman; and**
- 2. Not release the reports dated November 13, 2008 and January 19, 2009 to the public.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.5 Citizen Reappointment to Boards and Committees

The following was addressed at the earlier In Camera session and was now before the Community Council for ratification:

MOVED BY Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Adams, that Chebucto Community Council reappoint Mr. Nathaniel Smith to the Halifax Watershed Advisory Board for a term of one year. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.1. Traffic Concern - St. Margarets Bay Road - Potential Truck Route Change

Councillor Mosher stepped down from the Chair at 7:18 p.m. Councillor Wile assumed the Chair.

Councillor Mosher submitted a written copy of her statement which she requested be added to the minutes verbatim:

At the September meeting of Chebucto Community Council, I brought forward resident concerns about St. Margaret's Bay Road being a designated truck route. Councillor Russell Walker seconded the motion and supported my request to investigate and assess a request to no longer allow trucks on the St. Margaret's Bay Road. We wanted to look at the specific volumes, a safety analysis and determine where else the trucks could go.

At the Council meeting I brought forward and summarized the concerns of residents including, but not limited to: concerns that the roadway between the rotary and the J. Albert Walker connector is of a narrow and winding nature, with residences located very close to the road, that the existing sidewalks abut the street with no grass or buffer area from the road, and in some areas there are no sidewalks - forcing residents to walk in the ditch area of the roadway. In addition, I added that the geometry is such that there are areas where the road is relatively steep which could lead to safety concerns, particularly in certain weather conditions. These concerns were encapsulated in an advertisement that Halifax Regional Municipality placed to obtain comments on the Chebucto Community Council motion.

Subsequently, HRM staff obtained feedback from residents and businesses and also conducted an analysis of the truck traffic and the history. It was determined that the road was designated a 24-hour truck route in 1972 even though there are homes and businesses located very close to the roadway. The road which has been in existence since at least 1860 and is designed as a main arterial road and this was confirmed in Council's Regional Plan.

The detailed analysis determined that there were 150 trucks per day, including local service vehicles which would be on the road regardless of a truck route designation; this represented 1 % of the total vehicular volumes on the St. Margaret's Bay Road.

Based upon the staff analysis and history, unfortunately there is no suitable alternative at this time. Although I sympathize greatly with all residents living on this road, I see no other feasible or practical option. St. Margaret's Bay Road is a main arterial road, other alternatives could force trucks on streets that are classified as local or collector roads. In addition, the analysis indicates that if alternative routes were chosen, the total kilometers traveled would be far greater. This would increase green house gas emissions and not be a positive change for our environment. The goal is to take as much traffic off our roadways and this route allows for the most direct access to Lakeside Industrial Park.

In addition, staff have determined that despite the concerns that I brought forward regarding the geometry of the roadway, they feel that the road is capable of handling the truck traffic with reasonable safety. Over the past several years we have added some new sidewalk sections and a push button crosswalk for safety. Last year I put forward more requests to add more sections of sidewalk on this street to further enhance pedestrian safety.

Should truck traffic volumes increase appreciably or other facts change, I would be happy to bring this back to Chebucto Community Council for a further analysis. However, at this time, unfortunately I will have to agree with the staff recommendation and keep the status quo.

MOVED BY Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Walker, that Chebucto Community Council request that the Truck Route By-Law not be changed. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE

14. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Hiram Tiller, Halifax, stated that he was shocked to hear the decision made at Regional Council to remove the rose bushes on Dunbrack Street. He indicated that the municipality had only done a sectional, half decent job in maintaining them. Mr. Tiller noted that the rose bushes would be a great way to showcase Dunbrack Street during the Canada Games in 2011. He indicated that he was unsure of the final decision concerning the rose bushes as discussion had been deferred until the March Community Council meeting, however, he stated that he was against the removal of the rose bushes and wished to see them properly maintained. He suggested having an adopt a rose or section of roses program; noting that he knew many residents that would help. Mr. Tiller also mentioned an ongoing traffic concern he had brought to the Community Council a year and a half earlier. He advised that he had seen no action with regards to traffic overflow from

vehicles leaving Bayers Lake attempting to access Highway 102 or with the left turning lane accessing Lacewood Drive from southbound vehicles on Dunbrack Street.

MOVED BY Councillor Wile, seconded by Councillor Hum, that Chebucto Community Council request a staff report to respond to resident concerns regarding:

1. **Traffic overflow from vehicles attempting to access Highway 102 from the Bayers Lake Business Park; and**
2. **Traffic overflow in the left turning lane accessing Lacewood Drive from southbound vehicles on Dunbrack Street.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

It was requested that this item be added to the Status Sheet.

15. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, March 2, 2009.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Shawnee Gregory
Legislative Assistant

