

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

SOLID WASTE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE DECEMBER 7, 2001 MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillor Reg Rankin, Chair
Councillor Jim Smith
Councillor Gary Meade
Councillor Gary Hines
Councillor Dawn Sloane

GUESTS: Mr. Brian Smith, Eastern Shore Cartage
Mr. Larry DeWolfe, DeWolfe Trucking

STAFF: Mr. Brian Smith, Director of Solid Waste Resources
Mr. Jim Bauld, Diversion Planning Coordinator
Ms. Laurie Lewis, Collection & Processing Coordinator
Mr. Fred Wendt, Waste Resource Analyst
Ms. Sherryll Murphy, Assistant Municipal Clerk

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1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

The following items were added to the agenda:

- 7.1 Hours of Operation - Hazardous Waste Facility
- 7.2 CRA - Metro Quarterly Survey

MOVED by Councillor Hines, seconded by Councillor Meade that the agenda, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - October 25, 2001

MOVED by Councillor Meade, seconded by Councillor Hines that the minutes of October 25, 2001 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Brian Smith, Director of Solid Waste Resources introduced Mr. Brian Smith, Eastern Cartage and Mr. Larry DeWolfe, DeWolfe Trucking. Mr. Smith advised that these gentlemen headed up two of the trucking firms involved with HRM's solid waste management program.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Application(s) under the Construction and Demolition By-law L-200 - Memorandum from Brian T. Smith, Director Solid Waste Resources

- An information memorandum dated November 27, 2001 submitted by Mr. Brian Smith, Director Solid Waste Resources was before the Committee for consideration.
- A copy of the minutes of the November 19, 2001 public meeting and highlights from the November 21, November 28, November 29, and December 3, 2001 meetings were distributed to members of the Committee.

Mr. Bauld briefly reviewed the November 27, 2001 memorandum noting that applications had been received from the three existing C&D operators. However, staff has requested further information from the applicants. Operators are endeavoring to provide the information with a view to having an effective licensing date of January 1, 2002.

Mr. Bauld went on to review comments received at a series of five public meetings held in each of the Community Council areas with regard to the proposed amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw regarding HRM's C&D Waste Management Strategy. A copy of the minutes of the November 19, 2001 public meeting and highlights from the November 21, November 28, November 29, and December 3, 2001 meetings are included with the file for today's meeting.

Councillor Rankin noted that preliminary comments would indicate there was some disagreement with the location of C&D operations in a residential area. Councilor Rankin indicated that this was particularly true in the Harrietsfield area. In addition, there is concern that under Option 2, site plan approval, there is no appeal to the URB. Concern has also been expressed regarding the possible enhancement of existing operations.

Mr. Bauld noted that the underlying principle of these amendments is to provide controls while working with the existing operators.

In response to a question from Councillor Sloane as to how the questions arising from these meetings would be addressed, Mr. Bauld noted that a report would be prepared addressing all questions.

Councillor Sloane referred to the concern expressed regarding the use of residential roads in accessing C&D facilities and asked if this would be the case for future facilities.

Mr. Bauld indicated that some highways have mixed use which would include residential use. He noted that this was the case with some provincial routes including, he believed, the Harrietsfield Road and Ross Road. He went on to note that future operations would be located on major highways.

Councillor Sloane noted that noise disturbance is also a concern.

Councillor Hines indicated that Council's philosophy was one of facilitation of existing operations. He went on to note that the NIMBY (Not in my back yard) attitude is tied up with trucking of any kind. Councillor Hines commented that he recognized the concerns and noted that any new facilities would have to access their operations by other than residential routes.

Councillor Rankin, commented regarding the process, that the public appeared to require some assurances regarding Council's intent. He went on to indicate that citizens seemed to believe that the amendments were already a 'done deal'. Council had made their decision and were simply going through the motions without listening to the concerns. Councillor Rankin went on to note that he had tried to assure the citizens that this was not the case. Commenting that Council has taken a less stringent position than recommended by staff, he

requested that if staff feel Council has to re-think some of these positions, include this in their report.

Councillor Meade, noting that Council had reduced the setback in recognition of existing operations, asked if it would be possible to require all new operations to have a setback of 100 meters.

Councillor Rankin indicated that he believed the by-law had to be applied uniformly over the municipality, but requested that staff investigate and report back.

4.2 Correspondence November 1, 2001 - Amendment to the Building Code re Requirement for new apartment construction to include areas for the separation/collection of solid waste

- An information report dated November 26, 2001 submitted by Brian T. Smith, Director, Solid Waste was distributed to members of the Committee.

Mr. Bauld briefly reviewed the report noting staff is addressing the designation of space for source separation containers at new apartment on a number of fronts including:

- < A new comprehensive HRM construction approval process, specifically for multi unit Industrial Commercial Industrial (MICI) buildings. Solid Waste will have input to the information provided to the developer. In the case of a development agreement, Solid Waste staff would be alerted to solid waste concerns early in the approval process.
- < An amendment to By-Law S-600, Section 12 to include not only the requirement for commercial refuse bins to be maintained and serviced regularly, but also the requirement for new ICI properties to provide and regularly service recycling and composting containers. Staff will be developing a proposed amendment for consideration by SWRAC and recommendation to Council.
- < Staff is assessing the feasibility of amending the Provincial Building Code. This item is on the December agenda of the Regional Chairs Solid Waste Resource Management Committee. An amendment to the Building Code may take some time and staff has been advised that it would be more effective to act initially through our Solid Waste By-Law S-600.

