

MARINE DRIVE, VALLEY AND CANAL  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
February 10, 2003

PRESENT:                   Councillor Keith Colwell, Chair  
                              Councillor Steve Streach  
                              Councillor Gary Hines

STAFF:                     Ms. Julia Horncastle, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER .....	04
2.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES - November 25, 2002 and January 28, 2003 .....	04
3.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS .....	04
4.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES .....	04
5.	MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION - NONE .....	04
6.	MOTIONS OF RESCISSION - NONE .....	04
7.	CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS .....	04
8.	VARIANCE HEARING	
8.1	Appeal of Variance Refusal - 108 Soonul Lane - Abbecombic Village - Clam Bay .....	04
9.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS	
9.1	Correspondence - None .....	05
9.2	Petitions .....	05
10.	REPORTS	
10.1	Area Rate - LWF Ratepayers Association .....	05
10.2	Fence Permit Application - 54 Spider Lake Road, Waverley .....	05
10.3	Appointment and Reappointment to the Halifax/Halifax County Watershed Advisory Board .....	05
11.	MOTIONS .....	06
12.	ADDED ITEMS .....	06
13.	NOTICES OF MOTION .....	06
14.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	
(i)	Budget Process .....	06

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

MARINE DRIVE, VALLEY AND CANAL

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES

3

FEBRUARY 10, 2003

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15. NEXT MEETING ..... 07

16. ADJOURNMENT ..... 07

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p .m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - November 25, 2002 and January 28, 2003**

**MOVED by Councillor Streach, seconded by Councillor Hines, that the minutes of November 25, 2002 and January 28, 2003, be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

Councillor Hines requested item 10.1, Area Rate - LWF Ratepayers Association be deferred to a later date.

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

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE**

**5. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION - NONE**

**6. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION - NONE**

**7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE**

**8. VARIANCE HEARING**

**8.1 Appeal of Variance Refusal - 108 Soonul Lane - Abbecombic Village - Clam Bay**

- A report from Kevin Warner, Development Officer - Eastern Region, dated February 3, 2003, on the above noted, was before Community Council.

Mr. Kevin Warner, Development Officer, with the aid of overheads, presented the staff report.

In response to Councillor Streach, Mr. Warner advised there is room to move the house

noting, there are no neighbours on either side of the property.

Ms. Ester Rawlings, Proponent, addressed Community Council advising the house is on a private road. She indicated that it would be very expensive to move the house.

Mr. Sparrow, purchaser, stated he does not feel the house is too close to the street and noted that the house is located on a private road.

Councillor Colwell asked if there were any other speakers. Hearing none, the following motion was placed.

**MOVED by Councillor Streach, seconded by Councillor Hines, that the Community Council overturn the decision of the Development Officer, thereby allowing the variance. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**9. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

**9.1 Correspondence - None**

**9.2 Petitions - None**

**10. REPORTS**

**10.1 Area Rate - LWF Ratepayers Association**

This item was deferred to the next meeting under the approval of the Order of Business.

**10.2 Fence Permit Application - 54 Spider Lake Road, Waverley**

- A report prepared for Mr. Paul Dunphy, Director, Planning and Development Services, dated January 23, 2003, on the above noted, was before Community Council.

Mr. Jim Donovan, Acting Manager, Permits & Inspections, presented the staff report.

**MOVED by Councillor Hines, seconded by Councillor Streach, that Marine Drive, Valley & Canal Community Council authorize staff to approve the application to issue a building permit for the construction of a fence at 54 Spider Lake Road, Waverley. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**10.3 Appointments and Reappointments to the Halifax/Halifax County**

**Watershed Advisory Board**

- A report from the Halifax/Halifax County Watershed Advisory Board, dated January 23, 2003, on the above noted, was before Community Council.

**MOVED by Councillor Streach, seconded by Councillor Hines, that the Community Council appoint or reappoint the members of the Halifax/Halifax County Watershed Advisory Board and ratify reappointments of the representatives of various community based organizations within the Municipality. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

11. **MOTIONS - NONE**
12. **ADDED ITEMS - NONE**
13. **NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE**
14. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Budget Process**

Mr. Gordon Roussell, Financial Services, with the aid of overheads, presented the report noting the following:

- Where HRM is today
  - Multi-Year Financial Strategy
  - Pay-as-you-go
  - Tax Rates Declining
  - Long Term Capital Plan
- Moving Forward - Strategic Initiatives
  - Regional Planning
  - Community Response Initiatives
  - Improved Transit Service
  - Public Participation
- Budget Process
- The Capital Budget Shortfall
- Total Assessment Values 2002-03 and 2003-04
- Fiscal Challenges
- Options

In response to Councillor Streach, Mr. Roussell advised in order to address the debt without raising taxes business units are requested to examine business practices and whether they can deliver services cheaper.

On further question, Mr. Roussell advised assets are streets and roads, buildings, fleet, street lighting and sewers.

Ms. Loretta Halloran stated that she does not feel the residents in the rural areas are getting good service for the taxes they pay.

In response to Mr. Randy Baker as to the status of the review of one tax structure for HRM, Mr. Roussell advised that some services will no longer be area rated and will be a part of the general rate. He noted there are now three rates and HRM is examining such things as one rate for fire protection which would mean a decrease in some areas and an increase in others.

Mr. Sparrow suggested there is a no win situation for taxpayers and suggested HRM look at what other cities are doing as a reference in creating a benchmark.

Mr. David Dwyer stated the downloading from other levels of government has to be changed.

Councillor Colwell thanked Mr. Roussell for his presentation and the members of the public for their input.

**15.            NEXT MEETING**

To be determined.

**16.            ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED by Councillor Hines, seconded by Councillor Streach, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:15 p.m. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Julia Horncastle  
Legislative Assistant