

SOLID WASTE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 28, 2006

MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillor Reg Rankin, Chair
Councillor Debbie Hum, Vice Chair
Councillor Gary Meade
Councillor Dawn Sloane
Councillor Krista Snow

ABSENT: Councillor Bill Karsten (regrets)
Councillor Jim Smith (regrets)
Councillor Harry McInroy

STAFF and OTHERS: Mr. Jim Bauld, Manager, Solid Waste Resources
Mr. Robert Orr, Collection & Processing Coordinator, Solid
Waste Resources
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant
Councillor Linda Mosher
Councillor Sheila Fougere
Deputy Mayor Russell Walker

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:05 in Halifax Hall, City Hall.

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

Additions:

- 10.1 Extension of Weekly Organics Service to September - Councillor Snow
- 10.2 Unresolved Agenda Item - Councillor Meade

At the request of the Chair, it was agreed that item 9.2 would be moved up on the agenda and dealt with as the first order of business.

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by Councillor Snow, seconded by Councillor Meade that the minutes of June 8, 2006 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

9.2 Refuse/Green Cart/Recyclables Residential Collection Day Adjustments - Halifax Area - Information Report

An information report dated September 19, 2006 was submitted.

Mr. Bauld and Mr. Orr reviewed the information report concerning residential collection day adjustments for refuse, green cart and recyclables.

Mr. Bauld noted that due to significant growth in the Fairmount, Clayton Park, Armdale and Spryfield areas of Halifax there is an imbalance in the number of homes being serviced. He explained that it is not unusual to make adjustments at the beginning or during collection contract cycles, and the contract allows this to be done providing there are benefits to the Municipality and its customers. In addition, these changes will not only benefit the customer but it will keep the tonages at the receiving and processing facility, particularly Otter Lake, in balance.

At 2:09 p.m. Councillor Sheila Fougere entered the meeting.

Mr. Bauld advised that the change has been initiated and will be completed on October 30, 2006. He outlined the communications strategy, noting the following: brightly coloured notices will be delivered door to door by Enviro Care; the HRM Call Centre will be informed of the changes; the Green Newsletter will be mailed out next week and will feature the changes; and, the website has been updated.

A discussion ensued and Mr. Bauld and Mr. Orr responded to questions.

Councillor Sloane noted that the Coast Magazine may also be a good place to post the information about the changes, and that various communities around HRM each have their local newspaper.

Further to this, Councillor Mosher suggested including a notice in the Saturday issue of The Chronicle Herald with the section on municipal notices. She asked staff to contact Mr. Reg Horner of the Chebucto News to have the information included in this publication as well.

Councillor Mosher advised that most of the complaints she receives in regard to garbage pick up are from Purcell's Cove area, mainly the private roads where residents have to bring their garbage up to the top of the street. When there is a snowstorm, the snowplows will plow over the garbage and this results in a mess. She asked if, along with the proposed changes, this area could be started first on Friday.

Mr. Orr advised that he will look at a reroute so that Purcell's Cove could be done first.

Councillor Mosher suggested the public notice be reworded a bit to show that the changes are due to the tremendous amount of growth, and that it will result in a more efficient service to the residents.

Councillor Fougere noted that Chebucto Road and Windsor Street are in the unique situation that collection on each side of the streets are done on different days. She asked if there would be difficulty in changing this so that collection is carried out on both sides of Chebucto Road and both sides of Windsor Street on Monday.

In response, Mr. Bauld noted that Windsor Street has always been the boundary, with the east side collection on Tuesday and west side is Wednesday. He added that this has always been the dividing line, and he did not see any inconsistency with what was done previously. Mr. Bauld indicated that Chebucto Road could be changed. Mr. Bauld also noted that Enviro care will go back on previous day for two weeks and re-issue a notice.

Councillor Fougere suggested that more descriptive information go out to the residents who live on streets which advises that each side of the street has a different collection day. For example, she advised that the information could make reference to even and odd civic numbers instead of using the directions of north and south.

Deputy Mayor Walker noted that streets in his district which are going to have collection on different days, i.e. both sides of a street with different collection days; it will result in confusion. He maintained that all of Fairview should receive collection on the same day. He emphasized the need for good communication and clarity to the public in presenting the information.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Solid Waste Collection Service Standards - Churches - Information Report

An Information Report dated September 11, 2006 was submitted.

Mr. Bauld, referring to the information report indicated that page 4 outlines the reasons why staff is not recommending HRM provide collection services for churches. He added that even though HRM does not provide collection services for churches, staff will assist by providing educational workshops. For example, he noted that this week, staff received a call from St. Andrews Church regarding problems with garbage collection. Mr. Bauld advised that one of the education officer will be providing an education session to assist the Church in how to properly manage their garbage.

Councillor Snow advised that she did not agree with the report and still believed that churches should received collection services in the same manner residences receive the service.

A brief discussion ensued and the Chair noted that the information report did not address what the financial implications.

MOVED by Councillor Snow, seconded by Councillor Sloane that a report be provided on the full financial implications, and any other implications staff may be aware of in providing collection services to churches.

Councillor Hum questioned the taxes that apply to churches and asked that the report also give consideration to any tax implications.

THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.

4.2 Weekly Summer Green Cart Collection - Supplementary Information Report

A Supplementary Information Report dated September 19, 2006 was submitted.

Mr. Bauld advised that staff carried out more monitoring this summer on the extra collection weeks for the months of July and August of the areas receiving the enhanced collection service. He indicated that the submitted information shows results from 2005 and 2006 and is a better measure of the true participation rates in these areas. Mr. Bauld pointed out that the focus was mainly on the rural and suburban areas.

A short discussion ensued and Mr. Bauld noted that at the Committee's last meeting, a motion was passed that staff bring this to a Committee of the Whole meeting for discussion. He commented that if any changes are going to be made with service option requirements in the next proposal for residential collection, staff would need to know by this time next year, when staff will be issuing a Request for Proposals.

Mr. Bauld advised that there was no urgency in bringing this to Council, and that it will be up to the Committee when they want it presented to Committee of the Whole.

The Chair suggested that when the presentation is made, it address the issue of inequity of service.

5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None
6. **CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS** - None
7. **REPORTS** - None
8. **REQUESTS / CORRESPONDENCE:**

8.1 Canada Post Communication - Mailbox Garbage Receptacles

A memorandum dated September 15, 2006 from Laurie Lewis, Diversion Planning Coordinator regarding garbage receptacles at community mailboxes.

There was agreement with Canada Post removing garbage receptacles at community mailboxes. No further action was taken on this issue.

9. NEW BUSINESS (cont.'d):

9.1 Report on Enhancing Diversion - Information Report **- 10% Challenge** **- Round Table, Next Steps**

An information report dated September 19, 2006 was submitted.

Mr. Bauld gave a brief overview of the information report.

Councillor Sloane, referring to the four opportunities for enhancing diversion as outlined in the staff report, advised that there is still an issue with condominium buildings becoming compliant with source separation. She noted that not all buildings have converted, and there were some buildings that have converted but have some issues. Councillor Sloane advised of a particular building she has received a complaint, that it was not separating garbage and had a rodent problem.

Mr. Bauld advised that staff would investigate this matter.

9.3 Waste/Resource System Mass Balance

The following information was submitted:

- Waste/Resource System Mass Balance for the month of August
- Waste/Resource System Mass Balance for Twelve Months - September 2005 to August 2006
- Waste/Resource System Mass Balance Year to Date 01 April 2006 - 31 August 2006; Ten Percent Challenge - Year to Date 01 April 2006 - 31 August 2006.

Mr. Bauld reviewed the submitted information and responded to questions.

In response to a question, Mr. Bauld advised that new standards have been established in regard to finished and usable compost, and that the Province has asked HRM as to how long it believes it will take to meet the new standards. He added that staff is drafting a letter which will essentially say that three years is what HRM is suggesting. Mr. Bauld indicated that he would provide a copy of the letter to the Committee.

10. ADDED ITEMS:

10.1 Extension of Weekly Service to September - Councillor Snow

Councillor Snow asked for a staff report on the associated costs of adding the weekly pickup of organics for the month of September.

The Chair suggested this could be included in the report staff will be presenting at Committee of the Whole, to which Councillor Snow agreed.

10.2 Unresolved Agenda Item - Councillor Meade

Councillor Meade made reference to an agenda item discussed some time ago concerning cemeteries around the Otter Lake area and indicated that staff has not reported back. Councillor Meade advised that he would like a report from Peter Bigelow by the next meeting. He explained that these are three cemeteries on HRM land in the Western Common and he would like to know the implications of someone going in and taking stewardship.

11. NEXT MEETING DATE

It was agreed that next meeting would be at the call of the Chair.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant