

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 8, 2005

PRESENT:

Mayor Peter Kelly
Deputy Mayor Len Goucher
Councillors: Steve Streach
Krista Snow
David Hendsbee (2:20 p.m.)
Harry McInroy
Gloria McCluskey
Andrew Younger
Bill Karsten
Becky Kent
Jim Smith
Mary Wile
Patrick Murphy
Dawn Sloane
Sue Uteck (2:25 p.m.)
Sheila Fougere
Russell Walker
Debbie Hum
Linda Mosher (2:40 p.m.)
Brad Johns
Robert Harvey
Reg Rankin
Gary Meade

ABSENT
WITH REGRETS:

Councillor Brad Johns

STAFF:

Mr. George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - NONE

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

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Deputy Mayor Goucher, that the Order of Business, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. FAST FERRY PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Dave McCusker, Manager Transportation, Regional Planning, provided an update on the Bedford Fast Ferry Project advising:

- C Staff has defined specs for what the vessel will look like and how it will operate.
- C Staff has sought expressions of interest for Marine Architects to identify their interest in the project and four firms have been short-listed.
- C There is a Ferry Cultivation Study underway which creates an environment within which the ferry can thrive.
- C An application has been made to ACOA for fifty percent of the funding of the project. Once an agreement is reached with ACOA staff will come back to Council with an agreement to consider proceeding with the study.
- C Staff has had discussions with Waterfront Development with regards to the terminal site in Bedford with locating on Phase 2 of the Bedford Waterfront Project.
- C Staff has agreed to hire a consultant that will do some background research on the Project siting land value issues and access and will facilitate discussion between the two parties and come up with a plan.
- C There has been some preliminary scoping done on the building capacity and layout and how the Bedford ferries will fit into the Halifax site.
- C Staff is examining the possibility of chartering a vessel from one of the operators in New England for a couple of days during the tourist off peaks to do wake wash testing to demonstrate this type of vessel does not create any impacts greater than existing harbour users.

In response to Councillor Johns, Mr. McCusker advised the total estimated cost is approximately fourteen million dollars for the vessels, terminal modification and parking at the Bedford site.

Mr. McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer, advised HRM is still waiting for discussions with other levels of government and the final HRM cost is not available at the present time .

Deputy Mayor Goucher expressed concern with the Waterfront Development time line and asked what steps are currently being taken to bring time lines together. In response, Mr. McCusker advised staff is intending to have some facilitated discussions around that issue. Staff is looking to acquire the services of a third party to help with those negotiations.

Deputy Mayor Goucher noted this is not a Bedford project but is part of the overall Regional Transportation Plan.

McCusker advised a determination has to be made with respect to the impacts ferry ridership would have on reducing traffic volumes on the roadway network. One of the elements is a market survey to confirm some of the assumptions that have already been made on potential ridership and some of the elasticity to fare differentials.

Councillor Harvey stated at some point information has to be provided on how many cars are coming off the Bedford Highway, the Bicentennial and the Magazine Hill.

Mayor Kelly thanked staff for their presentation.

5. PROPOSED BY-LAW A-300, RESPECTING ANIMAL CONTROL

C A report dated January 20, 2005 was before Council.

C A copy of the PowerPoint presentation slides was circulated to Council.

Ms. Andrea MacDonald, Manager, Community Project, presented the report to Council.

MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Sloane that Council maintain status quo relative to any regulations regarding cat control.

Councillor Harvey stated something more than status quo has to be offered to residents. He noted there is a concern with regards to children ingesting soil that may have been contaminated by cats.

Councillor Smith stated he does not agree with status quo. He stated this is an issue of animal health and suggested perhaps a neutering and spaying by-law might be more of an answer than addressing the symptoms of cat over population.

Councillor Hendsbee stated there should be a voluntary registration for cats. There should be some way for residents to respond themselves.

Councillor McInroy stated HRM owes it to residents to put something in place supporting the alternative. Costs and enforcement should be minimal but something in place so that HRM can respond if there is a problem that needs to be dealt with.

Councillor Karsten suggested the status quo be maintained with an understanding that something be posted on the website with regards to disturbances and how to deal with them. He stated he does not feel a by-law would make things manageable.

Councillor Murphy have to show taxpayers there is some deterrent for people that don't look after their pets.

Councillor Wile noted a lot of responsibility is left to the citizen and not the owner of the cat.

Councillor Fougere stated she was voting for the recommendation as she does not believe the alternatives are a solution. The resources are not there to provide the service at a level that people expect and she does not believe the alternatives cover mechanisms that may be required to address cat issues.

Councillor Mosher stated there are health concerns as well as the fact that they wreck property and gardens. She stated she would be supportive of a spay and neuter by-law.

Councillor Smith suggested that if it goes forward he would like staff address spay and neuter program.

Councilor Hendsbee stated status quo is not sufficient.

MOTION DEFEATED.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee, that Council approve in principle the Section respecting the Regulation of Cats (attached as appendix A to the staff report dated January 20), to be included in the pending By-Law A-300, Respecting Animals and Prohibited Animals. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Jan Gibson
Municipal Clerk

