

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES

August 2, 2012

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

STAFF: Ms. Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. in the Dartmouth Chamber, 90 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 7, 2012 & June 26, 2012 special meeting

A typographical error was noted on page 3 of the June 7, 2012 minutes.

In response to a question raised, the Standing Committee agreed to defer approval of the June 26, 2012 special meeting minutes, pending clarification to be provided by the Clerk on the Standing Committee's motions to Regional Council respecting the Halifax Water COMFIT Project.

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the minutes of June 7, 2012 be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

- 9.1 Councillor Lund – Discussion re: Bowater Mersey Land Acquisition with Province
- 9.2 Request to Present – East Port Energy
- 9.3 Councillor Watts – Maritime Lumber Burrow's Request to Present re: Atlantic Wood Works
- 9.4 Councillor Watts – Request for Report re: Regional Plan update to Community Design Advisory Committee

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

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Status Sheet Update

A copy of the Status Sheet was before the Standing Committee for review.

In relation to the September 10, 2011 information report provided to the Standing Committee on October 6, 2011, Councillor Fisher asked that procurement staff attend their September 6, 2012 meeting to provide clarification on HRM's green approach to procurement in relation to the Request for Proposal.

Confirmation was provided that staff is on track with bringing forward the proposed work plan and discussion paper for the Lot Grading By-Law and Stormwater Management Functional Plan in early Fall 2012.

An error was noted that some of the Standing Committee's motions of June 7, 2012 had not been updated on the Status Sheet (ie. Septic System Management, District Energy and Green Building Standards) and would be added/updated following the meeting.

4.2 Discussion re: Mattress Recycling

A staff briefing note dated August 2, 2012 was before the Standing Committee.

Mr. Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Waste Resources provided an overview of the August 2nd briefing note and responded to questions of clarification raised by the Standing Committee.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence – None

6.2 Petitions – None

6.3 Presentations

6.3.1 Our HRM Alliance - Planning for Liveable Communities: Seven Solutions for Saving the Municipality Money and Saving the Environment

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Background information and booklet on the Our HRM Alliance's seven solutions: saving the Municipality money and saving the environment
- A copy of the presentation

Mr. Walter Regan and Mr. Paul McKinnon of Our HRM Alliance delivered a presentation on the Alliance's seven solutions for saving the Municipality money and saving the environment:

1. Use greenbelting to concentrate growth and preserve natural areas and eco-services
2. Invest in the downtown core and growth centres
3. Prioritize investment in transit and active transportation
4. Adhere to residential growth targets
5. Evaluate development charges to ensure that the Municipality is not burdened by growth
6. Protect water resources
7. Commit to measuring successes and deficiencies of actions identified in the RMPS

The Standing Committee entered into discussion on the seven solutions with the following points and suggestions being made:

- the need for a larger educational component with the community to address concerns related to density and where development will be forced
- encourage reviewing various models for multi modes of transportation

- ensuring growth centres are sustainable
- the importance of being strategic when implementing Regional Plan strategies and resources
- suggestion was made to holding a commuter challenge to reduce the number of one-occupant vehicles on the road
- suggestion was made to review alternative transportation modes in other cities to assist with mobility in the city centre (ie. Quebec City has small electric commuter buses)
- the need for changes in Provincial legislation related to LICs and Capital Cost Contributions
- the need for understanding and protecting HRM's water resources (coastal and lakes) in relation to planning for development

During the discussion it was noted that staff is undertaking a review of open space development, which is projected to go to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee in the Fall 2012. It was suggested that when this report becomes available, that it also be brought to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee for review as it relates to impacts on water resources.

7. REPORTS

7.1 Staff Reports

7.1.1 Draft Urban Forest Master Plan – Status Update

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff information report dated July 3, 2012
- A copy of the presentation

Mr. John Charles, Planner introduced Dr. Peter Duinker, HRM's Research Associate at Dalhousie University who delivered the presentation on the sustaining HRM's urban forest: status update of the Draft Urban Forest Master Plan. It was noted that the draft plan is projected to come to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee in September 2012 for review and recommendation to Halifax Regional Council.

The Standing Committee entered into discussion with Mr. Charles and Mr. Duinker responding to questions related to the draft plan.

Councillors Hum and Sloane exited the meeting at 3:13 p.m.

8. MOTIONS – NONE

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Councillor Lund – Discussion re: Bowater Mersey Land Acquisition with Province

Councillor Lund provided an overview of the motions passed by Western Region Community Council on July 23, 2012 related to the Bowater Mersey land acquisition with the Province. He suggested this may be of interest to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee to make a recommendation to Regional Council for action.

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would email Standing Committee members a draft extract of the Western Region Community Council July 23, 2012 meeting minutes, related to this matter, for their review. It was noted that upon this review, the Standing Committee could determine whether or not this is a matter they want to pursue.

9.2 Request to Present – East Port Energy

An email from Richard MacLellan, Manager of Energy and Environment dated August 1, 2012 respecting background information on East Port Energy's request for presentation was circulated to the Standing Committee.

Mr. MacLellan provided an overview of East Port Energy's request to present; referencing the Standing Committee's motion of June 7, 2012 requesting a staff report in the role and nature HRM should take in fostering district energy projects, and providing information on district energy best practices from other Canadian Municipalities. He further noted that East Port Energy has request an extension in presentation time of 30 minutes from the standard 10 minute time frame, to which the Standing Committee agreed.

MOVED by Councillor Lund, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee accept East Port Energy's request for presentation for their September 6, 2012 meeting. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.3 Councillor Watts – Maritime Lumber Burrow's Request to Present re: Atlantic Wood Works

Following a brief update from Councillor Watts, it was confirmed that Geoff Schimmel of Atlantic Wood Works will be making a presentation on fostering wood culture in the Atlantic Region to the Standing Committee on September 6, 2012.

9.4 Councillor Watts – Request for Report re: Regional Plan update to Community Design Advisory Committee

In response to questions raised, Richard MacLellan, Manager of Energy and Environment advised that he would attend the next Community Design Advisory

Committee meeting to respond to questions related to potentially duplicative work initiated, completed and/or in progress with the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

11. IN CAMERA

Members of the Standing Committee may rise and go into a private In Camera session, in accordance with Section 19 of the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, for the purpose of dealing with the following;

11.1 In Camera Minutes – June 7, 2012

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Lund that the In Camera minutes of June 7, 2012 be approved, as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12. NEXT MEETING DATE – September 6, 2012

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Krista Vining
Legislative Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Information Report dated April 16, 2012 entitled: Progress Report on the Community Energy Plan
2. Information Report dated May 24, 2012 entitled: Environmental Compliance
3. Memorandum from the Municipal Clerks Office dated July 26, 2012 entitled: Requests for Presentation to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee – None