



**ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
October 1, 2015**

PRESENT: Councillor Jennifer Watts, Chair
Deputy Mayor Lorelei Nicoll
Councillor Bill Karsten

REGRETS: Councillor Darren Fisher
Councillor Barry Dalrymple, Vice-Chair
Councillor Brad Johns

STAFF: Mr. Mike Labrecque, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Josh Judah, Solicitor
Ms. Phoebe Smith, Legislative Assistant

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee are available online:

<http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/SCenv/151001essc-Agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. and adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. and noted that regrets were received from Councillors Dalrymple and Johns.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 2, 2015

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Karsten

THAT the minutes of the July 2, 2015 meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions: 12.1 Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee Representative for the National Zero Waste Council

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Karsten

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Two-third majority vote required.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

5. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE

6. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

7.1. Blue Dot Campaign Supplemental Report

The following was before the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

- A staff supplementary information report dated September 18, 2015
- A minutes extract from May 14, 2015 meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee
- Correspondence received from Silver Donald Cameron, Angela Giles, and Mark Butler

Councillor Watts stepped down from the Chair to speak to the matter, and Deputy Mayor Nicoll assumed the Chair.

The following motion was placed on the floor at the May 14, 2015 meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

THAT Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee not forward a recommendation to Regional Council to consider a declaration of support for an Environmental Bill of Rights.

Councillor Watts proposed that the Committee defeat the motion, indicating that she would then bring forward a motion to support the alternative from the staff report regarding a partial declaration.

MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Karsten

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council make a declaration on the right to a healthy environment as per Attachment B of the staff report dated September 18, 2015, with the following amendments:

- **replace all references to “The City of Port Coquitlam” with “The Halifax Regional Municipality,”**
- **amend item 5 to remove two occurrences of the phrase “by December 31, 2016,”**
- **remove item 6, and**
- **add “The Halifax Regional Municipality requests that the Blue Dot campaign make available the full text of this resolution on their website.”**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Watts resumed the Chair.

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

8.1 Correspondence

The Legislative Assistant noted that the Clerk’s Office received correspondence regarding item 7.1 which was distributed to all Committee members prior to the meeting.

8.2 Petitions – NONE

8.3 Presentations

8.3.1 Raja Ubhi and Samuel Reeves, QUEST NS re: District Energy and the Cogswell Interchange - The Next Steps

The following was before the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

- A handout entitled “District Energy and the Cogswell Interchange: The Next Steps”
- A report entitled “Transforming the Cogswell Interchange: a district energy opportunity”
- A document entitled “Critical Path for Implementing District Energy at the Cogswell Interchange”

Samuel Reeves and Raja Ubhi provided information to the Committee from a roundtable discussion they hosted earlier in the year regarding district energy possibilities at the Cogswell interchange. They provided an overview of key considerations including the ownership structure, funding and policy, system design, and project implementation, and they highlighted the need for a feasibility study.

Deputy Mayor Nicoll inquired how prices are set under the model used in Markham, Ontario. Mr. Ubhi responded that it is an unregulated model where prices are set by private firms.

The Chair thanked the presenters for their information, noting that the matter provides a challenging but important opportunity for the municipality to consider.

8.3.2 Robin Tress, Ecology Action Centre re: Home Adaptation Audit Program

The following was before the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

- A presentation dated October 1, 2015

- A handout entitled “Home Adaptation Audit Program – Intact Centre for Climate Adaptation & Ecology Action Centre”

Robin Tress, Coastal Adaptation Coordinator with the Ecology Action Centre delivered a presentation regarding a Home Adaptation Audit Program (HAAP). She informed the Committee that her intent was to launch the program in 2016 in order to educate homeowners on the risks from climate change impacts and to provide recommendations on how to reduce those risks. She indicated that a pilot program would target 1800 homes, mostly in flood risk areas of Halifax.

Ms. Trees expressed an interest in collaborating with the municipality to deliver the program and outlined several ways in which a partnership could proceed. She noted that some financial support may be provided by the University of Waterloo if there is tangible support from the community.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Karsten

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request a staff report examining request for interest in participating in the Ecology Action Centre’s Home Adaptation Audit Program (HAAP).

