

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY
STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES

December 5, 2013

PRESENT: Councillor Barry Dalrymple, Chair
Councillor Jennifer Watts, Vice Chair
Councillor Reg Rankin
Councillor Lorelei Nicoll
Deputy Mayor Darren Fisher
Councillor Bill Karsten
Councillor Steve Craig

REGRETS:

STAFF: Mr. Mike Labrecque, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Josh Judah, Solicitor
Mr. David Greener, Solicitor
Mr. Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Waste Resources
Mr. Richard MacLellan, Manager, Energy and Environment
Mr. Quentin Hill, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 13, 2013

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Deputy Mayor Fisher, that the minutes of November 13, 2013, be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions: 6.1 Requests to Present
- Green Energy and Engagement Network
- Bullfrog Power
- TBL Resource Solutions
9.1 Regional Chairs – Councillor Watts
9.2 Rockefeller Foundation
9.3 National Consultants Group Report on Solid Waste Consultation
9.4 Zero National Waste

Deletion: 6.3.1 QUEST re: Fleet Conversion to Natural Gas

Councillor Watts noted that although the presentation from QUEST would not be going forward, she requested the opportunity to speak on the matter later in the meeting.

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

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Status Sheet

The Committee agreed to remove the following items from the status sheet:

- Solar Buildings HRM
- Presentation from Hefler Forest Products

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence

6.1.1 Presentation Requests

A presentation requests report dated December 4, 2013 was before the Committee. The report included requests from:

- Green Energy and Engagement Network
- Bullfrog Power
- TBL Resource Solutions

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Nicoll, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee allow the Green Energy and Engagement Network to present at the January 2014 meeting.

A brief discussion ensued.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Deputy Mayor Fisher that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee allow Bullfrog Power to present at a later date to be determined.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Deputy Mayor Fisher that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee allow TBL Resource Solutions to present at a later date to be determined.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6.3.1 QUEST re: Fleet Conversion to Natural Gas

The Chair noted that the presentation had been deleted from the agenda but Councillor Watts wanted to speak to it as noted during the approval of the agenda.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Nicoll, that the presentation from QUEST be deferred until the February 6, 2014 meeting of ESSC and request staff provide a supplementary report with more detailed information on the technology and possible external funding sources in consultation with QUEST.

Councillor Watts explained that there has been more information that contrasts the staff report that the technology is unproven. She added there had been new outside funding programs that had recently come forward and this would give staff more opportunity to explore some of those options.

A discussion ensued.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7. REPORTS

7.1 Staff

7.1.1 QUEST Solar Recommendations

A staff report dated November 14, 2013 was before the Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the ESSC refer both the QUEST Solar Subcommittee Recommendations and the Nova Scotia Home Builders Association comments, to the Community Energy project.

Councillor Watts indicated that she wished to discuss this in the January meeting when the Committee would be looking at the Community Energy Plan.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.1.2 Model Community Plan Environmental Section

A staff report dated November 14, 2013 was before the Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Watts that the ESSC:

- 1. Request that the Regional Watershed Advisory Board review the report: Boilerplate Environmental Section for Community Plans, completed by Genivar, and provide comments directly to staff to inform a Model Community Plan Environmental Section; and**
- 2. Direct staff to prepare a Model Community Plan Environmental Section for consideration of the Environmental and Sustainability Standing Committee recommendation to Regional Council.**

Mr. Richard Maclellan clarified that the Model Community Plan is not related to the Regional Plan review. He added that staff will have a Community Plan Environmental Model section as they progress through future Community Planning projects.

Councillor Dalrymple advised that many of the members of the Halifax Watershed Advisory Board were looking forward to discussing the report.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. MOTIONS

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Regional Chairs

Councillor Watts advised that she sits on the Regional Chairs as the representative for HRM. She wanted to make sure that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee was aware of the projects that take place and requested that it be placed as an item on future agendas. The Councillor noted that one item the Regional Chairs were discussing was the beverage deposit refund program. She added that the Regional Chairs would be meeting with the new Provincial Minister of Environment.

The Committee requested that the Clerk add Regional Chairs to the monthly agenda.

9.2 Rockefeller Foundation –Resilient Cities

Mr. Mclellan advised that the Rockefeller Foundation had a program where they would donate 100 million to 100 different cities to join in the conversation regarding urban resiliency. He reminded that the Committee provided direction to staff to apply to the program but HRM did not make the list for this year. He added that no cities in Canada were selected, but he would continue to monitor the program and ensure that HRM is in the next year program.

9.3 National Consultants Group Report on Solid Waste Consultation

Councillor Watts noted that the National Consultants Group Report was completed and questioned if staff would include it in the next Regional Council agenda package as an information item.

Mr. Gord Helm, Manager Solid Waste Resources, advised that the National report is not finalized and the group is currently working with corporate communications. He added that he has also not read the report and it also has to be incorporated into the final recommendation report.

Councillor Watts noted there was some concern that the National Consultants Group Report would be altered before it is released.

Mr. Helm clarified that staff is not revising the national report as it is an independent report and it will be an appendix of the final staff report.

Councillor Craig added he thought it, as all other reports, would be made available when it is completed and questioned why it was even brought up before ESSC.

Councillor Rankin commented that he thought it was appropriate to raise the question regarding the availability of the report. This Committee played a role in the public consultation exercise and he added there was an expectation in the community that in the nature of openness and transparency, the comments from the consultants that the report would be their report and unaltered. He noted that staff indicated that there is not going to be a revising of the report. Councillor Rankin added he did not see why in the fairness of openness and transparency, why the report could not be release to the public on its own.

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Watts to release the report to Regional Council as an information item as soon as it is completed.

Mr. David Greener, Solicitor, advised that the motion is considered committee **OUT OF ORDER**, as the addition of the item was done earlier and the description of the discussion did not lead to a motion by the person who brought the item forward. He added that the Committee cannot interfere with the expectation of Regional Council had on how the report would come back to Council in January.

Councillor Rankin requested further clarification as to why the motion was ruled out of order.

Mr. Greener added that the motion would have had to been brought forward as an added item. It is for the Chair to decide to add an item to the agenda, and motions are to be brought forward beforehand as an added item. He noted that the Chair accepted the item as a discussion and no indication prior that a motion would come forward.

Councillor Karsten added that the Committee recommended the issue to Council and now Regional Council is in charge of the issue. He added that the Committee has no authorization to change how the report is dealt with at Council. He suggested that the issue be brought forward at Regional Council.

9.4 National Zero Waste

Councillor Karsten advised that National Zero Waste is soliciting membership and noted a number of large businesses are joining up. He noted that it is a formality for municipalities to be involved but the application that had to be filled out. He requested that staff complete the form and send it in.

In response to the Committee, Mr. Helm reminded the Committee that when approached about joining the National Zero Waste, they agreed to send a representative on behalf of HRM. He added he did not feel there was anything additional that needed to be done outside filling out the application Mr. Helm noted that he was unsure if the municipality would be called upon to help increase membership

10 NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE

11. ANNUAL SCHEDULE AND NEXT MEETING DATE

The Committee approved the 2014 annual meeting schedule. The next meeting will be held

12. MOTIONS

12.1 Councillor Watts

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the ESSC discuss at the January 2014 meeting the status of the Community Energy Plan based on the information report provided to ESSC at the November 13, 2013 and that specifically to discuss the Ideas Expo outlined in the report and the ESSC's engagement in the Expo.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13. IN CAMERA

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Quentin Hill
Legislative Assistant