

**DARTMOUTH LAKES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES**

June 24, 2009

PRESENT: Mr. Peter Connor, Interim Chair
Mr. Pierre Clement, Interim Vice-Chair
Dr. Klaus Hellenbrand
Ms. Christina Hoehne
Mr. Mark McLean
Dr. Mark Trevorrow
Councillor Jackie Barkhouse

STAFF: Ms. Cathy Mellet, Acting Manager, Municipal Clerk's Office
Mr. Joseph Driscoll, Planner
Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Legislative Assistant called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m. in the Findlay Centre Boardroom, 26 Elliot Street, Dartmouth.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR / VICE - CHAIR

The Legislative Assistant briefly explained the role of Chair as follows:

- C The Chair is the official spokesperson for the Board and would be responsible for signing any reports going forward to Community Council.
- C If required, the Chair would present the Board's report to Community Council.
- C During the Board meetings, the Chair ensures that:
 - C the meetings are run in accordance with HRM Rules and Procedures as set out in Administrative Order 1 and in accordance with the Board's Terms of Reference and the HRM Charter.
 - C all motions are duly moved and seconded and a vote taken with the result of the vote announced for the record.
 - C sufficient time is allocated to each agenda item and that each Board member who wishes to comment has the opportunity to participate in the discussion.
- C The Chair shall at all times represent the view of the Board, always mindful of HRM's Rules and Procedures, and not express their personal opinions while representing the Board/HRM.

The Legislative Assistant advised that further information would be circulated to the Chair/Vice-Chair including the HRM Guide for Volunteers and a copy of Administrative Order 1.

The Legislative Assistant then called for nominations for Interim Chair of the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board.

MOVED BY Ms. Christine Hoehne, seconded by Mr. Mark McLean that Mr. Peter Connor be nominated as Interim Chair of the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board to November 30, 2009.

Mr. Connor accepted the nomination.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Legislative Assistant then called for nominations for Interim Vice-Chair of the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board.

MOVED BY Ms. Christine Hoehne, seconded by Dr. Klaus Hellenbrand that Mr. Pierre Clement be nominated as Interim Vice-Chair of the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board to November 30, 2009.

Mr. Clement accepted the nomination.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The newly elected Interim Chair, Mr. Peter Connor, assumed the Chair at this time.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 25, 2009

MOVED BY Ms. Christine Hoehne, seconded by Dr. Mark Trevorrow that the minutes of March 25, 2009, as presented, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

- Additions:**
- 9.1 Harbour East Community Council - Ms. Cathy Mellett, Acting Manager, Municipal Clerk's Office
 - 9.2 Result of Weekend Workshop - Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board

MOVED BY Dr. Mark Trevorrow, seconded by Mr. Mark McLean that the order of business, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

6.1 Approval of Minutes - January 28, 2009

Mr. McLean requested clarification on the result of the discussion concerning the Scotia Weather Services Inc.'s request for the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board's participation in present/future projects in the role of "client".

The Board requested that this item be added to the next agenda.

Mr. Clement noted that he had forwarded information to Mr. Deacoff in regard to data retention and would also be forwarding the index cards for the data set. He advised that Mr. Deacoff had contacted him in regard to the Decadal Lake Synoptic Water

Quality Monitoring study that the Board has sponsored over the last three occasions covering three decades.

The Board requested that this matter be added to the next meeting agenda.

MOVED BY Mr. Mark McLean, seconded by Mr. Pierre Clement that the minutes of January 28, 2009, as presented, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Jackie Barkhouse entered the meeting at 5:37 pm

6.2 Water Quality Monitoring Functional Plan - Response to Stantec

The following are comments of the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board in response to a set of questions distributed by Stantec at a previous meeting in regard to the proposed Water Quality Monitoring Functional Plan.

Mr. Clement noted that there appeared to be layers of data but no analysis of that data nor an explanation of the criteria used.

- C There seemed to be a couple of parameters missing such as measuring the carbon.
- C There was no suggestion that stormwater input would be monitored although stormwater could be noted as a polluting source for lakes.
- C Halifax Water was developing a Stormwater Management Plan.

Dr. Hellenbrand noted that clarification was required in regard to the proposed pilot project as it was mentioned in addition to the main program as well as a reference to a Phase 1 but it was unclear if they were the same project or two separate items. There was also no elaboration on how the work would be done. It was unclear whether they were planning to choose one lake or one watershed area. The report also noted that they would include fish as a water quality indicator but did not explain how they would do that. The report noted the use of benthic macro invertebrates and referred to a standard method being used but there was no elaboration on that. He explained that the method was a very complicated thing to do but no indication was given on how expensive it would be; whether it could be done or how accurate the information would be. He noted that the method would not be a very practical for this application.

Mr. McLean concurred that the Benthic Macro Invertebrates method was difficult but it would depend on how they planned to use it as would be a long term indicator that would not be done every six months.

