

CHEBUCTO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2003

PRESENT: Councillor Linda Mosher, Chair
Councillor Diana Whalen, Vice-Chair
Councillor Russell Walker

ABSENT
WITH REGRETS: Councillor Stephen D. Adams

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Kenny Silver, Manager, Transit Planning & Development
Ms. Lori Patterson, Special Projects Manager, Shared Services
Mr. Jim Donovan, Manager, Planning Applications
Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm in the Keshen Goodman Library, 330 Lacewood Drive, Halifax. Later in the meeting Councillor Mosher recognized MLA Mary Ann McGrath, MLA for Halifax/Bedford Basin.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.1 Regular Meeting - December 2, 2002

CORRECTION:

Councillor Whalen requested the following change to the minutes regarding the Planning Advisory Committee for District 16; page 6, part 2 of Status Sheet Item 5.1.4 shall read: *The Planning Advisory Committee shall, except for any summer recess, meet with Chebucto Community Council at the discretion of Chebucto Community Council. Additional meetings (beyond the monthly meetings) may be held as required or called by the Chair.*

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Whalen, that the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 2, 2002, be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

ADDITIONS:

- 12.1 Linear Park Walkway - snow removal - Councillor Walker
- 12.2 Sidewalk Snow Removal, District 16 - Councillor Whalen
- 12.3 Trash Receptacles - District 16 - Councillor Whalen

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Whalen that the Order of Business be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Status Sheet Items

4.1.1 Places of Worship

! Information report prepared for Mr. Paul Dunphy, Director of Planning and

Development Services, dated December 16, 2002, on the above noted was circulated to Community Council.

Councillor Whalen thanked staff for the promptness of their report. Land availability for Places of Worship in the Master Planning for District 16 has been addressed in the Information Report. This Item to be removed from the Status Sheet.

4.1.2 Trash Receptacles - Regatta Point

Councillor Mosher commented that trash receptacles will be returned to Regatta Point. Due to the problems associated with accessibility to the trash receptacles during the winter months, the receptacles will be placed in a location that will permit ease of access by staff for trash removal. This item to be removed from the Status Sheet.

4.1.3 Seawall Restoration - Sir Sandford Fleming Park

Councillor Mosher commented on the correspondence received from staff confirming use of existing material in construction when making repairs to the seawall at Sir Sandford Fleming Park. This Item to be removed from the Status Sheet.

4.1.4 Off-leash at Frog Pond/Sir Sandford Fleming Park

A staff report was not available for this meeting. Councillor Mosher requested a staff report for the February 3, 2003 meeting.

4.1.5 Truck Idling By-Law

Information Report from Mr. Allan Waye, General Manager, Community Projects, Mr. dated December 19, 2002, on the above noted was circulated to Community Council.

This item was deferred to a future meeting to allow Councillor Adams an opportunity to comment on the issue.

4.1.6 Hazardous Waste Depot-Hours of Operation

Councillor Walker commented that this issue has been addressed at Regional Council and can be removed from the Status Sheet.

4.1.7 Extension of Public Participation - District 16 PAC

Councillor Whalen gave an update on the Planning Advisory Committee for District 16. She

explained that one advertisement was placed in the Chronicle-Herald/Daily News newspapers. There was also some publicity in the Parkview News. Councillor Whalen commented that there have been a number of residents expressing interest. She requested that the deadline be extended to January 17, 2003. This Item to remain on the Status Sheet until the Committee is adopted.

4.1.8 Case #00465: Application for Development Agreement, Lot abutting Civic #89 Purcell's Cove Road (verbal update from staff)

Mr. Jim Donovan commented that there has been an appeal to the Utility and Review Board (URB). He further commented that the matter has been referred to HRM's legal department. Chebucto Community Council will be kept apprised of any decision resulting from the URB appeal. This Item to be removed from status sheet.

4.1.9 Speed Limits - Bayview Road

Councillor Whalen explained there is a joint Transportation Committee of Municipal and Provincial representatives who will discuss the issue of speed limits in this area. She requested that if no decision is forthcoming within a month or two, that Mr. Dave McCusker, Traffic Authority, be asked for an update on lowering of speed limits on Bayview Road and Flamingo Drive.

Councillor Whalen also requested that the minutes reflect Flamingo Drive as well as Bayview Road and asked that this be recorded on the Status Sheet as well. This Item is to remain on the Status Sheet.

5. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION - None

6. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION - None

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - None

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

9. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

9.1 Presentations

9.1.1 Friends of Belcher's Marsh Park, District 16

Mr. Michael O'Brien, 429 Parkland (Woodbury # 502) provided an overview of the "Friends

of Belcher's Marsh Park" and the wetland area itself. Mr. O'Brien submitted a copy of his report to the Clerk.

Mr. O'Brien explained that a group of interested citizens in Glenbourne and Clayton Park West Subdivisions met on December 11, 2002 to select a name for the parkland, trails and waterways surrounding Belcher's Marsh. He raised the following points:

- ! that the land was once owned by Supreme Court Justice, Jonathan Belcher;
- ! that water entries and exits are/could be blocked off by construction in the area, the citizens are interested in preserving the parkland;
- ! referenced a picture of the Marsh, taken two years previous, showing people skating on the marsh;
- ! trails go around the waterway through a woodland setting;
- ! the Marsh area is actively used by the community. There are multi-generational users (longtime residents remember skating on the marshland also). Bikers, skaters, hikers etc. all use the area;
- ! the group would like to apply for recognition as "Friends of Belcher's Marsh Park" from HRM;

Councillor Whalen thanked Michael and Janet O'Brien for spearheading this group. She further explained that the area referred to as Belcher's Marsh Park, was the first in HRM to have trails included in the development. She further commented that she would like to encourage continued exemplary management of this area.

MOVED by Councillor Whalen, seconded by Councillor Walker that the marshland area in District 16 referred to as BELCHER'S MARSH PARK be officially known as BELCHER'S MARSH PARK and that Halifax Regional Municipality's Parks & Open Spaces be contacted to have proper signage installed at the site. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

10. REPORTS

10.1 Transit Services - Staff presentation

- ! A copy of Mr. Silver's presentation was circulated to members of the Community Council.

Mr. Kenny Silver, Manager, Transit Planning and Development gave a brief presentation on the recently completed Metro transit Study.

Mr. Silver explained that Metro Transit has begun to implement the changes suggested by the Transit Study. Three of the changes are as follows:

- ! Increase annual service hours which would increase ridership.

- ! Improve customer satisfaction by: reducing transfer times, improving schedule adherence, and providing safe and effective service.
- ! Productivity and cost effectiveness. Current cost recovery is 70%.

Mr. Silver commented on one change that would affect Districts 15/16 specifically; the creation of Route # 52 Crosstown. The proposed crosstown route would run from Bayers Lake Industrial Park to the Burnside Industrial Park. This would provide a much needed link and eliminate numerous transfers. This new route would allow citizens to access transit from all areas as the route would cross all other routes in the system at a thirty (30) minute frequency. The crosstown route would also provide peak and weekend service to business parks. Mr. Silver explained that the only problem foreseen would be in getting close to the malls in Bayers Lake; a possibility would be for the bus to arrive in one direction but exit staying on Chain Lake Drive. The Crosstown route would replace route 12 and add Route 35. Peak-hour service to downtown would be maintained. Also, Metro Transit is attempting to extend service into Parkland area to service the new Halifax West High School. The Crosstown route from Bayers Lake to Burnside would take 45 - 50 minutes but there would be no transfers needed. There could also be possible peak hour additions such as service during peak hours to Highfield Park area in Dartmouth.

He further explained that this Crosstown Route would cover universities such as Mount Saint Vincent and the hospitals. Discussion is underway to introduce a U-Pass (pass for University Students), which would support more daytime service. The passes would apply to all bus routes.

Mr. Silver explained that during the month of January, staff would be encouraging public feedback and input. He stated that staff are interested in meeting with Residence Associations and/or Community Groups before finalizing the routes.

Councillor Walker commented that the new Halifax West High School is open and Metro Transit should consider this possible demand on the bus routes to this area. He further commented that Westwood is closed and students are being told they do not qualify for bus service. Mr. Silver commented that on Wednesday morning (opening day for Halifax West High School) there will be additional buses brought into service.

Councillor Whalen requested more information on the proposed U-Pass and asked if Mount Saint Vincent University was considering the pass. Mr. Silver responded they had met with all three universities. He further explained that Transit Services is attempting to provide this service with no additional cost to HRM or the riders.

Ms. Lori Patterson, Special Projects Manager, Metro Transit, explained that there have been public meetings, and a notice in the Parkview News to inform the public. Consideration is also being given to doing householders for areas to be impacted and flyers on the buses in

routes that will be affected. The Councillor's Newsletters could be used to announce the changes as well. This will be a five year process. Community Council was advised staff is devising a communication plan to inform the public of the proposed changes/improvements. Ms. Patterson commented that all suggestions on how to reach the communities would be appreciated.

