

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

March 20, 2014

PRESENT: Mr. Ben Buckwold, Vice Chair
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Mr. Bob Hayter
Councillor David Hendsbee
Ms. Elizabeth Pugh
Mr. Clive MacGregor
Ms. Janet Barlow
Mr. Matthew Worona

REGRETS: Ms. Allison Sparling, Chair
Mr. Walter Regan
Mr. Gordon Smith
Councillor Waye Mason
Mr. Mark Coffin

STAFF: Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk
Mr. David MacIsaac, TDM Program Supervisor
Ms. Jessie Debaie, Regional Trails Coordinator
Mr. Darcy Warren, Legislative Support

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. in Room 108, Bloomfield Centre, Halifax.

2. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Committee noted a number of community announcements.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 20, 2014

Page 4: Item 9.1.1 last sentence should read Ms. Koblents not Ms. Barlow.

MOVED by Mr. Worona, seconded by Mr. MacGregor that the minutes of February 20, 2014 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The Committee agreed to deal with Item 8.5.1 after Item 7.3.2

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

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - None

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – None

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence - None

7.2 Petitions - None

7.3 Presentations

7.3.1 Halifax Harbour Bridges – Project update – Allison MacDonald

Ms. Alison MacDonald, Halifax Bridges, gave an update to the Committee on the MacDonald Bridge re-decking. Ms. MacDonald informed the members that the operation and maintenance of the bridge is funded through tolls collected.

Ms. MacDonald informed the Committee that the under decking is rusting and will be replaced. She also stated that most of the work will be completed over an eighteen month period with ten weekend closures. The bike and walk lanes will be removed during the re-decking.

Councillor Watts entered the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

Ms. MacDonald stated that there would be a twenty-four hour per day shuttle service for Active Transportation. Halifax Bridges will be purchasing new buses with trailers for bikes during the project.

Councillor Watts noted that the Dartmouth Ferries don't have the capacity to handle the extra traffic and noted this will not be an easy solution.

Ms. MacDonald informed the Committee that the old Nova Scotia Liquor Commission Store in Dartmouth will be used as a terminal for the Shuttle Service. A transfer station for the Halifax side has not been determined at this time.

Ms. MacDonald also stated that the project is now three months behind schedule. The tender for the re-decking closes on April 16, 2014 and it is anticipated to be awarded in late spring 2014. The following is a proposed schedule of work; removal of bike and walk lanes summer 2015; deck segments replaced during the summer of 2015 and winter of 2016; jacking and hangers and final paving to be completed in the fall of 2016.

7.3.2 Winnipeg Winter Cycling Congress – Ben Buckwold

The Committee agreed to defer this item until the next regular meeting.

8.4.1 Active Transportation Advisory Committee Terms of Reference Review-recommendations for consideration – Clive MacGregor and Walter Regan

Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk, spoke to the Committee regarding the Terms of Reference for the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.

Ms. Mellett explained the context of governance. She stated that Terms of Reference are the context in which the Committee works with Regional Council. She explained that Advisory Committees are formed to advise Regional and Community Councils on certain issues.

Ms. Mellett also informed the Committee that the Terms of Reference are used as a guide for advisory committees. The Committee can ask to have changes to the TOR if it is within the scope of the Committee.

Mr. McGregor questioned Ms. Mellett if it would be possible for the ad hoc committee to have a meeting with her to discuss the TOR and changes the Committee would like to have. Ms. Mellett stated that this would be a very good idea. The meeting will be set up through the Legislative Assistant.

Councillor Hendsbee stated that he would like to see more representation from all Community Councils.

The Committee agreed to defer this item until the next meeting.

8. REPORTS/UPDATES

8.1 Staff

8.1.1 AT Staff

Mr. MacIsaac informed the Committee that the Active Transportation Plan is still in progress and should come to the Committee in the very near future. He also stated that new bike and trail routes have been updated and are ready for distribution.

8.1.2 Regional Trails Staff

Ms. Jessie Debaie, Regional Trails Coordinator, gave the following update to the Committee:

- 1. Council Report:** Mid February's date for the Council Report on the Regional Trails Program and the agreements was postponed until March 4 then to March 18 and delayed again until no fixed date. The Council Report will set out the conditions and authority for HRM to spend funds through Community Development Model with HRTA and its community trail members
- 2. SRA Greenway Update:** Sackville Rivers Association has let a tender to the WSP Consultants- formerly Genivar to develop Class A Design drawings for Section B. Negotiations are taking place presently with Crombie (Sobeys) about crossing their lands. Also a lot of the Greenway will cross Department of Housing Holding. This will require agreements that will be worked through as well.
- 3. Chain of Lakes & BLT Trail Closure Update:** There have been conflicting reports as to whether the Chain of Lakes Trail & small BLT section will be entirely closed during the installation of the waste water pipe of closed in sections as was originally planned. The public service announcements are updated regularly. The project is called the Lakeside Pump Station Diversion Project and its PSA's can be assessed by going to the following web site: www.halifax.ca/trails, go to Halifax Area Trails and Chain of Lakes Trail. There is a link there called Construction on Chain of Lakes: Project updates. This is a Halifax Water project, so that site is the best way to keep updated since the situations seems to be changed from the original plan.
- 4. Porters Lake AT Plan Update:** The Shore Active Transportation Committee had their first Annual General Meeting March 19, 2014 in Porters Lake. The group is patiently waiting for the process of their plan to reach its final stages. The WSP consultants are integrating the final comments now. Then the Porters Lake AT Plan will come to this Committee and then on the Transportation Standing Committee and then to Marine Drive Community Council. Priorities at the moment seem to be the Porters

Lake Business Centre area and the Greenway beside Highway 7 that overlooks the Acadian Chezzetcook Marsh Area. This section would likely be eligible for Trans Canada Trail funding. Trans Canada Trail wants to fill in the gaps by 2017 and this section would be a likely priority.

5. Tactile Markers for Chain of Lakes Trail: Since accessibility is being made a priority in HRM, Regional Trails Staff are asking that the AT Committee recommend and support the installation of tactile markers after the new paving is complete for the Chain of Lakes Trail. This final addition would make the trail accessible to sight impaired residents and would make the greenway a good example for sight accessibility for greenways of the future.

6. Trail Counting Workshop March 29, 10-1 Fairbanks Centre: There will be a trail counting education workshop taking place at the Fairbanks Centre on March 29, 2014,. Mike Connors from WSP, formerly Genivar, has been working with HRTA reps on 6 greenways in HRM. The workshop will highlight the following: electronic trail counter purchase, location & placement of counters, downloading of data, report writing and lessons learned. 22 HRTA participants are signed up plus the Active Living Coordinator from Chester and the Recreation Director from Kings County. Since HRM wants trail counting to be sustainable after the consulting services of WSP are no longer available, Mike Connors has agreed to develop user friendly, plain language manual for use by community groups and staff who want to conduct counts in the future.

8.2 Halifax Regional Trails Association

Ms. Debaie presented an update for the Halifax Regional Trails Association.

1. There has been an overwhelming interest in the Trail Counting workshop taking place on Saturday March 29, 2014 at Fairbanks Centre. HRTA groups are interested in being able to collect usage data for their own trails in the future. The good news is that it seems to be fairly easy to download the data and write usage reports.

2. The HRTA AGM will take place at the Fairbanks Centre on Monday April 14 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Once the agenda is finalized an invitation will be sent to the AT Committee.

3. There will be a presentation of the year long trail counting project on six greenways in HRM. Mike Connors from WSP has been working with staff and representatives from six HRTA groups since April 2013. The final report of the data collected will be available from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., before the April 14, 2014 AGM.

4. Halifax Regional Trails Association Groups involved in Maintenance were surprised to hear that the annual budget allocation for State of Good Repair formerly Recapitalization has been cut from this year's budget deliberations. In the past, the fund has given groups with trails 8 to 10 years old the opportunity to bring sections back to their original standard. Many people do not know that some of the HRTA trails,

especially those on the rail lines, are now 12-15 years old and require this kind of upkeep.

5. HRTA members are waiting patiently to see if the Council Report on Regional Trails will make it to Council this spring. This council report is an update of the April 22, 2008 Council Report that confirmed that HRTA was HRM's trail partner. The community development model of trail building that has been at work in HRM since 2000.

8.3 Bike Week Sub-Committee

Mr. MacIsaac stated that 30 grant applications for bike week have been received.

8.4 Committee Members

Ms. Barlow noted that many bridges in HRM are in bad state of repair. She questioned if this Committee is able to make an impact on repairing the bridges. Ms. Pugh responded that the bridges are owned by the Province.

The Pedestrian Safety Action Plan Report was presented at the last Regional Council meeting. This was a Councillor supported motion to have this report come directly to Regional Council. The Committee requested that a link to this report be forwarded to the members.

8.4.1 Active Transportation Advisory Committee Terms of Reference Review- recommendations for consideration – Clive MacGregor and Walter Regan

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

9. ADDED ITEMS

10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

11. NEXT MEETING DATE – April 17, 2014

Members were informed of the change in meeting location from Room 108, Bloomfield Centre, to Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Darcy Warren
Legislative Support