

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

October 25, 2012

- PRESENT: Councillor Jennifer Watts, Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee
Ms. Elizabeth Pugh
Mr. Walter Regan
Mr. Clive MacGregor
Ms. Cynthia Bryant
Ms. Janet Barlow
- REGRETS: Ms. Devon Peavey
Councillor Debbie Hum
Mr. John MacLennan
Mr. Myles McCallum
Mr. Lawrence Plug
- STAFF: Ms. Hanita Koblents, Active Transportation Coordinator
Mr. David MacIsaac, Supervisor, Transportation Demand
Management
Mr. Paul Euloth, Regional Trails Coordinator
Mr. Quentin Hill, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:08 in room 108, Bloomfield Centre, Halifax.

2. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were made:

- November 17th Halifax Cycling Coalition door to door campaign to gain support for North South Connector bike Lane.
- Halifax Bridge re-decking Consultation held two public meetings.(October 22, 30, 2012)
- Councillor Watts thanked Ms. Cynthia Bryant for joining the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.

Introductions were made by the Committee and staff to Ms. Bryant.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by Mr. Regan seconded by Ms. Barlow that the minutes be approved as presented.

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

Additions:

9.1 MacDonald Bridge Re-Decking information

MOVED by Mr. Regan seconded by Mr. MacGregor that the Order of Business be approved as presented.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

5.1 Memorandum of Understanding with Halifax Water Commission

Mr. Paul Euloth indicated there was little news to report on the matter. He stated that he had seen some emails circulated by staff that talks about going back to community council with a report.

Councillor Watts informed the committee that as of November 5, 2012, the current Community Councils would be dissolved and all the issues would be going forward directly to Regional Council.

Mr. Regan requested that staff keep the committee updated on the MOU.

Councillor Watts asked if Councillor Hendsbee could query the matter at the November 29, 2012 Halifax Water Commission board meeting, with an update to come at the December 2012 ATAC meeting.

5.2 Update on Status of AT Plan Review

Mr. David MacIassac, Supervisor, Transportation Demand Management, Indicated that there were a couple workshops held since the last ATAC meeting. The stakeholder consultations had been completed. He indicated that they are preparing and planning for public consultations with the hope to have two completed before Christmas and the remainder finished by the end of February.

Councillor Watts inquired what the public consultations would look like.

Mr. MacIassac stated that staff would be going to the meetings with some ideas to give to the public and get feedback on those ideas.

Mr. MacGregor requested information about the objectives from staff regarding the meetings. He asked what priorities would be pursued for the next five years.

Councillor Watts informed the committee that the AT review was to look at the big plan. The consultations would produce information with recommendations coming back to the committee to advise of what direction of what projects would be worked on in the coming five years.

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS – NONE

8. REPORTS

8.1 Updates

8.1.1 Safety and Education Sub – Committee

No update to report.

8.1.2 Bike Week Sub Committee

Mr. MacIassac stated that the bike week committee is getting started for the 2013 year. He advised that participation was about the same this year as the previous year and did well with the budget.

8.1.3 Halifax Regional Trails Association

Mr. Regan updated the committee with the Halifax Regional Trails Association with the following information.

- Trail camp was being held November 2, 3, 4, 2012.
- HRM accepted HRTA input and are now coming up for standards for five (5) types of trails for their red book and when new developments come on line the new developments will be required to be built to the new standards.
- A letter was sent to HRM asking to raise the limit for tenders that are stuck at \$1000
- Trail repair maintenance requests have been received and will cost 168,000 and capital projects will be 750,000 and special case projects will be 178,000.
- Sackville Greenway Open house events were successful, 120 surveys filled out.
- Sackville Rivers Association re-opened the Dennis Bicknell Bridge.

Ms. Bryant requested an update on the status of trail signs for visually impaired people.

Mr. Regan informed the committee that a pilot project was underway at the First Lake trails with special signage laid out for visually impaired. Mr. Regan stated that he would find out more information from First Lake and update the committee and possibly have the group from First Lake make a presentation to the committee.

Ms. Pugh updated the committee about a trail project happening in Lunenburg. She noted that seven trail groups have joined together to link the trails and provide consistent signage.

8.1.4 Staff

Mr. David MacIssac, Supervisor, Transportation Demand Management provided the following information to the committee:

- Ms. Hanita Koblents, Active Transportation Coordinator is back from leave.
- 45 new and replacement bike racks installed in Halifax and Dartmouth, installations happen in June and October.
- North – South Connector options possibly coming to the committee in December.
- Agricola Street surveys done asking people how they got there to go shopping.
- Sewer grates are being discussed with Halifax Water.

Mr. Paul Euloth, Regional Trails Coordinator provided the following information to the committee:

- Two New Community trail associations, the Shubenacadie Watershed Environmental Protection Society and the Penhorn Lake Area Trail Association, have submitted proposals to commence route planning exercises. Both groups formed through the Regional Plan Community Visioning Program.

- Second Lake Park Association has commenced construction of the last segment of their AT Greenway from Metropolitan Ave. to Beaver Bank Road and future Windsor/Hantsport Rail to Trail Project.
- First Lake has commenced construction of a section near Kinsman Beach.
- Sackville Rivers Association recapitalized and reopened the Denis Bicknell Pedestrian Bridge, part of the AT Greenway connector between Bedford and Sackville.
- No new news on the MOU between HRM and Halifax Water, by North West Community Council.
- The Lawrencetown Cole Harbour Trail Connector Association is under construction on a small portion of the Old Lawrencetown K Road between Ritcey Crescent and Coleridge Estates.
- The Atlantic Trail Association has protected a 250 m section of the AT Greenway Corridor main spine in East Lawrencetown. This is a pilot project using environmental adaptive management techniques to protect an exposed section from sea level rise.

8.1.5 Committee Members

Mr. Regan requested that the Hantsport Rail line to be added as an agenda item for the next meeting.

9. ADDED ITEMS

Ms. Barlow presented an update of the recent re-decking of the MacDonald bridges with the Halifax Bridge Commission. She noted that a number of community groups were present at the October 22, 2012 meeting. Ms. Barlow specified that the meeting entertained a number of issues such as pedestrian and cyclist access to the bridge, a Switch event, and shuttle service. She indicated that the meeting was very positive.

Mr. MacGregor added that the bridge commission is offering old pieces of the bridge to trail groups for trail bridges. He also indicated that the bridge commission is going to do more user surveys and a counter system to track the number of cyclists and pedestrians crossing the bridge.

11. NEXT MEETING – November 15, 2012

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

Quentin Hill
Legislative Assistant