Mr. Connor noted that there had been some discussion concerning the use of past studies being merged into a data base and then some type of analysis/interpretation of

that data. There was a suggestion put forward that the Nova Scotia Community College may be a resource to assist with that analysis. Mr. Connor expressed concern that the study was quiet on preventive measures. He further noted that the study, rather than putting preventative measures in place prior to a forecasted storm event, would simply monitor during the storm events.

Mr. McLean noted that storm events do not always result in a negative effect.

Mr. Connor suggested that the Dartmouth Crossing development be used as a case study of what went wrong to show what could have been put in place as they had received frequent updates but some of the issues could have been prevented.

Mr. Connor commented that the malfunctioning sewer systems should be placed in the vulnerability rankings as they were a major culprit and a component that was not being readily acknowledged. He noted that it was a problem caused by development and therefore controllable.

Dr. Trevorrow noted that the monitoring program could not be as frequent as one would like. There would need to be an understanding in place that a context of measurement would have to be put in place such as seasonal cycles and storms. Simply doing a set of measures would give you different results from week to week due to the weather alone. Since the sampling has to be frequent enough to monitor the site and to be understood better later on, the sampling should be by spread out. He inquired what would happen if the monitoring program showed that there was a problem. The only answer the proposed plan suggested was that "appropriate steps would be taken" but there was no elaboration on what those steps would be. For example, what steps would they take if the phosphorus levels tested too high.

Dr. Hellenbrand concurred that the study would be more useful if an explanation on how they would address the issues were included.

Mr. McLean commented that a response to high phosphorus levels would be examining developments in relation to density (space and opportunity for development) and the setting of phosphorous thresholds for that lake.

MOVED BY Dr. Mark Trevorrow, seconded by Mr. Pierre Clement that the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board forward the written comments supplied by Mr. Peter Connor, Mr. Pierre Clement and Dr. Klaus Hellenbrand, along with additional comments from the June 24, 2009 meeting of the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board, to HRM Staff in regard to the proposed Water Quality Monitoring Functional Plan. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS - NONE

8. REPORTS

8.1 Chairman's Update

Mr. Connor noted that he had no updates at this time.

8.2 Staff Update

8.2.1 Upcoming Public Meetings

Mr. Joseph Driscoll circulated a list of upcoming public meetings to be held in the Dartmouth / Cole Harbour area.

The Board agreed to have a presentation from the Penhorn/Woodlawn Community Visioning Group at their September meeting.

8.2.2 Membership Update - Terms Expiring November 2009

The Legislative Assistant noted that the Harbour East Community Council had extended all current terms to November 30, 2009.

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Future of Advisory Board

Ms. Cathy Mellet, Acting Manager, Municipal Clerk's Office, advised that Regional Council was very committed to its Boards and Committees, particularly as they relate to the environment and sustainability. The Sustainable Environmental Management Office (SEMO) was created by Council to support their growing commitment to environmental matters. An even stronger effort was now being made by staff to work on issues involving lakes/environment/sustainability and the inter-relationship with planning and development. Ms. Mellett explained that the challenge before Council was in determining a method whereby the focus would be at a regional level while receiving input at the local community level and the incorporation of that input at the political level where the policies were made.

The Harbour East Community Council, cognizant of the future discussions of Regional Council in relation to the Boards and Committees, has extended the terms of currently serving Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board members to November 30th. The extension

would provide Regional Council time to consider the potentially changing role of the Watershed Advisory Boards.

Mr. Connor advised that the remaining Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board members had also met to discuss the future of the Board. The concurrence was that it was time for a change, including a review of the Board's structure and role, as there had been no changes in almost thirty years. He noted that there were more people residing around the lakes and that the infrastructure had also changed.

The Board outlined the following proposed plan of action for further discussion in September:

- C To have an independent, volunteer oversight committee that would focus on community participation; an important role in scrutinizing what the municipality was doing.
- C To have a professional visioning exercise, including a review of the Board's Terms of Reference, to consider restructuring to better reflect the changes that have occurred over the last thirty years.
- C To document the history of the board, including information from former founding members.

Ms. Mellett noted that an Advisory Board reflective of both Council's desired governance structure and community interests would be very useful. She advised that by next fall, following the high level governance vision discussions by the Membership Selection Committee and Council, she would be in a better position to respond to opportunities for engaging in a joint dialogue/visioning exercise.

In regard to the current vacancies and quorum issues, it was **MOVED BY Mr. Pierre Clement, seconded by Ms. Christine Hoehne that the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board agree that the Municipal Clerk's Office proceed with the necessary steps to fill the current vacancies on an interim basis to November 30, 2009. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Members of the Board expressed appreciation for the dedicated service and guidance of the long serving former Chair, Ms. Audrey Manzer, and noted that recognition of her contribution and leadership should be formally celebrated.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Wednesday, September 30, 2009

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Chris Newson
Legislative Assistant