

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

WESTERN COMMON WILDERNESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 11, 2009
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PRESENT: Mr. Bill Matheson
 Mr. Dusan Soudek
 Ms. Kelly Morrissey
 Mr. Michael Lamplugh
 Mr. Alan Kitz
 Mr. Blake Maybank
 Ms. Susan Smith
 Councillor Reg Rankin

REGRETS: Mr. Phillip Cochrane
 Ms. Jane Sears
 Mr. Darrell Cooling
 Mr. Lorne Logan

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 7:00 pm at the Lakeside Recreation Centre.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 14, 2009

Item 6.1 - Add mover and seconder to motion

MOVED BY Mr. Soudek, seconded by Mr. Kitz, that the minutes of January 14, 2009, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED BY Mr. Lamplugh, seconded by Ms. Morrissey, 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 - NONE

6. REPORTS

6.1 Western Common Wilderness Progress and Future Planning - Environmental Design Management

Mr. Trevor Hume and Mr. Chris Bates, of Environmental Design Management provided a presentation and a status update of their progress to the Committee. EDM are near completion of their interviews of stakeholders. They provided a map containing information for review. EDM continues to hold workshops with groups related to the project. They advised that a draft proposal will be ready by the end of the month.

Mr. Maybank advised that he has GPS trail coordinates that he will provide to EDM.

Following the presentation, the following concerns were brought forward:

- It was noted that ATV trails are noted on the map and it was advised that WCWAC nor EDM has committed areas for ATV use.
- It was noted that if the trail usage is in ink, it may be construed as fact.
- Discussion ensued on ATV usage on trails, noting that ATVs can damage trails used for walking, running, many times ATVs are not compatible with other types of use. It was advised that the trail usage still has to be evaluated and determined.
- The ATV organization was proposing an east west trail for connectivity.
- It was advised that some lands may not be HRM owned, some lands may be under provincial jurisdiction.
- It was noted that mountain bikers and regular bikers prefer different type trails.
- HRM is promoting active transportation, not areas that accommodate motorized vehicles.

- Concerns were raised regarding noise pollution, from for example, a land fill, ATVs and dirt bikes.
- A visibility analysis must be done to determine the core.
- Forest Management must be part of the plan.
- The plan will go to Council for approval, then to a public information meeting.
- Staff recommend that th plan be addressed in this years budget, through the capital plan.
- Boundaries will be addressed in the concept plan.
- A question was raised regarding the organizations in Ragged Lake and Bayers Lake, with staff advising that they are currently working with these groups and keeping the Western Common Wilderness in mind. Discussions are currently taking place. The draft plans for these areas are online at www.halifax.ca
- It was advised that the slope area at Nicholl Lake not be disturbed.
- It was suggested that the sportfields noted for the area could be located at the new Prospect Road Recreation Centre.
- It is anticipated that the plan go to Council in April.
- It was noted that connectivity must be considered, such as animal crossings on the Prospect Road and wilderness visibility from the roadways. It was noted that if an area were to be developed, it should be at the top or bottom of the wilderness area, not in the middle where it would impede connectivity of the area.

It was suggested that EDM meet with Mr. Paul Euloth, HRM Regional Trail Coordinator, and Mr. John Simmons, HRM Urban Forester, to receive their input on the area.

7. ADDED ITEMS

Ms. Kelly Morrissey advised that the funding is in place for the Prospect Road Recreation Centre. The project is anticipated to start in April 2009.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date is scheduled for Thursday, March 12, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Melody Campbell
Legislative Assistant