

REGIONAL PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 18, 2007

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Mr. Fred Morley, Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee, Vice Chair
Councillor Gloria McCluskey
Mr. Paul Pettipas
Ms. Margo Grant
Mr. Robert Batherson
Ms. Bonnie Ryan
Ms. Cheryl Newcombe

REGRETS:

Mr. Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer
Councillor Brad Johns
Ms. Heather Bown

STAFF:

Ms. Susan Corser, Senior Planner, Regional Planning
Mr. Austin French, Manager, Planning Services
Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant

Table of Contents

1.	CALL TO ORDER	3
2.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES - June 20, 2007	3
3.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS	3
4.	BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES	3
5.	CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS	3
5.1	Community Consultations	
5.2	Regional Plan Implementation - Economic Strategy, Cultural Plan, Immigration Strategy, and Business Park Functional Plan - <i>Roger Wells</i>	
6.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS	3
6.1	Correspondence	3
6.2	Petitions - None	3
6.3	Presentations	3
6.3.1	Community Visioning Pilot Project - Presentation of Draft Visions	3
	(i) Musquodoboit Harbour Community Liaison Group	
	(ii) Fall River Community Liaison Group	
	(iii) Bedford Waterfront Community Liaison Group	
7.	REPORTS	5
8.	NEW BUSINESS	8
9.	ADDED ITEMS	8
10.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING - August 15, 2007	9
11.	ADJOURNMENT	9

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:13 p.m. in the Helen Creighton Room, Alderney Gate Public Library, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

Roundtable introductions of the Committee were provided at this time, including members of the Community Liaison Groups and staff in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - June 20, 2007

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Paul Pettipas, that the minutes of the June 20, 2007 Regional Plan Advisory Committee meeting be approved as distributed. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The agenda was agreed upon as presented.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - None

Councillor Hendsbee indicated that the Parkland Dedication for Small Lot Subdivisions item that was before the Committee at the June 20, 2007 meeting was recently approved by Council at 5% for the subdivision of three lots or less throughout HRM.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

5.1 Community Consultations

Ms. Susan Corser, Senior Planner, Regional Planning, commented that this Committee has a community consultation role as it relates to amendments to the Regional Plan.

She noted that prior to the formation of the Committee, staff went ahead with two aspects of the implementation of the Regional Plan - parkland planning and wind energy - and carried out community consultation on these matters. Ms. Corser indicated that the Committee will have a role in public engagement for future amendments to the Regional Plan. She commented that staff will bring forward information on conducting consultation and advised that staff currently follow a resolution of Council from 1997 which sets a basic public participation process. Ms. Corser advised that staff are currently undertaking an assessment of past community engagement case studies, researched by members of Council, the community, stakeholders and staff. She suggested that staff could make a presentation to the Committee on the outcomes of that assessment.

The Chair indicated there is an opportunity for this Committee to explore new ideas on consultation, in particular how to engage youth, along with busy families.

Mr. Pettipas suggested providing the Community Liaison Groups with a survey to learn from their community engagement experiences. Ms. Corser indicated that an evaluation of the Community Visioning pilot project will be undertaken in the near future, to obtain feedback from all participants.

5.2 Regional Plan Implementation - Economic Strategy, Cultural Plan, Immigration Strategy, and Business Park Functional Plan - Roger Wells

The Chair indicated that it would be helpful for the Committee to receive updates on the various plans stemming from the Regional Plan.

Mr. Austin French, Manager, Planning Services, commented that a memo was circulated to the Committee at the May meeting outlining the 26 strategic initiatives stemming from the Regional Plan. He noted that the Immigration Strategy and the Cultural Plan are complete, and the Wind Energy Plan will be brought before the Committee soon for input and after for a formal recommendation. Mr. French indicated that as the strategic initiatives create momentum, they will be brought before the Committee; however, if members wished to learn more about a particular initiative, staff could provide updates as requested.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence - None

6.2 Petitions - None

6.3 Presentations

6.3.1 Community Visioning Pilot Project - Presentation of Draft Visions

Ms. Corser presented an overview of the Community Visioning Pilot Project, a copy of which is on file.

6.3.1(i) Musquodoboit Harbour Community Liaison Group

- A copy of the Musquodoboit Harbour Community Vision presentation was before the Committee.
- A copy of the Musquodoboit Harbour Draft Vision and Action Plan was before the Committee.

Mr. James Barr, a member of the Musquodoboit Harbour Community Liaison Group (CLG), presented the Musquodoboit Harbour draft vision, process and action plan, reviewing the following:

- The start of the community visioning process;
- How the Musquodoboit Harbour CLG interpreted the Regional Plan;

- Benefits of the visioning process for Musquodoboit Harbour;
- Process followed by the Musquodoboit Harbour CLG;
- Methods of consultation including:
 - two public forums
 - numerous focus groups
 - online forum
 - interaction with HRM liaison and CLG
- Themes and priorities resulting from consultation:
 - Infrastructure/Services
 - Housing
 - Recreation
 - Economy
 - Village Aesthetics
 - Environment
 - Youth
- The Vision for a Regional Plan Centre;
- The vision beyond the centre;
- Examples from action plan;
- The vision beyond the Regional Plan;
- Continuing public feedback;
- Implementation of vision;
- Objectives for planning staff;
- Feed back from the CLG of their experience;
- Challenges encountered by the CLG;
- Lessons from the Pilot Project;

Mr. Barr and Ms. Laurie Cook, Chair of the Musquodoboit Harbour CLG, responded to questions from the Committee at this time.

The Committee thanked Mr. Barr and the Musquodoboit Harbour CLG for their presentation.

6.3.1 (ii) Fall River Community Liaison Group

- A copy of the Fall River Community Vision presentation was before the Committee.
- A copy of the Fall River Draft Vision and Action Plan was before the Committee.

Mr. Michael Creighton, a member of the Fall River Community Liaison Group, presented the Fall River draft vision, process and action plan, reviewing the following:

- Engaging the community;
- How the Fall River CLG interpreted the Regional Plan;
- Housing vision and goals;
- Commercial development vision and goals;
- Infrastructure vision and goals;

- Social development vision and goals;
- Sport and recreation vision and goals;
- Parks and public lands vision and goals;
- Active transportation vision and goals;
- Transit vision and goals;
- Village aesthetics and signage vision and goals;
- The visioning process followed by the Fall River CLG;
- The experience of the Fall River CLG;
- Requirements and commitment of members;
- Vision Statement - Fall River in the Future.

Mr. Creighton and Ms. Maureen Ryan, Senior Planner and support staff to the Fall River CLG, responded to questions from the Committee at this time.

The Committee thanked Mr. Creighton and the Fall River CLG for their presentation.

6.3.1 (iii) Bedford Waterfront Community Liaison Group

- A copy of the Bedford Waterfront Community Vision presentation was before the Committee.
- A copy of the Bedford Waterfront Draft Vision and Action Plan was before the Committee.
- A copy of a promotional post card for the Vision HRM - Bedford Waterfront project was before the Committee.
- A feedback form for comments on the Bedford Waterfront draft vision was distributed to members.

Mr. Doug Kolmer, Ms. Rosemarie Sampson, Mr. Paul Boutilier, and Ms. Mary Garnier, members of the Bedford Waterfront CLG, presented the Bedford Waterfront draft vision, process and action plan, reviewing the following:

- Community engagement;
- Community webpage and post card;
- Review of the vision area;
- Waterfront Planning documents used by the CLG;
- Draft Bedford Waterfront Vision Statement;
- Community values of Bedford residents;
- Bedford Waterfront Vision Objectives;
- Bedford Waterfront Action Plan:
 - Environment
 - Development and Design
 - Community Facilities and Infrastructure
 - Transit and Transportation
- Public feedback on Draft Vision:
 - On-line

- Bedford Days
- Community Sign
- Forum Discussions
- Emails
- The Community visioning experience of the Bedford Waterfront CLG;
- Requirements and commitments of being a Bedford Waterfront CLG member;
- Bedford Waterfront CLG members.

Councillor McCluskey left the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Bedford Waterfront CLG members responded to questions from the Committee at this time.

At the request of the Committee, Mr. Austin French, Manager, Planning Services, advised that with the completion of the pilot project for these three communities in September, the visions will be forwarded to Council for approval. He clarified that after Council's approval, staff will make the necessary amendments to the Municipal and Community Planning Strategies. Mr. French further advised that planning strategy changes will be brought through this Committee to Council for approval. He noted that when the visions are brought to Council for approval, another set of communities would be recommended for the next visioning process at that time.

The Committee thanked members of the Bedford Waterfront CLG for their presentation.

Mr. Batherson requested the participation statistics for each community visioning online forum discussion, to determine if more or less electronic participation is undertaken in rural, suburban, and urban communities.

Councillor Hendsbee suggested providing the future CLGs with a list of dates of all workshops, meetings, etc. held by the current CLGs, to give new members an idea of the level of commitment required.

7. **REPORTS** - None

8. **NEW BUSINESS** - None

9. **ADDED ITEMS**

The Chair commented that he would like to hold a team building session for the Committee, to bring them together and set ground rules. He indicated that he will discuss this further with staff.

10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - August 15, 2007

The next meeting of the Regional Plan Advisory Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, August 15, 2007 from 3-5:00 p.m. in the Maxine Tynes Room, Alderney Gate Public Library, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Jennifer Weagle
Legislative Assistant