

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

December 6, 2012

PRESENT: Councillor Jennifer Watts, Vice Chair  
Councillor Darren Fisher  
Councillor Lorelei Nicoll

REGRETS: Councillor Barry Dalrymple, Chair  
Deputy Mayor Reg Rankin

STAFF: Mr. Joshua Judah, Solicitor  
Ms. Jane Fraser, Director, Planning and Infrastructure  
Mr. Richard MacLellan, Manager, Energy and Environment  
Ms. Laurie Lewis, Diversion Planning Coordinator  
Mr. Ted Aubut, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. in the Dartmouth Chamber, 90 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

**2. SELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

Following a brief discussion, it was **MOVED by Councillor Nicoll and seconded by Councillor Fisher that Councillor Dalrymple be nominated to the position of Chair for the period December 2012- November 2013.**

The Clerk called two further times for nominations; hearing none, the **MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

The Standing Committee then moved to nominations for Vice Chair.

**MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Fisher that Councillor Watts be nominated to the position of Vice-Chair for the period December 2012- November 2013.**

The Clerk called two further times for nominations; hearing none, the **MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 1, 2012**

**MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Fisher that minutes of the November 1, 2012 meeting be approved, as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Clerk informed the Standing Committee that Ms. Hum, former Councillor for District 16, wishes to correct information she provided on October 4, 2012 concerning Solar City. At this meeting she had indicated, under item 9.2, that Solar Nova Scotia had concerns with the procurement process for this project. Ms. Hum, the Clerk, continued, wishes to clarify that it is industry suppliers, rather than Solar Nova Scotia, that are uncomfortable with the sole sourcing agreement.

**MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Fisher that the minutes of December 6, 2012 clarify that industry suppliers are concerned about the sole sourcing agreement for Solar City. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETION**

Additions:

- 10.1 Councillor Fisher - Protection of Lakes envisaged by Centre Plan
- 10.2 Correspondence from the Atlantic Concrete Association dated December 3, 2012
- 10.3 Correspondence from Clean Nova Scotia dated December 5, 2012
- 10.4 Councillor Watts – Information Report dated November 14, 2012 regarding District Energy

**MOVED by Councillor Nicoll seconded by Councillor Fisher that the agenda be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

**5.1 Status Sheet Update**

The Standing Committee agreed to remove the following item, dated December 1, 2011, from the status sheet because it falls within the scope of another, more current action item dated April 16, 2012:

- December 1/2011: Staff to investigate the feasibility of requiring, as a condition of issuing building permits in non-serviced areas of HRM, that housing and auxiliary buildings be placed on lots in such a way as to avoid being flooded.

**6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE**

**7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**7.1 Correspondence**

**7.1.1 Correspondence from East Port Energy dated November 26, 2012**

A follow-up letter from John W. Lindsay Jr., President of East Port Energy, who on September 6, 2012 delivered a presentation regarding a proposed tri-generation project for downtown Halifax, was before the Standing Committee.

The Chair acknowledged receipt of the correspondence, noting that it would be reviewed, a second time, upon receipt of a staff report in early 2013 addressing themes raised in Mr. Lindsay's September presentation.

**7.2 Petitions - NONE**

**7.3 Presentations - NONE**

## 8. REPORTS

### 8.1 Staff Report dated September 13, 2012 regarding Municipal Wood First Policy

A staff report dated September 13, 2013 recommending that HRM give wood first consideration for the design and renovation of HRM facilities was before the Standing Committee.

**MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Fisher that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend to Regional Council that the Halifax Regional Municipality give wood first consideration, subject to financial and performance feasibility, for structural and material options when designing new and recapitalizing facility projects.**

The Chair drew attention to item 10.2, a presentation request from Ms. Macaulay of the Atlantic Concrete Association. She wondered if the Standing Committee wished to proceed with the motion or to defer further consideration of this matter until the Association's presentation is heard.

Councillors Nicoll and Fisher expressed support for deferral.

Councillor Fisher asked for clarity around the wording of the proposed policy. He explained that many residents believe that the policy would apply to all new buildings in HRM while it is his understanding that it would apply to the construction of corporate HRM buildings only.

Richard MacLellan, Manager of Energy and Environment, responded that modifications to the report were indeed possible. He suggested that they be done after the presentation from the Atlantic Concrete Association.

**MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Fisher that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee defer discussion of the proposed Municipal Wood First Policy until the Atlantic Concrete Association has delivered its presentation. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## 9. MOTIONS – NONE

## 10. ADDED ITEMS

### 10.1 Councillor Fisher - Protection of Lakes envisaged by Centre Plan

Councillor Fisher explained that the Centre Plan is grounded on the assumption that there will be increased development in the urban core. With this plan moving forward, he wished to know if sufficient safeguards were in place to protect the lakes in the affected zone.

Richard MacLellan responded that there is currently work underway in this area, particularly around the protection of Russell Lake and Lake Banook in Dartmouth. He suggested preparing an information report on the protection of lakes in areas slated for intensification.

Councillor Nicoll asked that the information report identify all lakes that would be affected by the Centre Plan.

**MOVED by Councillor Fisher, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request a staff report (1) identifying the lakes affected by the Centre Plan and (2) confirming how the Plan will ensure their protection and preservation as urban densification intensifies. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

### **10.2 Correspondence from the Atlantic Concrete Association dated December 3, 2012**

A presentation request from Mary Macaulay, Executive Director of the Atlantic Concrete Association was before the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee reiterated their interest in hearing from the Atlantic Concrete Association regarding the proposed Wood First policy.

### **10.3 Correspondence from Clean Nova Scotia dated December 5, 2012**

A presentation request from Gina Patterson, Director of Programs at Clean Nova Scotia was before the Standing Committee.

The Chair explained that Clean Nova Scotia has asked for the opportunity to present the results of its stormwater management pilot program to the Standing Committee.

**MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Fisher that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee invite both the Atlantic Concrete Association and Clean Nova Scotia to deliver presentations at the next scheduled meeting. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Standing Committee then agreed to deal with item 11.1 before item 10.4.

## **11. NOTICES OF MOTION**

### **11.1 Councillor Watts**

Councillor Fisher read the following Notice of Motion on behalf of Councillor Watts:

“In consideration of findings presented in the Hogg report that reviewed the RRFB organization and funding provided to support municipal waste management programs,

take notice that at the next regular meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee, I intend to introduce a motion requesting staff to prepare a report to review options for future RRFB municipal funding opportunities.”

The Standing Committee returned to item 10.4.

At 1:25 pm, Councillor Watts stepped down as Chair, with Councillor Fisher assuming the role of Chair.

**10.4 Councillor Watts – Information Report dated November 14, 2012 regarding District Energy**

Councillor Watts thanked staff for preparing the report in question, noting she was particularly appreciative of the background provided on page 4 with respect to the Community Energy Plan. However, she found that the report did not sufficiently address community engagement, which she viewed as central to the plan’s success. Fostering an innovative community approach to district energy is not profiled on pages 5 and 6, which discussed HRM’s policy direction for energy. Instead, she noted, energy is discussed in the context of traditional planning tools, such as land-use planning, by-laws, and facilities support. Referring to the tremendous response to Solar City, she explained that residents want to be involved in renewable energy and energy efficiency projects and that HRM has a strong role in bringing projects like these to life. Councillor Watts acknowledged that the report marks an important first step but it is incomplete. She asked that staff take these comments into account moving forward.

The Chair asked if Councillor Watts requested specific follow-up from staff.

Councillor Watts replied that she did not at this time, as she would prefer to wait until Regional Council has articulated its priorities for 2013. She was pleased that district energy figured in early discussions around Council priorities and hoped that it would remain on the list, along with renewable energy and energy efficiency. As for the Standing Committee, she requested that this item remain on the status sheet.

Councillor Nicoll indicated that she, too, was pleased that Regional Council had identified the need to have a green overlay to HRM policies. She wished to know if Mr. MacLellan had played a role in crafting the list of priorities that went to Council.

Mr. MacLellan replied in the affirmative, noting that he has been involved in business planning and budgeting for a number of years.

Councillor Watts reassumed the role as Chair at 1:34 pm.

**12. NEXT MEETING DATE - January 10, 2013**

A proposed meeting schedule for 2013 was before the Standing Committee.

The Clerk recommended that meetings continue to be held at 1:00 pm on the first Thursday of the month, with a few exceptions, including in January.

**MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Fisher that the proposed meeting schedule be approved, as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**13. IN CAMERA**

**13.1 Minutes from the In Camera Session of November 1, 2012**

In lieu of convening in camera, the Standing Committee decided to approve the minutes in public.

**MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Fisher that the minutes of the in camera session of November 1, 2012 be approved, as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair wished everyone a happy holiday and adjourned the meeting at 1:37 pm