Councillor Rankin addressed the matter noting that at the present time there are developers who are voluntarily providing source separation facilities. He noted that this creates an un-level playing field and indicated that the field should be leveled across HRM and the Province. Councillor Rankin commented that the Province has endorsed the Solid Waste Strategy and this should have a positive influence on achieving an amendment to the Building Code.

Mr. Bauld indicated that staff would appreciate direction from the committee in terms of how to approach this matter.

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Hines that this Committee endorse changes to the Building Code to provide for source separation in multi-unit buildings and that this matter be first forwarded to a meeting of the Joint Regional Chairs of Solid Waste and then on to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM).

Councillor Sloane suggested that the Development Association of Nova Scotia have an opportunity to review any proposed changes to the Building Code.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. SOLID WASTE OPERATIONS REPORT

- A report entitled Waste Resources, Mass Balance, 01 April 2001 - 30 November 2001 was distributed to members of the Committee. In addition a report entitled Waste Resources Budget & Projections, 01 April 2001-30 November 2001 was distributed.

Ms. Lewis noted that this month's reporting included an estimate of Private Recycling (fibers - bottles, newspaper, etc.), Backyard Composting, Drop-off Materials (i.e. reuse of furniture, appliances, clothing), C&D and Household Hazardous Waste in addition to the components reported upon in previous months. Ms. Lewis went on to briefly review the report noting that a reduction in organics recycling was not attributed to a decrease in participation. She commented that the reduction may be due in part to a lack of rain reducing grass clippings and resulting in dry rather than wet leaves.

Councillor Rankin referred to the commercial use of HRM's recycling system and indicated that it amounted to a subsidy of business by HRM. He noted that it was important to ensure that this subsidy was not seen to be too great. Mr. Smith indicated that staff would prepare a report in response to this issue.

Ms. Lewis then reviewed the report entitled Waste Resources Budget and Projections.

Mr. Bauld noted that a recent decision of the Canadian Food Inspector may have an impact on Organics projections. The Canadian Food Inspector has recently announced that meat by-products from restaurants may no longer be used as feed by hog farmers. Mr. Bauld indicated that he believed this was related to hoof and mouth disease in animals. Mr. Bauld went on to report that he would be meeting with representatives of the Canadian Food Inspections next week to determine the impact of this announcement on HRM.

Councillor Meade referred to the Subdivision Regulations with regard to private roads and asked if these regulations took into consideration solid waste collection. He noted that recently the needs of the Fire Department have been given consideration when developing private roads.

Ms. Lewis indicated that waste collection occurred on roads which are considered accessible for the collection vehicles.

Mr. Brian Smith, Eastern Shore Cartage, noted that as a hauler if he does not collect the garbage due to inaccessibility, he receives a call from staff to determine why collection has not occurred. He noted that he often receives a call from the Councillor for the area.

MOVED by Councillor Meade, seconded by Councillor Sloane that staff investigate and report as to whether the Subdivision Regulations give consideration to the collection of garbage on Private Roads. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. NEW BUSINESS - None

7. ADDED ITEMS

7.1 Hours of Operation - Hazardous Waste Facility

- A staff report dated December 7, 2001 submitted by Brian Smith, Director of Solid Waste was distributed to members of the Committee.

Mr. Smith briefly reviewed the report noting that a request had come from the Chebucto Community Council that the level of service at the Household Hazardous Waste facility be increased. Mr. Smith indicated that HRM spends \$300,000/year to operate the depot. Increasing hours of operation is not possible as it costs in the are of \$10,000/day to operate the facility.

Mr. Smith went on to advise, on a related matter, that the Provincial Cabinet has not accepted the proposed Paint Stewardship Program. He went on to indicate that as paint represents approximately 1/4 (\$70,000) of HRM's cost of operating the HHW Depot, this program is extremely important to HRM. Mr. Smith noted that with the program in place HRM could increase the hours of service of the HHW within the existing budget. Mr. Smith noted that staff is asking this Committee to support a more timely implementation of the Paint Stewardship Program.

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Smith that the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee request the Mayor and Council to contact the Premier

and HRM's Members of the Legislative Assembly requesting a timely implementation of the Paint Stewardship Program, a program similar to that which is in place for bottles and tires in Nova Scotia. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.2 CRA Metro Quarterly Survey

- An information memorandum dated December 6, 2001 from Mr. Brian Smith, Director of Solid Waste Resources was distributed to members of Council.

Mr. Smith advised that Solid Waste staff had only recently received the Corporate Research Associates Metro Quarterly Survey results regarding the waste services in HRM. He noted that generally speaking, with the exception of Household Hazardous Waste, the public is satisfied with the collection services provided. Mr. Smith noted that an area breakdown was available, however, staff has not had an opportunity to review the breakdown in detail.

Councillor Meade asked if a breakdown between urban and rural areas had been provided. He went on to indicate that he believed that citizens in the rural areas recycle more than those in urban. If this is found to be correct, the focus of education could/should be targeted to areas with lower participation.

Mr. Smith noted that this survey did not address the urban/rural breakdown. However, staff was indeed looking at how it promoted the program and Councillor Meade's point was a valid one in this regard.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

8.1 Development of Meeting Schedule for 2002

The Committee agreed to the following schedule of meetings for 2002:

January 24, 2002
February 28, 2002
March 28, 2002
April 25, 2002
May 23, 2002
June 27, 2002
September 26, 2002
October 24, 2002
November 28, 2002

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Sherryl Murphy
Assistant Municipal Clerk