Councillor Mosher commented that during the Boundary Review, Councillor's were requested to give a list of all groups to contact in their areas. She commented that this information would be forwarded to Metro Transit.

PUBLIC INPUT:

A resident asked if there would be an expansion of service hours. She explained that her children work in the restaurant and bar industry and require a safe means of transportation after 1:00 am. Mr. Silver replied there would not be service after midnight. The speaker further commented that some businesses have difficulty keeping staff due to the lack of transit service after midnight.

Ms. Patterson explained that the second stage of the Transit Study addresses the issue of hours of service.

Mr. Hiram Tiller

Mr. Tiller commented that the staff presentation was excellent. He also asked if bus bays were considered on Lacewood Drive going towards Bayers Lake. Mr. Silver commented that it is better for Transit to stay in traffic and not construct the bays as it is more difficult for the buses to get back into traffic.

Mr. Tiller further commented on traffic calming measures in the Flamingo Drive area and asked how Metro Transit feels about maneuvering around the chicanes/islands etc. Mr. Silver commented that other cities use chicanes/islands and providing they are designed properly, they could work well. Mr. Silver further commented that there is a very good working relationship with the traffic department to ensure buses can maneuver.

10.2 Case #00538 - Cost-sharing for oversized streets - Glenbourne Subdivision

Mr. Jim Donovan, Planning and Development Services, gave a brief oral report regarding cost-sharing for oversized streets in the Glenbourne Subdivision.

Mr. Donovan explained that this issue relates to a decision last summer to approve a Development Agreement for the final phases of Glenbourne Subdivision. He explained that

at the time cost-sharing costs were not known and would be reported at a later date. The report is not yet available due to:

- ! assumption that cost to be shared dealt with just that area.
- ! project has taken several years to complete and inflationary issues are to be considered as construction costs have increased.
- ! discussion with developer on what would / would not be cost shared.

Mr. Donovan explained they will be ready for the 2003 Capital budget deliberation.

Councillor Whalen clarified that this issue is regarding cost for widening streets if they need to be widened. Mr. Donovan explained that they had asked for oversized streets from the Developer and that HRM agreed to cost-share. He explained that HRM is not required to pay out until the project is complete so there is not an immediate deadline. He commented that there will be a meeting with Finance and a report will be ready for the February 3, 2003 meeting of Chebucto Community Council.

11. MOTIONS - None

12. ADDED ITEMS

12.1 Linear Park Walkway - Snow Removal

Councillor Walker commented that he has received numerous complaints from residents regarding the snow removal method of owners of an apartment building in his District. The snow from the apartment building's parking lot is being piled so high that the walkway to Linear Park is blocked.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Whalen that HRM staff provide an information report on the problem of snow being piled and blocking the walkway at Linear Park which is located close to the indoor soccer facility and Lacewood Drive. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

12.2 Sidewalk Snow removal, District 16

Councillor Whalen advised that District 16 will be calling a public meeting within the next two months regarding sidewalk snow removal similar to the pilot project in District 15. Councillor Mosher requested that Districts 17 and 18 be included and that HRM Staff be informed of the proposed public meetings on sidewalk snow removal in Districts 16, 17 and 18.

12.3 Location of Trash Receptacles and Emptying of Trash Receptacles at Hemlock Ravine Park and Belcher's Marsh Park.

MOVED by Councillor Whalen, seconded by Councillor Walker that HRM Staff install Trash Receptacles at Hemlock Ravine Park and Belcher's Marsh Park in areas that will enable staff to ensure the trash receptacles are emptied on a regular basis. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION - None

14. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Hiram Tiller: 4 Thackery Close

Mr. Tiller, referencing snow clearing on Turnmill and Thackery Close, commented that he does not think snowplough operators should be blocking off streets or roads.

Regarding traffic calming, Mr. Tiller noted the issue of speed limits has been on the books for six months. He further commented that everything has to go back to the provincial government and questioned whether HRM also has to go to the provincial government to get the chicanes installed. Mr. Tiller asked, if there were an accident because of the chicanes, who would be responsible, HRM or the Province?

He referenced the 100' section of pavement that joins Park Sidewalk to Lacewood sidewalk and asked why the blacktop was joined up with cement. Councillor Whalen advised the blacktop could be a temporary material as the road is to be widened in the spring and proper concrete will be put in at that time.

After third call for public speakers was made, the Public Participation was closed.

15. NEXT MEETING DATE - Monday, February 3, 2003

16. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor Whalen, seconded by Councillor Walker that the meeting be adjourned at 8:20 pm. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chris Newson
Legislative Assistant