

HALIFAX WATERSHED ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES

November 25, 2009

PRESENT: Ms. Ellinor Williams, Chair
Mr. Barry Thomas
Mr. Derrill Hynick
Mr. Ross Evans
Mr. Walter Regan
Mr. David Ripley
Councillor David Hendsbee

REGRETS: Mr. Scott Herron
Councillor Peter Lund

STAFF: Mr. Richard Harvey, Senior Planner
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Media Room, City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Evans that the minutes of October 21, 2009 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

4. ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO NEXT AGENDA

There were no items to be added to the next agenda.

At this time, the Chair introduced Ms. Cathy Mellet, Acting Municipal Clerk, and advised that she had requested to attend this meeting to brief the Board on Regional Council's Committee Reform process that HRM staff has undertaken, and how the Watershed Boards fit into this process. The Chair noted that it was a timely presentation, as Mr. Hynick had asked for a similar item to be discussed at this meeting. The Chair noted that the item would be dealt with under that agenda item.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Role of HWAB in New Framework of HRM's Boards and Committees

Ms. Mellet addressed the Board and provided an overview of the Council Committee Reform process and the recommendations that were presented to Regional Council in this regard. She advised that as part of the process for review of Council's Boards and Committees, staff are considering holding a facilitation session involving the three Watershed Advisory Boards. The purpose of the session would be to get feedback and input into questions concerning the role the WABs, and whether it would be more efficient and effective to change the mandate of the WABs and to create one advisory group that would focus more on policy.

5.1.1 Case 01186: Amendments to the Beaver Bank, Hammonds Plains and Upper Sackville MPS and LUB - Kingswood Commercial Zone

- A draft report dated October 21, 2009 from the Chair of Halifax Watershed Advisory Board was submitted for final approval

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Mr. Regan that the Board approve the report as submitted, and that it be signed and forwarded on to Regional Council. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5.1.2 Case 01320: Amendment to Development Agreement - Oakfield Golf and Country Club

- A draft report dated November 18, 2009 from the Chair of Halifax Watershed Advisory Board was submitted for final approval.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Mr. Regan that the Board approve the report as submitted, and that it be signed and forwarded on to Community Council. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5.1.3 Case 001324: Application by Connors Architects and Planners - Development Agreement for Additional 21 Seniors Apartment Units at 51 Old Beaver Bank Road, Sackville

- A draft report dated November 18, 2009 from the Chair of Halifax Watershed Advisory Board was submitted for final approval.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Mr. Regan that the Board approve the report as submitted, and that it be signed and forwarded on to Community Council. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5.1.4 Case 01043: Development Agreement for Open Space Design Subdivision - West Inlet Drive, West Petpeswick

- A draft report dated November 18, 2009 from the Chair of Halifax Watershed Advisory Board was submitted for final approval.

recommendations:

- there should be a storage tank constructed adjacent to the pumping station in the event of a power failure, with a back-up power source
- retention pond with a capacity for a 1/100 year storm
- retention pond is to have a habitat of native species
- there should be no stormwater discharge directly into the brook
- HRM should acquire a 100 ft. nondisturbance buffer on both sides of the brook.

5.1.6 Draft Letter to Ms. Kelly Denty from Chair

A draft letter addressed to Ms. Kelly Denty, HRM Development Officer, from the Chair was submitted.

In reference to the draft letter, the Chair advised that last year Ms. Kelly Denty and Mr. Kurt Pyle met with the Board to discuss its role and the effectiveness of the Board's recommendations. At that time Ms. Denty suggested that the Board send her a list of changes it would like to see made to the Red Book and the Municipal Government Act and that staff could keep them in mind when they are making updates to municipal planning strategies and other legislation.

The Chair advised that she reviewed the various recommendations the Board has made over the years, and added that the list she compiled, which are in the draft letter, are the most frequently raised concerns.

A brief discussion ensued and it was agreed that the Chair would forward the letter to Ms. Denty.

5.1.7 Staff Report on Watershed Protection Strategy

Mr. Richard Harvey addressed this item and advised that it also related to item 5.2.1. He explained that staff have a report prepared which outlines all the policies on watershed protection, but in the course of preparing the report there was some question in regard to legal interpretation issues, and whether the Municipality has the authority to request certain things. For example, he referred to water quality monitoring studies,

The Chair advised that this item would be considered as something that would potentially go before the larger policy board, if it were to be created.

5.1.8 Bennery Lake Committee - HWAB Representation

Mr. Regan advised that Mr. Keith Manchester, a former member of HWAB had agreed to represent the Board on the Bennery Lake Committee; however it has been brought to his attention that the Committee's bylaw states that the representative has to be a sitting member of the Board. Mr. Regan added that if HWAB members wished, he would represent the Board on the Bennery Lake Committee.

It was agreed that Mr. Regan would be HWAB's representative on the Bennery Lake Committee and that the Chair would send a letter to Mr. Manchester thanking him for his work on behalf of the Board.

5.2 Status Sheet:

5.2.1 Staff Report on MPS Policies that Relate to Water Quality Monitoring throughout HRM

This item was discussed in conjunction with the item 5.1.7.

6. **DEFERRED ITEMS:** None

7. **NEW BUSINESS:**

7.1 Role of HWAB in New Framework of HRM's Boards and Committees

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting. See page 4.

7.2 Scientific Technical Definition of a Watershed Study - Derrill Hynick

Mr. Hynick advised that he brought this item forward because he believed that if the Board was going to have some input into watershed studies, then a hydrogeologist or a limnologist should be involved to provide their professional perspective on their interpretation of a proper study.

The Chair advised that Mr. Ripley had to attended the workshop on behalf of the Board, and was going to provide an update.

Mr. Ripley advised that the workshop started off with a panel with all levels of government represented and the discussion centred around whether watershed boards were effective or if there needed to be some sort of super advisory board that could directly advocate government, such as what is in place in Alberta and Saskatchewan. He indicated that, overall, there was general agreement that advisory boards could not affect any real change and that there needed to be some kind of a higher level of advocacy board that reviews watershed management issues in a larger sense.

10. ADDED ITEMS: None.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The Chair questioned whether the members wanted to hold a meeting in December. She advised that the only business to be brought forward from this meeting would be the report on the Herring Cove development, however, she could prepare it and get consensus by e-mail, to which it was agreed.

Next meeting - January 20, 2010.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant