

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

WESTERN COMMON WILDERNESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 14, 2009
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PRESENT:

Mr. Bill Matheson
Mr. Dusan Soudek
Mr. Lorne Logan
Ms. Kelly Morrissey
Mr. Michael Lamplugh
Mr. Alan Kitz
Mr. Blake Maybank

REGRETS:

Mr. Phillip Cochrane
Ms. Jane Sears
Mr. Darrell Cooling
Ms. Susan Smith
Councillor Reg Rankin

STAFF:

Mr. Jan Skora, Coordinator, Real Property Planning
Ms. Melody Campbell, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Bill Matheson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm at the Lakeside Recreation Centre.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 20, 2008

MOVED BY Mr. Lamplugh, seconded by Mr. Maybank, that the minutes of February 20, 2008 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED BY Mr. Soudek, seconded by Mr. Maybank, that the Order of Business, as presented, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - NONE

5. PRESENTATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE AND PETITIONS

5.1 Chebucto Wilderness Coalition

Mr. Tom Musial, Ms. Beth McGee, Ms. Catherine Klempents, Mr. Mike Marriot provided an update of the progress and the next steps of the Chebucto Wilderness Coalition to the Committee.

Following the verbal presentation from members of the Chebucto Wilderness Coalition, the Committee discussed the following:

- There was a suggestion of trail linkage throughout the area.
- There was discussion on the possibility of the Western Common Wilderness becoming part of Chebucto Wilderness. It was noted that this would take considerable more discussion if it was decided to go forward.
- Types of trails have to be addressed and the use of all terrain vehicles would need to be determined.
- If all terrain vehicles were permitted, it would be of benefit to have ATV users as part of the process to facilitate the best use for all involved.
- It was noted that if the Western Common were protected, there would be more restrictions on its use.
- Designation of the lands bounded by Highway 103 and 133 could be determined at any time. If this were to happen, the Chebucto Wilderness Coalition advised that they still have much more work to do.

The Chebucto Wilderness Coalition advised that they will keep the Committee apprised of its progress. Mr. Bill Matheson, Chair, and the Committee expressed their appreciation to the members of the Chebucto Wilderness Coalition for their presentation to the Committee.

6. REPORTS

6.1 WCWAC Progress and Future Planning

Members of the Western Common Wilderness Advisory Committee discussed their progress to date. During the discussion, the following issues were brought forward:

- the second draft of the EDM report has been tightened up compared to the first draft
- the whole process seems slow and bureaucratic, the process should be moving faster
- there has to be more public consultation and increased ads notifying the public of consultations
- EDM and HRM should prepare a story and forward it to the media, media interest would be beneficial to the project
- the term wilderness, as a definition, needs to be conveyed
- the types of use needs to be determined. EDM should come up with the types of zoning for the area
- it was suggested that land use be determined with a graduation to the protected area
- HRM has no plan to sell land
- it was noted that in the concept plan, key stakeholders had not been contacted
- there are time limits on the contract, with a conclusion date of April 1st
- there was concern of a land swap
- members also raised concern of a future land fill site

MOVED BY Mr. Lamplugh, seconded by Mr. Soudek, that the Western Common Wilderness Advisory Committee request that representatives of Environmental Design and Management attend a meeting early in February to provide verbal update to the Committee and advise of the progress at this point, the time line, who EDM has met with and yet to meet with and how the Committee can further assist EDM in the process. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7. ADDED ITEMS - NONE

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be determined.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Melody Campbell
Legislative Assistant