

**HALIFAX WATERSHED ADVISORY BOARD
May 18, 2005
MINUTES**

PRESENT: Dr. Wayne Stobo, Chair
Ms. Ellinor Williams, Vice Chair
Dr. Spencer Lee
Mr. Shalom Mandaville
Mr. Walter Regan
Dr. Barry Thomas
Mr. Derrill Hynick
Mr. Frank Hope
Mr. Ross Evans
Dr. Sankar Ray
Councillor Linda Mosher

ABSENT: Ms. Christine Smith
Ms. Janis Rod
Mr. Gerry Samson

**STAFF AND
OTHERS:** Mr. Richard Harvey, Planner II
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall

2. Approval of the Agenda and Additions/Deletions

Deletion - Item 6.1

3. Items to be added to Next Agenda

The Chair advised that a Water Resources Management Study (Dillon, 2003), submitted by Tony Blouin had been circulated this evening. He suggested and **it was agreed** that this item be placed on the next agenda.

4. Approval of the Minutes

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Ms. Williams, the minutes of April 20, 2005 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Referring to pg. 4 of the minutes, the Chair noted that Mr. Regan was to draft a letter as a replacement to recommendation 11, and he questioned if this had been done.

Mr. Regan advised that he would have a draft for the next meeting.

The Chair advised that the Legislative Assistant forwarded to him a copy of a concept plan by the Annapolis Group and it relates to a development, in part, adjacent to the Sackville River. He added that it appears there are potential impacts on the Sackville River and brooks associated with it. He noted that the proposal is an as-of-right development, so it wouldn't necessarily come before the Board for review; however, he suggested that if anyone wanted to pass on comments to the Mayor and Councillors on behalf of the Board they could do so.

Mr. Regan advised that he would prepare a letter.

**5. Business Arising from Minutes/Deferred Items:
5.1 WAB Guidelines**

C A draft copy of the Halifax Watershed Advisory Board Guidelines, dated May 2005 was submitted.

The Board reviewed the Guidelines and made the following revisions:

- S It was noted that Janis Rod was preparing revisions to the Glossary of Terms - therefore, this will be deferred until the next meeting.
- S pg. 6, first para. 'waterways' changed to 'watercourses'.

- S pg. 3, under the heading 'Buffer Strips' a bullet was added as follows: " in the absence of natural vegetation, indigenous species should be planted to provide a 30 metre buffer.
- S pg. 6, after the first check-marked sentence, add: '(see section on buffer strips)'
- S pg. 6, in the preamble under 'Pest Controls' - *Richard Harvey will provide a paragraph advising of the restrictions of HRM's pesticide control bylaw, followed by the word, 'therefore' . . .*
- S pg. 6, under the heading 'Weed Control', Richard Harvey will provide wording for a bulleted-item on sustainable practices; and Richard Harvey and Ellinor Williams will redraft this section to read that weeds aren't necessarily a negative thing.
- S pg. 5, under the heading, 'Landscaping and Lot Maintenance', remove the word 'chemical' in the first sentence.
- S pg. 6 - under the heading 'Run-off', add a sentence that says something to the effect that, "during winter the use of salt as a de-icing agent adds salt into the runoff; salt is a designated toxic compound (CEPA)."
- S pg. 7 - reword the check-marked item to read, "Run-off should be directed to natural vegetated areas rather than directly to a watercourse."
- S in the Glossary, 'runoff' will now be listed as 'runoff/stormwater'. And related to the source, cover it off as *source (in part) NSDOEL publication.*
- S include a definition of stormwater in the Glossary
- S pg.'s 6 & 7 change the word 'pollutants' to 'contaminants'
- S Richard Harvey will update the phone numbers and forward them to the Legislative Assistant. Include the phone number for Stephen King's, HRM's Environmental Management Service, area for information on landscaping practices and HRM's bylaws.

The Chair advised that the Guidelines would be revised and brought back at the next Board meeting.

*(At a later point in the meeting, the Chair raised this matter and suggested that, once the Board finalizes the Guidelines, the document be sent to Planning for review, **to which it was agreed.**)*

5.2 Board's Terms of Reference

- C A copy of the Board's Terms of Reference was submitted.

The Board entered a discussion and agreed to the following revisions to the Terms of Reference:

- S The Board may include one representative from community based organizations which are recognized by HRM and the Board as having broad-based interest in watershed protection and related activities within the geographical area of responsibility of the Board. Groups with interest in a single issue would not be considered for membership. Such groups would be encouraged to make a presentation to the Board.

The Legislative Assistant will contact staff to see if a map of the Board's jurisdiction is available and that could be attached to the Terms of Reference.

- S removed 'b' of section 2.2
- S Section 2.2 (c) - after the words, 'within the', delete the sentence and add the words 'jurisdiction of the Board'
- S Section 2.2 (c) - delete the word 'representative'
- S Section 9.0 - revise 9.1 to read that a quorum will be 50 percent plus 1.
- S Section 12.0 - revise 12.1 to read that if a member fails to attend *three* meetings without reasonable cause, *membership will cease* .
- S Section 10.5 - delete the words, *if requested to do so*.

The Chair advised that the Legislative Assistant will make the revisions and forward to him, and this matter will come back to the Board's next meeting.

5.3 Local Limnological Issues

Mr. Mandaville circulated copies of a letter he received from Premier John Hamm, dated October 8, 1999 pertaining to Mr. Mandaville's request that a Limnologist be added to the staff of the Nova Scotia Department of Environment.

Mr. Mandaville addressed the issue of the reliability of water quality testing, noting a recent issue with the lab at the QEII. He suggested that a qualified limnologist should oversee any testing that HRM gets done.

A discussion ensued and concluded with the Chair advising that there are labs which have gone through accreditation processes and proficiency testing, and suggesting that it is these labs which the Board may want to recommend that HRM use, i.e. before a contract is awarded, any lab associated with the analysis should have to provide HRM with proof of accreditation.

At 8:50 p.m. the Board recessed.

At 8:55 p.m. the Board reconvened.

6. New Business:

6.1 Letter from Sharon Bond RE Concept Plans

This item was deleted during approval of the agenda.

6.2 Shalom Mandaville's Letter of March 28, 2005 RE: Bottle Lake

In response to a question, the Chair advised that he was not aware if the Board had received data pertaining to its recommendations concerning Bottle Lake. He asked Mr. Harvey if he would follow up on whether any of the Board's recommendations (May 19,

2003) were included in the Development Agreement and if HRM has received any data since.

A discussion ensued concerning the various planning matters which have come before the Board for review, and whether any of the Board's recommendations have been included in Development Agreements. In addition, it was noted that a number of recommendations specified there was to be testing with the results submitted to HRM and/or the Board.

A discussion ensued and Mr. Harvey indicated that if the information was forward to him, he would follow up and report back.

The Chair noted that Ms. Williams and Mr. Mandaville each have a list of projects the Board has made recommendations on, and he suggested that they compare the list and then forward it to Mr. Harvey for his follow up. The Chair added that this item will be on the agenda as an ongoing agenda item.

6.3 Laboratory Demonstration on Flow Balancer Septic System - availability of Board Members

Mr. Mandaville noted that he raised this matter at the last meeting. He indicted that he will speak with the professor from TUNS and obtain a couple of available dates from him and then determine which one suits the majority of committee members.

7. Date of Next Meeting

June 15, 2005

8. Adjournment

9:25 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant