

**DARTMOUTH LAKES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

May 4, 2011

PRESENT: Peter Connor, Chair
Pierre Clement
Mark McLean
Mark Trevorrow
Klaus Hellenbrand
Johanne Campbell
Christina Hoehne
Councillor Jackie Barkhouse

REGRETS: Peter Crowther

STAFF: Joseph Driscoll, Planner
Cameron Deacoff, Environmental Performance Officer
Sherryl Murphy, Deputy Clerk

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. in Room 101 at the Findlay Community Centre, Dartmouth.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The following corrections to the minutes were noted:

On page 4 the Mover for approval of the minutes should be Ms. Campbell

On page 6, item 7.5, this paragraph should refer to Mark McLean.

MOVED by Ms. Hoehne, seconded by Mr. Hellenbrand that the April 6, 2011 minutes of the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board, as amended, be approved. MOTION PASSED.

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

Additions:

8.1 Invitation to Protecting Our Lakes Meeting

MOVED by Mr. McLean, seconded by Ms. Hoehne that the agenda be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 United Gulf Property on Lake Banook

Mr. Driscoll advised that the matter has not yet come to Council for initiation of the Plan amendment application. Given the expected timeframe, it may be four to six months before the matter comes to the Committee. The Clerk advised that the item has been placed on the January 2011 agenda file for update. Mr. Driscoll indicated that the application is on the Planning website for anyone wishing to review the documents.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

5.1 Storm Water Management Policy

The Clerk's office has advised that the recommendation forwarded from the Committee will be considered by HECC on May 5, 2011.

Mr. Deacoff advised that HRM had contracted for the Stormwater Management Guidelines 2006 prior to Halifax Water taking over responsibility for stormwater. Halifax Water has begun work on a wastewater functional plan and have guidelines in place. Staff will roll the functional plan out to the Board once it is available.

Mr. Deacoff, in reply to a question from Mr. Clement, indicated that Halifax Water will be considering the 2006 Guidelines, but will not be updating them.

The Chair advised that he had received an e-mail from Valerie Williams inviting the Board to participate in workshops hosted by Halifax Water to receive input to an integrated resource plan. Mr. Connor noted that there will be several technical conferences held over the next year. He went on to express concern regarding his own level of expertise and availability should he represent the Board.

Mr. Deacoff noted that the integrated resource plan is a long term plan (30 years) which will be based on existing knowledge. The plan is required by the UARB by June 2012 and will be highly technical. Mr. Deacoff indicated that there would be limited opportunity to provide opinions.

Clarifying why the UARB would require such a plan, Mr. Deacoff indicated that the UARB regulates the rate structure of Halifax Water including drinking, waste and storm water.

Mr. McLean suggested there would not be much opportunity for the Board to influence at this stage. The exercise is more an identification of what is presently done, what needs to be done and a re-thinking of how things are done. He went on to indicate that this is a forecast which would form a good basis for the UARB when considering future rate increases. Mr. McLean commented that he did not feel participation in this initiative would be the best use of the Board's time.

Note was made the amount of money spent on infrastructure can influence water quality (storm water management, pumping stations, etc.).

Mr. Clement suggested that the Board respond thanking Ms. Williams for the opportunity but declining the invitation and asking to be kept informed. He went on to note that the Chair could ask to be retained on the mailing list. Mr. Clement wondered why the Board had been approached with this invitation and asked Mr. Connor to determine how this had come about.

Councillor Barkhouse suggested that it might be worthwhile to formulate some questions given that the invitation has been extended.

The Chair will follow up with Ms. Williams in this regard and report back.

5.2 Spill Clean-Up Red Bridge Pond

John Sibbald of Halifax Water will make a presentation relative to the protocol in connection with the Red Bridge Pond at the June 1, 2011 meeting.

5.3 Current Target Levels – Shubenacadie Canal/Lake Banook System

The Chair noted that the Clerk's office has followed up with Jamie Hannam relative to this matter and are awaiting a reply.

Mr. Clement noted that a member of the Canoe Association has suggested that HRM utilize Canoe Association staff to monitor/control lake levels.

Members of the Committee expressed concern with the existing process of periodic monitoring by a staff person of lake levels. Members indicated that:

- a more technically rigorous management process to monitor the lake level is required
- it is necessary to ensure that management of the lake level reflects the needs of all users
- the key factor in management of lake levels is the health of the lake. Is there an ideal level or target? Would falling outside that level/target be detrimental to the lake

MOVED by Mr. Clement, seconded by Mr. Trevorrow the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Committee recommend that Harbour East Community Council request Halifax Water consider a transparent and more technically rigorous manner of managing lake levels in Lakes Banook and Mic Mac. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7. REPORTS

7.1 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that he had attended HRM's public Open House on April 20, 2011. He went on to note that the Open House had received a presentation on the Shubenacadie Canal Greenway and the Dartmouth Cove Secondary Planning process. Mr. Connor noted that there is a watercourse within the Plan area and that the Committee may wish to be involved in the process.

Mr. Driscoll noted that the project has not yet been assigned but indicated that he believed the Committee would be asked to comment. Mr. McLean indicated that he would be involved through his employment.

Mr. Connor reported that the Pine Street Extension had been renamed Irishtown Road and that an MPS change and development was pending on Irishtown Road. Mr. Driscoll indicated that no detail regarding this proposal was available. He further noted that the Development Agreement would come to this Committee for comment.

In response to a question from Mr. Connor regarding whether the weeds in Lakes Banook and Mic Mac were unique only to these lakes, Mr. Deacoff indicated that no aquatic plant survey had been done.

Mr. Connor suggested that if the same weeds were back this year, perhaps a review of the other lakes could be undertaken to determine whether the weed is a problem in other lakes. Mr. Connor noted that if they occur only in Lakes Banook and MicMac a more focused approach can be taken and the impact determined before any harvesting occurs.

Mr. Deacoff indicated that harvesting will not occur without the proper approvals.

Mr. Connor noted that the National Canoeing and Kayaking Trials will be held at Lake Banook on the weekend. He commented on the importance of this resource and the attention and effort being put forward by volunteers to respond to this last minute event. The trials were to have been held in Montreal, however, issues with the location have arisen.

7.2 Synoptic Survey Monthly Update

Mr. Clement indicated that the survey was complete and had gone well. He noted that data was being processed and that he would update the Board as it becomes available suggesting that this particular item could be removed from the agenda.

7.3 Penhorn/Woodlawn Community Vision Action Team Monthly Update

Mr. Clement gave a brief presentation relative the management of stormwater from the Penhorn Mall site to Penhorn Lake given the proposed development of the mall site. He noted that presently there is no management of water from the site. In his presentation Mr. Clement indicated the potential means of managing water from the site and noted that it could result in a much greater volume of the water to the lake. He noted that management of the water may enhance the quality of the lake.

Mr. Clement went on to indicate that he would be making this presentation to the Action Team with a view to having them endorse this possibility as a consideration in the planning of the area.

7.4 Waterfront Brochure Project: Revised Guidelines

Mr. McLean advised that he would be meeting with Laura Walsh in late May to determine how the information can best be presented.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Invitation to Protecting Our Lakes Meeting

This matter was added to the agenda during the Approval of the Order of Business, Additions and Deletions. An invitation from HRM's Sustainable Environment Management Office to attend a session on May 19, 2011 to identify policy opportunities to better protect our lake ecosystems was before the Committee.

Following a short discussion note was made that Mr. McLean, Mr. Clement, Ms. Hoehne and Mr. Connor would attend the session.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, June 1, 2011.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Sherrill Murphy
Deputy Clerk