

**SOLID WASTE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

February 28, 2008

PRESENT: Councillor Karsten, Chair
Councillor Hendsbee
Councillor Hum
Councillor Meade
Councillor Rankin
Councillor Snow
Councillor Wile

REGRETS: None

STAFF: Mr. Mike Labrecque, Director, Transportation and Public Works
Mr. Jim Bauld, Manager, Solid Waste Resources
Ms. Laurie Lewis, Diversion Planning Coordinator, Solid Waste Resources
Ms. Melody Campbell, Legislative Assistant
Ms. Sandra T. Riley, Legislative Assistant

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The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m. in Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor, City Hall.

Councillor Karsten welcomed the media and Mike Labrecque, Director, Transportation and Public Works.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by Councilor Meade , seconded by Councilor Wile , that the minutes from November 22, 2007 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Additions:

1. Public Participation - Item 7
2. Update - Household batteries - Councillor Hendsbee.

MOVED by Councilor Meade, seconded by Councilor Hum, that the Order of Business, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - None

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - None

6. NEW BUSINESS/REPORTS

6.1 Memorandum - Solid Waste Resource - Update - February 20, 2008

6.1.1 Solid Waste Resources 2008/09

A memorandum dated February 20, 2008 was before the Committee. Mr. Jim Bauld, Manager, Solid Waste Resources gave an overview of the memo along with the attachment item 6.1.1- Solid Waste Resources 2008/09 priorities, emphasizing that the first four items are the major initiatives - Letters A through D. He noted that Council approved the award of the RFP on Tuesday, February 19, 2008.

Councilor Meade enquired as to whether the budget has anything for backyard composters. Mr. Bauld responded that a proposal has been submitted, but is not yet approved. It was advised that every second year money is allocated from the Communication Exercise - Education Budget for backyard composting. HRM acquires them and then members of the public are to pre-register and are subsidized for the cost. Approximately 800 units were sold two years ago.

Mr. Bauld explained that Item E; regarding ByLaw S-604, has a new policy approved which came into effect November 05, 2007. He advised that until the end of January 2008, there had been 159 enquiries about the new policy limit, with only 20 complaints, and the remainder of the calls were just for clarification on the policy. He added that Education Officers are available for home visitations for further clarification on how to maximize recycling and composting, and that education stickers have also been issued. He commented that four weeks in advance of the policy's implementation, notices and letters were sent to residents.

Mr. Bauld advised that an evaluation will be done in the Fall to measure the impact on the increase of composting and recycling and the lessening of waste (both in residential and commercial sectors). If there has not been a noticeable change in waste reduction, Council has indicated they will look at other policies and issues.

Councillor Karsten advised there would be a Waste Symposium in April that the Committee members should attend, as there will be a segment on clear garbage bags.

Councillor Hendsbee requested feedback on compliance to the six bag limit and local Community Centers where Educational Officers had been deployed. The response was that the Community and Recreational Centers in the Eastern Shore were visited (except for three) and while eligible for Municipal pickup, some had such volume of material that they use both curbside pickup and private contractors. It was also advised that some of the centers were composting and some were not.

Councillor Hum requested updates to responses to the six bag limit, including complaints or comments. She stated she would support a further reduction in the bag limit to four rather than six. Mr. Bauld committed to coming back to the Committee with the report after the Spring clean up; possibly in the June meeting. He advised that a Waste Audit will be done to quantify how much organic and recyclables and paper, etc. This will be measured against the audit results taken in 2003-04 to ascertain what the impact has been, at which time this will be brought to Council before Christmas, in advance of the next budget cycle.

Mr. Bauld continued with the memorandum and updated on Items E through G with inquiries from the Committee, which were clarified.

Councillor Hendsbee expressed concern with Item H regarding E-waste. He inquired as to what would be done about the roadside litter of computers and tvs and such as residents are not aware/adjusted to the fact that they can no longer put them out for Municipal pickup. Mr. Bauld responded that roadside litter will be stickered and left for the residents to remove, with information on the nearest E-waste drop off centers. If the refuse is not removed, a ByLaw Compliance Officer or a Police Officer will come out to the residence and give a 24-hour notice for removal.

Mr. Bauld highlighted the major initiatives (Item I) for this year.

6.1.2 By-Law S-600; Churches

Councillor Karsten advised that this issue has arisen again as a result of the fact that there have been a few churches which have been receiving Municipal pickup although this ByLaw had been passed since 1999, and there is one church that still has some concern. He stated that this item has been before the Solid Waste Advisory Committee before without any new recommendations going to Council. He advised that the report tabled for the Committee today is a re-run of the report that went to Council on February 13, 2007.

Mr. Bauld reviewed the report on By-Law S-600; Churches. He clarified that Councillor McCluskey had requested he put together the two-page document as well as the Staff Report that went to Council in February of last year.

Councillor Karsten recognized that Councillor Andrew Younger was in attendance and had some interest in the meeting and has the singular church that has concern in regards to this issue.

Following a lengthy discussion and review, the Committee decided there was no rationale for a motion to recommend amendments to ByLaw S-600.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Steven Taylor, Lower Sackville, addressed the Committee on the issue of apartment buildings complaining about not being able to recycle or compost. He advised that the industries will do it, but the buildings have to pay for it. He asserted that no-one can be forced to recycle or compost, but through the ByLaw and enforcement, it can be done. He stated that the building has to take over responsibility to ensure the occupants do their part. He shared that many calls come in without identification making it impossible to fix the problem. He agreed that residents have to be re-trained and that training is a free service. He advised that residents should stop complicating the issue. Councillor Hum agreed that she has had calls from residents in apartments who will not give names/addresses.

Mr. Taylor also discussed the load rejection at Otter Lake. It was explained that there are limits on contaminants and the public need to be educated on properly sorting waste items, so as not to ruin compost.

8. CORRESPONDENCE- None

9. ADDED ITEMS

Councillor Hendsbee referred back to the report in Item 6.1 regarding a battery recovery program. Mr. Bauld stated Staff is waiting to see what regulations or requirements would apply for a program in schools and are waiting to hear back from the Department

of Environmental Labour. It was clarified that this program would be a school program and would not be run through HRM. Mr. Bauld remarked that they have not gone to the schools yet until they find out what regulations will apply, and therefore, it is not in the business plans as of yet.

Councillor Rankin noted that the information item - Waste Resource System Mass Balance - is a misrepresentation on certain values. Mr. Bauld discussed the concerns and offered clarification.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next scheduled Committee meeting will be held on March 27, 2008 at 2:00 pm at Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor City Hall.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Sandra T. Riley
Legislative Assistant