Deputy Mayor Nicoll noted that the Halifax Regional Water Commission may be interested in the program and suggested the report may consider how HAAP could assist residents with Stormwater management.

In response to a question from Deputy Mayor Nicoll, Ms. Tress indicated that many of the proposed 1800 pilot homes would be in the Sackville area, but that they would look to identify other areas of high risk.

Councillor Karsten questioned whether the program may offer false hope to residents, as some issues related to shore erosion are very difficult to counter. Ms. Tress responded that the auditors would be trained to give advice only on specific issues. For example, she noted, if there is a recommendation that the property be regraded, the homeowner would be advised to consult an engineer.

In response to additional questions, Ms. Tress advised that for the first time in Canada, insurance claims due to flooding exceed claims related to fire. She noted that there is no available insurance coverage to homeowners for overland flood damages in Canada.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Chair thanked the presenter for bringing the information forward.

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Solar City 2.0 Update

The following was before the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

- A staff information report dated September 18, 2015

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Deputy Mayor Nicoll

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee forward the staff report dated September 18, 2015 to Regional Council for their information.

The Chair inquired as to the status of establishing clear objectives for the program. Ms. Shannon Miedema, Acting Manager of Energy & Environment indicated that staff is discussing possible objectives with Nova Scotia Power and the Nova Scotia Department of Energy, but that they are looking to hire the

energy specialist before finalizing the objectives. The Chair requested that once defined, the objectives be brought before the Committee through an information report.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.1.2 Operationalization of Resiliency

The following was before the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

- A staff presentation dated October 1, 2015
- A staff information report dated September 18, 2015

Ms. Shannon Miedema, Acting Manager of Energy & Environment and Mr. Barry Manuel, Emergency Management Organization (EMO) Coordinator delivered a presentation outlining the Municipality's approach to improving resiliency. It was noted that Joint Emergency Management (JEM) teams have been established to allow communities to prepare for, and respond quickly to, a wide range of emergencies. The presenters concluded by highlighting the value of focusing on prevention.

The Chair thanked staff for the information presented.

9.2 COMMITTEES - NONE

9.3 MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE

9.3.1 Councillor Johns – Request for Staff Report re: Shredding Day

The following was before the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

- A Councillor Request for Standing Committee Consideration Form

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Karsten

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request a staff report on HRM organizing a Shredding Day for residents where shredding services are offered to residents as part of our diversion strategy that would include partnership opportunities.

Councillor Watts suggested that the report consider partnership possibilities.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10. MOTIONS - NONE

11. IN CAMERA - NONE

12. ADDED ITEMS

12.1 Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee Representative for the National Zero Waste Council

The following was before the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

- Councillor Request for Standing Committee Consideration Form

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Deputy Mayor Nicoll

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request that the Executive Standing Committee consider recommending that Regional Council appoint a member of the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee to serve on the National Zero Waste

Council. The appointment to be made through an Expression of Interest to members of the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee.

Councillor Karsten noted that he had been an ad hoc member of the National Zero Waste Council through his position on the Environmental Issues and Sustainable Development Committee of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. However he is no longer on said Committee, so Halifax currently lacks representation on the Council.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday, November 12 or 19, 2015 (UNSM Conflict)

The Chair suggested rescheduling the next meeting due to a conflict with a meeting of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities on November 5, 2015. After a brief discussion, there was general agreement to hold the next meeting on November 19, 2015, pending sufficient agenda items.

14.1 Harbour East Marine Drive Community Council meeting space

The Chair advised that the Harbour East Marine Drive Community Council meeting space is now available for Committee meetings if desired.

14.2 Invitation to attend Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee regarding the Greenbelting & Public Open Space Priorities Plan on Thursday, October 15, 2015 at 10 a.m. in Halifax Council Chamber

The Chair reminded the Committee of the invitation to the upcoming meeting of the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Ms. Phoebe Rai
Legislative Assistant