

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES

June 2, 2011

PRESENT: Councillors: Peter Lund, Chair
Debbie Hum, Vice Chair
Barry Dalrymple
Lorelei Nicoll
Jennifer Watts
Dawn Sloane
Darren Fisher
Jackie Barkhouse

STAFF: Mr. Richard MacLellan, Manager, SEMO
Mr. Gord Helm, Manager, SWR
Mr. Angus Doyle, Manager Utilities Coordinator, TPW
Ms. Krista Tidgwell, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m. in the Dartmouth Council Chambers, 90 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 5, 2011

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Fisher, that the minutes of May 5, 2011 be approved, as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

- 6.3.1 Presentation by CMC re: Recycling Education Program
- 9.1 Implications and Value - Lowering Level for Requiring an Environmental Assessment for wind energy projects
- 9.2 Update on Heritage Gas, General Rate and NSPI Hearings/Heritage Gas Presentation to Committee
- 9.3 Request for Update re: Storm Water Management Functional Plan
- 9.4 Request to Present – Our HRM Alliance re: Regional Municipal Planning Strategy
- 9.5 Discussion re: Urban Forest Master Plan

Added Information Items:

- 2. Briefing Note: Solar City Update
- 3. Briefing Note: UNSM Sustainable Practices Committee

Deletions:

- 4.3 Presentation from Green Belt Atlantic Conference (*Briefing Note to be provided for July meeting*)
- 7.2.1 Councillor Lund – CMC Recycling Program (*verbal update*)

MOVED by Councillor Hum, seconded by Councillor Nicoll, that the Order of Business be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Item 6.3.1 was discussed at this time.

6.3.1 Presentation by CMC re: Recycling Education Program

A digital copy of the presentation was provided for the file.

Mr. Steve Warbarton and Mr. Jack Mitchell of the Community Monitoring Committee delivered a presentation to the Standing Committee respecting CMC's recycling education program being presented throughout HRM schools.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Lakes Banook/Micmac *(verbal update)*

Verbal update provided to the Standing Committee.

4.2 Save Our Lakes Policy Session *(verbal update)*

Verbal update provided to the Standing Committee.

4.3 Presentation from Green Belt Atlantic Conference *(awaiting receipt of the presentation; to be provided at a later date)*

Item removed from the agenda during the approval of the Order of Business.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence – None

6.2 Petitions – None

6.3 Presentations

6.3.1 Presentation by CMC re: Recycling Education Program

This matter was discussed earlier in the meeting, see page 3.

7. REPORTS

7.1 STAFF REPORTS

7.1.1 Briefing Note: MOU – Fair Trade Town

A briefing note dated June 2, 2011 was before the Standing Committee.

No discussion was held on this matter.

7.1.2 Briefing Note: East Dartmouth Transmission Line Review Update

A briefing note dated June 2, 2011 was before the Standing Committee.

Mr. Angus Doyle, Manager Utilities Coordinator, Transportation and Public Works, provided an overview of the June 2nd Briefing Note to the Standing Committee.

A brief discussion was held respecting the timeframe of the Harbour East Transmission Project – Public Advisory Committee’s open house. Concern was expressed with respect to the open house being held over the summer months and the possibility of people not being able to attend.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee direct staff to ask the Harbour East Transmission Project - Public Advisory Committee that if their open house for the East Dartmouth Transmission Line Review can not be held by June 31, 2011, that consideration be given to holding the open house in September 2011.

Mr. Doyle indicated that he is meeting with the Public Advisory Committee on Monday and would advise them of the Standing Committee’s request.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Discussion ensued respecting Council’s motion of June 8, 2010, requesting that the Energy and Underground Service Advisory Committee make a recommendation at a future meeting on the preferred option.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that once the open house has been completed, that staff come back with a report to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee for review and discussion prior to moving forward to Regional Council.

Further consideration was given regarding whether or not to have the two Co-Chairs of the Public Advisory Committee come to a future meeting make a presentation, to which the Standing Committee agreed to make an amendment to the motion.

The motion before the Standing Committee now reads:

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that once the Harbour East Transmission Project - Public Advisory Committee’s open house for the East Dartmouth Transmission Line Review has been completed, that staff come back with a report to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee for review and discussion prior to moving forward to Regional Council, in conjunction with a presentation from two Co-Chairs of the Harbour East Transmission Project - Public Advisory Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.1.3 Briefing Note: Blue Flag Beach Update

A briefing note dated June 2, 2011 was before the Standing Committee.

No Discussion was held on this matter.

7.2 COUNCILLOR REPORTS

7.2.1 Councillor Lund – CMC Recycling Program *(verbal update)*

Item removed from the agenda during the approval of the Order of Business.

8. MOTIONS - NONE

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Implications and Value - Lowering Level for Requiring an Environmental Assessment for wind energy projects

Background information respecting Councillor Watt's request was before the Standing Committee.

Discussion was held with staff regarding the implications and value of requesting the Province to consider lowering its Environmental Assessment level for wind energy projects from 2 mega watts to 1 mega watt. Staff advised that a hearing has been scheduled by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board regarding Environmental Assessments for July 5, 2011. The Chair indicated that the Standing Committee may want to consider at a future meeting recommending that Regional Council write a letter to the Province making this request.

9.2 Update on Heritage Gas, General Rate and NSPI Hearings/Heritage Gas Presentation to Committee

Background information respecting Councillor Watt's request was before the Standing Committee.

A brief discussion was held with staff respecting a status update on the Nova Scotia Power Inc. (NSPI) and Heritage Gas hearings. It was noted that the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (UARB) has scheduled the NSPI's hearing for September 19, 2011.

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Nicoll, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council seek intervener status at the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board's NSPI hearings.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

It was further noted that Heritage Gas is expected to file an application with the UARB within the next two months, with an anticipated hearing date to be scheduled for fall 2011.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Nicoll, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

- 1. Recommend that Halifax Regional Council seek intervener status at the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board's Heritage Gas hearings;**
- 2. Invite Heritage Gas to make a presentation to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee; and**
- 3. Direct staff to provide status updates respecting the Heritage Gas and NSPI hearings on a regular basis.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Hum indicated that the UARB's website www.UARB.ca is a good information source with respect to the hearings and submissions made to the UARB.

9.3 Request for Update re: Storm Water Management Functional Plan

Background information respecting Councillor Fisher's request was before the Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Fisher, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee direct staff to provide a briefing note outlining:

- 1. The status of the Storm Water Management Functional Plan and the role of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee; and**
- 2. The role of the Watershed Advisory Groups in the development of the Water Resources Management Policy.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.4 Request to Present – Our HRM Alliance re: Regional Municipal Planning Strategy

Written submission from Our HRM Alliance dated May 26, 2011 was before the Standing Committee for consideration.

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Barkhouse, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee accept Our HRM Alliance's request to make presentation to the Standing Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.5 Discussion re: Urban Forest Master Plan

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request a status update respecting the Urban Forest Master Plan.

Councillor Sloane indicated that residents have expressed concern with the removal of trees along Spring Garden Road in conjunction with the development of the new public library and requested an update be provided for the next meeting as to why the trees were removed.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

11. NEXT MEETING DATE – July 7, 2011

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

Krista Tidgwell
Legislative Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS

June 2, 2011

1. Briefing Note: Second Generation LED Street Light Pilot Project
2. Briefing Note: Solar City Update
3. Briefing Note: UNSM Sustainable Practices Committee