



PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Halifax Regional Council
December 9, 2003

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Paynter", written over a horizontal line.

Rick Paynter, P.Eng., Director, Public Works and Transportation Services

DATE: November 28, 2003

SUBJECT: Ditching Repairs - Forest Hills Parkway

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Halifax Regional Council meeting of September 23, 2003, Item 10.5.3.

BACKGROUND

At the Halifax Regional Council meeting held on September 23, 2003, Councillor Cooper moved that staff examine providing a solution to a problem created by ditching along the Forest Hills Parkway adjacent to Cole Harbour Place, and staff examine a process to evaluate negative impacts on residential properties when the municipality undertakes such work. This report is in response to that motion.

DISCUSSION

On the west side of Forest Hills Parkway, near the traffic lights at Cole Harbour Place, there is a 1200 mm diameter storm sewer inlet pipe with a concrete headwall and aluminum railing.

Immediately upstream of the inlet structure, there are gabion retaining walls on each side of an existing ditch. Each retaining wall is approximately 2 m high and 3 m long.

The ditch is approximately 2 m deep and has steep side slopes with an approximate horizontal to vertical slope of 1:1. Litter gathers on the side slopes and bottom of the ditch. Local residents, who have taken the initiative to clean the public ditch system, have complained that the depth and steep side slopes of the ditch make it difficult to clean.

Based on an internal review of this issue, staff conclude that residents should not be involved with the cleaning of this public ditch system. The shape and depth of the ditch does not create an unusual and difficult maintenance problem for staff of Technical Underground Services (TUGS) who have committed to clean this area on a more frequent basis. If residents observe that the ditch requires additional cleaning, they will be encouraged to contact TUGS directly to address the problem. Additionally, staff have confirmed with HRM Streets and Roads Services that litter baskets will be installed near the entrance of the existing walkway and on the east side of Forest Hills Drive adjacent to the high school to facilitate proper litter disposal.

It is noted that other options were explored to address the concerns of the residents. The options included the extension of the existing gabion walls (at a cost estimate of \$25,000) and the extension of the existing 1200 mm diameter storm pipe (at a cost estimate of \$45,000). The option of extending the walls would eliminate the sloping problem; however staff recommends against this due to the cost implications and safety concerns. With respect to the extension of the 1200 mm diameter storm pipe, staff also recommends against this option for the following reasons:

- The existing ditch system provides stormwater retention and absorption,
- The cost to extend this pipe is high,
- There is no benefit to extend the pipe from a capacity standpoint and,
- Extending the pipe would not eliminate the litter problem.

Regarding a process to evaluate negative impacts on residential properties, it is noted that HRM makes every effort to minimize impacts on private properties during the design and construction phases of a project. In this particular situation, the ditching system along Forest Hills Parkway is located entirely within the street right-of-way which is owned and maintained by HRM. During the design phase of this drainage system, staff determined that the steeper than normal side slopes for the ditch was a safe and cost effective solution that would minimize the impact on the adjacent private property and roadway surface.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications at this time.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES

There are no recommended alternatives at this time.

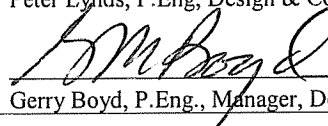
ATTACHMENT

Photograph taken on November 10, 2003 showing existing conditions of the area.

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Peter Lynds, P.Eng, Design & Construction, 490-6898

Approved by:


Gerry Boyd, P.Eng., Manager, Design and Construction Services, 490-4845

PL/bhs

