

DARTMOUTH LAKES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

June 1, 2011

PRESENT: Peter Connor, Chair
Pierre Clement, Vice Chair
Mark McLean
Klaus Hellenbrand
Mark Trevorrow

REGRETS: Councillor Jackie Barkhouse
Christina Hoehne
Peter Crowther
Johanna Campbell

STAFF: Joseph Driscoll, Planner, Community Development
Cameron Deacoff, Environmental Performance Officer
Sherryl Murphy, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Kim Cahill, Legislative Support

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Clement, Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 5.27 p.m. in Room 101, Findlay Centre, Dartmouth, NS without quorum present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 4, 2011

The following corrections to the minutes were noted:

On page 3, item 5.1, third line of first paragraph, replace the word “*stormwater*” with “*wastewater*”.

On page 4, item 5.1, third line of fourth paragraph, strike the word “*we*”.

On page 4, the last line should refer to Ms. Valerie Williams.

On page 5, item 5.3 first bullet point, following the word monitor insert “*and control.*”

A motion to approve the minutes was dealt with later in the meeting. See page 7.

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

Deferrals:

6.3.1 Spill Clean-Up Red Bridge Pond – Deferred to the September meeting as staff was not available.

Additions:

8.1 LEED Standards Presentation: Program Overview and its Relevance to the HWAB

8.2 Information Item 2: Update on Lakes Banook & Mic Mac – to be discussed with Item 4.1

A motion to approve the agenda was dealt with later in the meeting. See page 7.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Aquatic Weeds – Lake Banook and Mic Mac

Dr. Trevorrow questioned the meaning of Blue Flag Beach. Mr. Deacoff explained that it is an Eco certification program that is offered by Blue Flag Canada – the domestic arm of an international group called the Federation of Environmental Education. He added that it is a program, in effect in Canada since 2004, that promotes environmental and safety management principles for beaches and marinas. He further noted that there are

24 certified beaches, predominantly in Ontario but interest has increased in British Columbia, Manitoba, and here in HRM.

Dr. Trevorrow inquired whether or not there is anything in the report that suggests increase in quality of any of the lakes through these initiatives. Mr. Clement then questioned where the statement that water quality has gone down is supported, other than due to the weed problem. He indicated that the same statement was given by SEMO at the Protecting Our Lakes exercise yet still no evidence has been presented.

Mr. Deacoff stated that the weeds are an indirect indication and that the other measure is that of phosphorous levels. However, he noted that not a lot of hard evidence has been presented thus far.

Dr. Hellenbrand questioned the strength behind claiming phosphorous levels as evidence of water quality decline considering sedimentary data has not been collected.

Dr. Trevorrow indicated that the weeds in the lakes have clearly been increasing in abundance. He noted an event that appeared to trigger this was the lowering in lake levels in 2009. He further noted that without quantitative measurements and identification of species it is hard to pinpoint specific causes.

Mr. McLean inquired whether harvesting of the weeds would be along the race course or something more extensive. Mr. Deacoff explained that there has been no consensus on the potential usability of the machine. He noted that a decision of intent has to occur before the application of use proceeds.

Dr. Trevorrow was concerned that the application for funding to provide the machine was already submitted to the Blue Flag Project. Mr. Deacoff indicated that the group does not yet own a machine so the application to purchase was put forth. He further noted that members of the group have determined that locals have use of a machine. Mr. Clement asked what must occur before the money can be used. Mr. Deacoff stated that the group must confirm approval of funding first.

Mr. McLean inquired about the status of the Dartmouth Area Watershed Network's (DAWN) application to the Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps. Mr. Deacoff reported that DAWN heard as of earlier today that the application was confirmed. He noted that a number of students will be made available to DAWN and HRM for public education.

4.2 Protecting Our Lakes – May 19, 2011

Mr. Clement reported that he attended the meeting, held at the Mic Mac Canoe Club. He noted that it was facilitated by Ms. Green from Stantec and Mr. Richard McLellan and sponsored by SEMO. He explained that the intent was to brainstorm issues related to water quality management within HRM. They were looking for information in order to provide guidance to the Environmental Sustainability Standing Committee in decision

making around water quality. Mr. Clement indicated that representatives from Shubenacadie Canal were present along with Bob Rutherford.

It was his understanding that the resultant report will be presented to the standing committee following receipt by Mr. Deacoff's department.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

5.1 Storm Water Management Policy

Ms. Murphy advised that the recommendation forwarded to HECC regarding this group's involvement in the functional plan was referred to staff for a report. Staff brought a report to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee with regard to the functional plan and this Board's role in the process.

Ms. Murphy confirmed that DLAB will receive an update.

5.2 Current Target Levels – Shubenacadie Canal / Lake Banook System

Mr. Clement referenced the motion made in the May 4, 2011 Minutes.

Ms. Murphy advised that a report has been prepared and will be considered by the Harbour East Community Council. The Board will receive an update at the next meeting.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence - NONE

6.2 Petitions - NONE

6.3 Delegations

6.3.1 Spill Clean-Up Red Bridge Pond – Mr. John Sibbald, Pollution Prevention Coordinator, Environmental Engineering

Deferred to the September meeting.

7. REPORTS

7.1 Chairman's Report

The Chair reported his observations of the mud and debris deposited by trucks and city developments along Alderney Drive and by the new development in Dartmouth Crossing bordering the on ramp – future site of Toys R Us. Mr. Connor questioned who regulates and monitors the sites and whether environmental protection considerations

are in place. He noted that he understood it to be a provincial responsibility as the minutes reflected that it is not regulated by HRM.

Mr. Deacoff, while unsure of the extent of involvement, recalled that in previous instances, where silt was found leaving a site provincial site inspectors were typically employed on behalf of developers as onsite enforcers. Mr. Connor noted that it has been his experience on the Board that there is usually a form whereby consultants have to undertake in writing that they have supervised and observed construction and monitored sites.

Mr. Clement indicated that the Dartmouth Crossing site is interesting because it sits right above the stormwater drain that goes down into the holding pond. He added that the highway essentially forms a berm to prevent any sediment coming off of the road from entering the lake. Mr. Connor noted that roadside culverts are typically developed to eventually drain into lakes.

Mr. Connor reported that after the last meeting he was in contact with Halifax Water because of the integrated resource plan. He noted that he was responsible for contacting Ms. Williams to indicate that DLAB would not be an active participant. He further noted that he sent an email thanking her for the invitation to participate but that DLAB would be interested in receiving updates as the process advances. Mr. Connor inquired of the role DLAB might play. Ms. Williams' response suggested that she was looking to solicit volunteers. Mr. Connor explained that Ms. Williams has confirmed that he could be on the stakeholder consultation list and receive updates.

7.2 Synoptic Survey Monthly Update

Mr. Clement reported that 51 lake samples were completed in one day. He noted that elemental, nutrient, and chlorophyll analyses were conducted. He further noted that the data has been received from the analyses labs at each, the QEII, NRCAN in Ottawa and the Bedford Institute of Oceanography (BIO). Mr. Clement explained that the data was intended to be organized in time to present to the second year students at the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC). Now that classes are out for the summer the goal is to have the data ready for presentation in September. He further reported that the Synoptic Committee had applied for a TD Green Plant Fund and has since received funding.

7.3 Penhorn/Woodlawn Community Vision Action Team Monthly Update

Mr. Clement reported that the Action Team was intended to meet on June 2, 2011 but will instead meet on June 9, 2011 at Sobeys, Penhorn Mall. He noted that a public information meeting will be held on June 29, 2011 during which time the first draft planning document for the Penhorn Mall development will be presented. Mr. Clement explained that the planning approach now involves numerous criteria rather than just zoning.

Mr. Clement went on to indicate that he had spoken to the Action Team about the opportunity of having a large flat property (Penhorn Mall site) and how they could channel stormwater in a way to benefit the lake.

Mr. Connor, Chair entered the meeting at 6:04 p.m. and assumed the Chair.

The Committee considered the approval of the minutes and the Order of Business at this time.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 4, 2011

MOVED by Dr. Trevorrow, seconded by Mr. McLean that the minutes, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

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

7.4 Waterfront Brochure Project: Revised Guidelines

Mr. McLean reported that he along with Mr. Driscoll, Mr. Deacoff, and Ms. Walsh met recently to address the Waterfront Brochure.

Mr. McLean explained that the group discussed what the audience is for the brochure; who they are trying to reach and how to get the information out to the community. He noted that Ms. Walsh will include a bylaw package and that the group would like to include set back distances and how they are regulated by HRM. He further noted that the project is really intended for the general public – general consumption. Mr. McLean indicated that the brochure is intended to break down different bylaws and common practices around lakes. He noted that they are trying to keep it fairly generalized given the audience.

Mr. McLean indicated that the group is looking to compile a list of general topics and decide the key issues for this area that should be included, keeping in mind the limited space available. He noted that information from Mr. Clement's brainstorming session at the Protecting Our Lakes meeting could be helpful. He further noted that consideration has been given to present the Waterfront Brochure Project to other Boards if they are interested.

Mr. McLean stated that there are questions about how specific the brochure should be regarding set back distances. He suggested that recommended minimums and contact persons be included. Mr. Clement suggested simply stating that HRM recognizes that

set backs are important for protecting water quality. Mr. Driscoll noted that a general set back distance could be indicated.

Mr. McLean advised that the group will meet again to build information and get something drafted. He acknowledged that the current stage is more about exploring content and audience. Determining format and whether to include graphics and illustrations will be determined at a later date.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 LEED Program Review and its Relevance

Ms. Anne Warburton and Ms. Kristen Morse, owners and co-directors of Elemental Sustainability Consulting Limited gave a presentation regarding the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Program and its Relevance. Ms. Warburton presented 12 credits that could be of specific interest to DLAB.

The main topics included:

- Site Selection
- Reduce Site Selection – Protect or Restore Habitat
- Reduce Site Selection – Maximize Open Space
- Stormwater Management – Quantity Control
- Stormwater Management – Quality Control
- Water Efficiency – Water Use Reduction
- Water Efficient Landscaping
- Innovative Wastewater Technologies

Mr. Clement inquired about stormwater management and post-development discharge. He questioned if it is direct discharge into a water body. Ms. Warburton explained that it is generalized as discharge directly off of a site. She noted that the focus is on controlling velocity and quantity.

The board discussed the desirability of attempting a further 25 percent decrease in discharge if a site was previously developed with the inclusion of ground water recharge devices and therefore already had a reasonable post-development rate. Ms. Warburton acknowledged that in such a case the Quantity Control credit may not have to be considered.

Dr. Trevorrow inquired who manages the LEED Program. Ms. Morse explained that the program is run by The Canada Green Building Council (CaGBC) in Ottawa. Dr. Trevorrow further inquired if a registration fee is required in order to apply for certification. Ms. Morse clarified that there is a one time fee rather than annual.

The Board questioned the current demand and advertising measures in place. Ms. Warburton and Ms. Morse explained that since the Program has only been in effect in this area for roughly one year, demand is market driven with inquiries generally coming

from the customer or client themselves. Ms. Morse acknowledged that they are working to make the Program common knowledge – a measuring tool for the general public to build against. Ms. Warburton further indicated that by getting certification the long term gain would be minimized operating costs.

Ms. Warburton will forward a copy of her presentation to the Board.

Dr. Trevorrow retired from the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, September 7, 2011.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Kim Cahill
Legislative Support