

HALIFAX WATERSHED ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES

June 16, 2010

PRESENT: Ms. Ellinor Williams, Chair  
Mr. Walter Regan, Vice-Chair  
Mr. Scott Harron  
Ms. Anna McCarron  
Mr. David Ripley  
Mr. Barry Thomas  
Mr. Ross Evans  
Councillor Peter Lund

REGRETS: Mr. Derrill Hynick  
Councillor Hendsbee

STAFF: Mr. Tyson Simms, Planner 1  
Mr. Richard Harvey, Senior Planner  
Ms. Thea Langille, Supervisor, Planning Applications  
Ms. Julie Vandervoort, Legislative Support

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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**

The Chair noted that Mr. Barry Thomas' name had been inadvertently left off the list of those present at the May 19, 2010 meeting. The Chair suggested a paragraph spacing change be made to item 5.1.4 of the May 19, 2010 minutes.

**MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr Harron, that the minutes of May 19, 2010, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

The Chair welcomed Ms. Anna McCarron from SWEPS (Shubenacadie Watershed Environmental Protection Society) to the Board. The Board agreed to add an update from Mr. Thomas on gold mining and to hear this new item under Business Arising.

There were no other additions or deletions to the agenda, and the agenda was accepted as presented.

**4. ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO NEXT AGENDA**

The Chair requested that the matter of putting HWAB's recommendations on the website be added to the next agenda.

**5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES/STATUS SHEET ITEMS:**

The Board invited Mr. Thomas to provide his update at this time.

**9. ADDED ITEMS:**

**9.1 Gold Mining on the Eastern Shore**

Mr. Thomas described his media interviews, including one with CBC, and the call he subsequently received from a representative of the Nova Scotia Department of Environment. This representative offered Mr. Thomas the opportunity to read the full environmental assessment on the proposed Tangier gold mine. Mr. Thomas explained that due to that call, he asked the Chair to have the matter removed from the June agenda of Regional Council and he also let the media know that he had not been in possession of the full assessment at the time of the interviews. Mr. Regan asked if the document Mr. Thomas now had was dated 1997 and Mr. Thomas confirmed this.

Mr. Thomas offered to present a report to the Board at the next meeting after he had examined the full document. Councillor Lund stated that he would like to add his comments to those of Mr. Thomas when the item returns to Regional Council. He

further stated that he would request the Council's response to the item be sent to HWAB.

The Board then returned to the order of the agenda.

## **5.1 Business Arising:**

### **5.1.1 Watershed Advisory Boards - Committee of Council Reform Workshop - Memo from Chair**

- A memorandum dated May 16, 2010 from the Chair to Ms. Cathy Mellett, A Clerk/Manager, Office of the Municipal Clerk, was circulated.

The Chair asked members for feedback on the memo and the Board entered into a discussion on various points until agreement was reached on the wording of each paragraph. Ms. Langille clarified how planning decisions and advisory board recommendations are considered in terms of both older and newer planning strategies and regional plans.

Concluding the discussion, the Chair stated that she would make the agreed changes and circulate a final version of the memo by e-mail, then submit the memo to Ms. Mellett before the next HWAB meeting.

The Board then entered into a discussion of a possible ongoing mechanism whereby the reasons from planners why HWAB's recommendations cannot be implemented are automatically included as information items on the next HWAB meeting agenda. Mr. Harvey, Senior Planner, stated Planning would explore how to help with this. Councillor Lund asked if this could be coordinated by the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

**MOVED by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Regan, that HWAB requests that planning reports to Regional Council on matters before HWAB be included in the regular monthly agenda packages sent to HWAB members. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **5.2 Status Sheet: None.**

## **6. DEFERRED ITEMS: None**

## **7. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **7.1 Case 15910 - Rezoning Application, Western Shore of Moody Lake, Williamswood**

- An information memorandum dated June 7, 2010 and prepared by Mr. Miles Agar, Planner 1, was circulated.

This memorandum was provided for information only and no recommendation from HWAB was sought. The Chair provided some background to the application and expressed her appreciation that HWAB was kept informed and updated.

## **7.2 Case 15853: Development Agreement for 1727 Sackville Drive, Sackville**

- A memorandum dated June 4, 2010 by Mr. Tyson Simms, Planner 1, was submitted.

Mr. Simms gave a presentation to the Board and described his visit to the site. He stated that there was a possible wetland issue near the site, that staff were of the opinion that the proposed development would have a minimal impact and staff were in the process of drafting the development agreement. Ms. Langille added that Planning was working with the Nova Scotia Department of the Environment on the wetland issue. The Chair expressed her appreciation that the floodplain area had been marked on the map.

Mr. Simms then responded to several questions from Board members about the buffer zone, landscaping, acid slate, a storm retention pond, the ditching, watercourse testing, and the septic field.

After some discussion, the Board decided to make its recommendations on this application that evening rather than bring the matter back to the July meeting.

**MOVED By Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Ripley that HWAB recommend that:**

- 1. The Applicant install an oil/grit separator to keep contaminants out of the ditch water which eventually flows to Sackville River.**
- 2. The 20-meter buffer zone on each side of the brook be deeded to HRM as parkland.**
- 3. The septic system be pumped out at least every three years depending on land use, particularly if a take-out restaurant is established.**
- 4. Due consideration be given to the possible presence of acid slate.**
- 5. In view of the increase in the amount of impermeable surface, a storm water management plan be put in place.**
- 6. In view of the limited area for a septic field, consideration be given to connecting the sewer line to the municipal system.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**8. CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**9. ADDED ITEMS**

**9.1 Gold Mining on the Eastern Shore**

This item was dealt with previously. See page 3.

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** July 21, 2010

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Julie Vandervoort  
Legislative Support