

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 6, 2012

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

REGRETS: Councillor Dawn Sloane

STAFF: Ms. Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant
Mr. Matt Godwin, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. in the Dartmouth Chamber, 90 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 26, 2012 special meeting (deferred from August 2nd meeting) & August 2, 2012

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Hum that the special meeting minutes of June 26, 2012 be approved, as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Watts that the minutes of August 2, 2012 be approved, as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Addition:

- 9.1 Information Item 1 - Memorandum from the Municipal Clerks Office dated August 30, 2012 entitled: Requests for Presentation to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee

The Standing Committee agreed to address Item 7.1.2 – Blue Mountain Birch Cove Regional Park – Conceptual Plan and Objectives and Item 7.1.3 – Urban Forest Master Plan – Endorsement following the Status Sheet update.

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.

It was noted that staff is working on bringing forward a report on District Energy, and that the Status Sheet would be updated accordingly.

Item 7.1.2 was addressed at this time.

7.1.2 Blue Mountain Birch Cove Regional Park – Conceptual Plan and Objectives

A staff report dated August 8, 2012 was before the Standing Committee.

Correspondence from Robert G. Grant of Stewart McKelvey to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee and Chief Administrative Officer dated September 6, 2012 was circulated to the Standing Committee.

Councillor Dalrymple advised that HRM Legal was not able to attend today's meeting to provide information on Stewart McKelvey's September 6th letter, but that Legal was seeking a deferral of the matter to allow them time to review and respond back to the Standing Committee.

Following a brief discussion, it was **MOVED by Councillor Hum, seconded by Councillor Lund to defer Item 7.1.2 - Blue Mountain Birch Cove Regional Park – Conceptual Plan and Objectives so that HRM Legal can review and provide comment on the correspondence received from Stewart McKelvey to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee and Chief Administrative Officer dated September 6, 2012; with the understanding that if appropriate, a special meeting will be held to consider staff's response. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Item 7.1.3 addressed at this time.

7.1.3 Urban Forest Master Plan – Endorsement

A staff report dated August 28, 2012 was before the Standing Committee.

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

- 1. Endorse the Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP) as a guideline to the sustainable management of HRM's urban forest.**
- 2. Refer the UFMP to Halifax Regional Council for consideration of its adoption in principle, specifically:**
 - a) That the neighbourhood framework shall inform future operational and policy development service delivery**
 - b) That the operating implementation actions be considered in the 2013/14 municipal budget process; and**
 - c) That the development of municipal regulations reflecting the community's interest in conserving the urban forest from large-scale removal be brought back to Council in the 2013/14 fiscal year.**

The Standing Committee entered into discussion with staff responding to questions on the Urban Forest Master Plan.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

5.1 Unwanted Distribution or Mismanagement of Flyers (*deferred June 7, 2012*)

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Extract of Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee April 16, 2012 minutes
- Staff supplementary information report dated August 22, 2012
- Submissions from Corinne Hartley-Robinson and Chris Bal

Mr. Gord Helm, Manager of Solid Waste Resources provided an overview of the August 22nd staff supplementary report and responded to questions raised by the Standing Committee. It was noted that the Provincial government, whose jurisdiction includes litter, has established a working group charged with developing policy for a litter strategy addressing the newspaper industry sector which is the primary distributor of flyers in the Province. HRM will have the opportunity to provide input as part of regulation review scheduled to be launched Fall 2012.

Following a brief discussion, it was **MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Watts that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend to Halifax Regional Council that HRM continue to liaise with the provincial working group on unwanted flyer distribution, and request that staff return to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee with a status update on this matter within a six month time frame. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence

6.1.1 Donal Power of Fusion Halifax re: Fair Trade Town Halifax Bid

The Standing Committee reviewed Mr. Power's August 20, 2012 correspondence outlining Fusion Halifax's request for HRM to reopen its bid for Fair Trade Town designation from Faretrade Canada.

MOVED by Councillor Watt, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee seek a presentation from Fusion Halifax on HRM's Fair Trade Town bid.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6.2 Petitions – None

6.3 Presentations

6.3.1 Maritime Lumber Bureau Program Overview of Atlantic Wood WORKS! re: fostering a wood culture in the Atlantic Region

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Background information on the Atlantic Wood WORKS! program
- A copy of the presentation

Mr. Geoff Schimmel, Project Coordinator/Manager, WoodWORKS! gave a presentation on Atlantic Wood WORKS!; a regional program of the Maritime Lumber Bureau, as part of the national industry-led initiative of the Canadian Wood Council, with a goal to support innovation and provide leadership on the use of wood and wood products.

