

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

REGIONAL PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 16, 2011

PRESENT:

Mr. Fred Morley, Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee, Vice-Chair
Councillor Peter Lund
Ms. Cheryl Newcombe
Mr. William Book
Mr. Floyd Dykeman
Ms. Christina MacLeod
Mr. Paul Pettipas

REGRETS:

Councillor Gloria McCluskey
Ms. Margo Grant
Ms. Carole Pelletier
Ms. Talia D'Alessio
Mr. Sam Metleg
Ms. Margo Grant

STAFF:

Mr. Andy Fillmore, Community Development
Mr. Brandon Silver, Urban Designer 1
Mr. Roger Wells, Supervisor, Regional and Community Planning
Ms. Pam Lovelace, Legislative Support

Final Meeting of Committee – Minutes administratively approved

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1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Fred Morley, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:17 pm in the Media Room, City Hall, Halifax.

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 19, 2011 and March 2, 2011

MOVED BY Ms. Newcombe, seconded by Mr. Book, that the minutes of January 19, 2011 and March 2, 2011 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3.0 APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

MOVED BY Ms. Newcombe, seconded by Ms. MacLeod, that the agenda be accepted as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4.0 BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Project 00953 Wind Energy Facilities in HRM

A staff report dated February 2, 2011 was before the Committee for consideration.

The Chair read the recommendations as presented by staff from Project 00953.

MOVED BY Mr. Pettipas, seconded by Mr. Dykeman, that the Regional Plan Advisory Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Give First Reading and set a public hearing date to consider amendments to the Regional MPS and the Community LUBs to create policy and regulations (typical examples are set out in Attachments “A and B” of the February 2, 2011 staff report) for the purpose of regulating Wind turbines in the Halifax Regional Municipality.**
- 2. Adopt the amendments to the Regional MPS and Community LUBs as provided in Attachments A and B respectively of the February 2, 2011 staff report.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Lund brought forward the suggestion that staff consider the implications of this plan on wilderness protected areas and the possibility of wind turbine installations on crown land.

5.0 CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – None

6.0 CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence – None

6.2 Petitions - None

6.3 Presentations - None

7.0 REPORTS

7.1 5-Year Regional Plan Review Preliminary Scope and Process (verbal)

Staff provided a verbal presentation of the 5-Year Regional Plan Review, and requested feedback from the Committee. The following comments, concerns and questions were noted:

- Mr. Dykeman requested an indication of how much progress has been done in the past five years, and how the progress was measured. Staff are working on providing more detailed and measurable information from base line data, but it does not currently exist.
- Mr. Pettipas warned against using the term *Greenbelt* too loosely because there are few similarities between the way other cities and Halifax are developing greenbelts.
- The appropriate use of the term ‘cost avoidance’ versus the term ‘cost saving’ was discussed at length.
- Mr. Dykeman pointed out that the data indicates that more business offices are being built in the suburbs, which could be interpreted as beneficial. Mr. Fillmore suggested that HRM must do a better job at encouraging densification.
- Mr. Pettipas recommended that once baseline data is in place, the review of the Plan in 5 years will provide significant data.
- Mr. Morley requested that Staff review any circumstances, including economic issues such as taxes, and not just development and construction issues.
- Brief discussion ensued on the possible elimination of rural centres from the visioning process. Councillor Hendsbee suggested that those areas of MetroX development would meet the greatest demand for growth.
- Committee members and staff discussed the need for a more robust communications plan to support this next phase of public engagement.
- The environmental impact of storm water and the problematic definition of wetlands was identified. Councillor Lund noted that wet lands that feed into rivers and streams require better management.
- The question of who reviews the regional plan and offers a second opinion was raised. Committee members requested staff hire a consultant to review.

Mr. Dykeman left the meeting at 4:42pm.

MOVED BY Mr. Pettipas, seconded by Ms. Newcombe, that the 5-Year Regional Plan be reviewed by an independent consultant. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Chair recognized committee members, Ms. Newcombe and Ms. MacLeod, as this was their last meeting, and thanked them for their contribution.

8.0 ADDED ITEMS

9.0 NEXT MEETING DATE – April 20, 2011

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:13pm.

Pamela Lovelace
Legislative Assistant