The following resolution, outlined in the September 6, 2012 presentation, was before the Standing Committee for consideration:

WHEREAS Halifax Regional Municipality recognized the historic, present and future value of the wood culture in Nova Scotia;

AND WHEREAS Nova Scotia's forest industry, in partnership with the Province of Nova Scotia, is developing a new markets and new opportunities for forest-based products as part of a long-term strategy toward a healthy forest industry;

AND WHEREAS wood is recognized as sustainable, and renewable, and that wood structure minimize or eliminate the carbon footprint of a building;

AND WHEREAS wood meets building code requirements as permitted in the Canadian Building Code (2010 edition);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Halifax Regional Municipality will continue to encourage sustainable building effectors:

- a) When building new structures, renovating or adding on to existing buildings, to **specify and use** building systems with the **lowest environmental impact**, within building code requirements;
- b) **Specify and use** building materials and systems with the **lowest embodied energy**, e.g. wood building system solutions (where technical standards permit), when considering new construction, retrofit, and refurbishment projects;
- c) When building new structures, renovating or adding on to existing buildings, require proponents and design terms to **demonstrate critical evaluation of lowest impact material solutions using recognized evaluation tools**;
- d) **Specify the use of wood** when designing new structures, or performing renovations or additions to existing buildings.

Following the presentation, it was **MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Hum that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request staff to prepare a report with the intent to make a recommendation to Halifax Regional Council to:**

1. **Adopt a wood first resolution; and**
2. **Provide subsequent policy adoptions, including procurement policy, comparable to Ontario and British Columbia Wood First Act and be based on the Atlantic Canada Municipal Wood First template.**

The Standing Committee entered into discussion on the motion, with Mr. Schimmel responding to questions of clarification on the program.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Mr. Schimmel presented the Chair with a book entitled: Celebrating Excellence in Wood Structures.

Councillor Hum exited the meeting at 2:47 p.m.

6.3.2 East Port Energy Project Overview re: Tri-generation for Downtown Halifax

A copy of the presentation was before the Standing Committee.

Mr. John Lindsay of East Port Energy gave a presentation on tri-generation for downtown Halifax, requesting the Standing Committee to endorse that the environmental benefits of the project are sufficient and will create needed civic infrastructure that will serve the environment and sustainability goals of HRM, subject to the following being address:

That HRM will participate in the positive study of the project; ie. identify ways to facilitate the project's construction and operation:

- HRM must determine that a combination of the incremental project returns, municipal taxes, encroachment fees and other relevant revenue sources are sufficient to carry and retire related debt
- HRM must gain assurance that it will have the legislative right to participate as a minority public partner in a private company
- HRM must determine that a sufficient up-front (project) loan will be made available by the Province of Nova Scotia
- HRM must be satisfied that a loan from the Municipal Finance Corporation for this project share does not crowd out its borrowing capacity for other HRM projects
- HRM engage with all other private and public stakeholders in the project:
 - engage with other equity partners in establishing a co-ownership agreement that properly protects HRM's public interest and
 - engage in any other agreements necessary for the project

Following the presentation, it was **MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Lund that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee**

request a supplementary report from staff addressing issues and opportunities raised in East Port Energy's September 6, 2012 presentation, including discussion with the potential partners on this project.

The Standing Committee entered into discussion on the motion, with Mr. Lindsay responding to questions of clarification on the tri-generation project.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7. REPORTS

7.1 Staff Reports

7.1.1 Proposed Amendment to Administrative Order 15, Respecting License Permit, and Processing Fees

A staff report dated August 3, 2012 was before the Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Lund, seconded by Councillor Fisher that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend to Halifax Regional Council to approve a consolidated processing fee of \$150 for the installation of solar collection systems.

Staff responded to a question raised on the creation of a single consolidated fee of \$150.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.1.2 Blue Mountain Birch Cove Regional Park – Conceptual Plan and Objectives

Matter addressed earlier in meeting, refer to page 3.

7.1.3 Urban Forest Master Plan – Endorsement

Matter addressed earlier in meeting, refer to page 4.

7.1.4 East Port District Energy Project

A staff report dated August 30, 2012 was before the Standing Committee.

This matter was addressed under Item 6.3.2, refer to page 7.

8. MOTIONS – NONE

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Information Item 1 - Memorandum from the Municipal Clerks Office dated August 30, 2012 entitled: Requests for Presentation to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee

Upon review of the requests for presentation, outlined in the August 30th staff memorandum, it was **MOVED by Councillor Lund, seconded by Councillor Lund that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:**

- 1. Refer Amanda Dean of the Insurance Bureau of Canada`s request to present on the Municipal Storm and Sanitary Infrastructure Risk Assessment Tool (MRAT) project to staff for review;**
- 2. Accept David Hall and Dana Emmerson of Dan-X Recycling Limited`s request to present on the importance of recycling mercury bulbs rather than sending them to a landfill for disposal and an overview of their new \$400,000 state-of-the-art MP 4000 recycling plant in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia for their October 4, 2012 meeting; and**
- 3. Refer John Woods of Minas Basin Pulp and Power`s request to present on technology designed to convert waste plastic to transportation-grade diesel fuel and HRM`s current strategic initiative in this area to staff for review.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

11. NEXT MEETING DATE – October 4, 2012

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

Krista Vining
Legislative Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Memorandum from the Municipal Clerks Office dated August 30, 2012 entitled: Requests for Presentation to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee