

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
MAY 3, 2005
(Afternoon Session)

PRESENT:

Mayor Peter J. Kelly
Deputy Mayor Len Goucher
Councillors: Steve Streach
Krista Snow
David Hendsbee
Harry McInroy (2:00 p.m.)
Gloria McCluskey
Andrew Younger (1:35 p.m.)
Bill Karsten
Becky Kent (2:00 p.m.)
Jim Smith (1:35 p.m.)
Mary Wile
Patrick Murphy
Dawn Sloane
Sue Uteck
Sheila Fougere
Russell Walker
Debbie Hum
Linda Mosher
Brad Johns
Robert Harvey
Reg Rankin
Gary Meade

REGRETS:

Councillor: Stephen Adams

STAFF:

Mr. Dan English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Sherryll Murphy, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

2. DRAFT REGIONAL PLAN

Transportation (cont'd)

Discussion regarding the Transportation portion of the plan resumed with the following points being brought forward:

- In response to a question regarding the status of the Capital Transportation Authority, Mr. Rick Paynter indicated that Bill 64 has been abandoned. The original intent to have a legislated authority has been found to be unnecessary. The present proposal is to have a Joint Regional Transportation Committee to deal with transportation issues.
- Concern that indicating rail transportation may be a possibility for HRM is giving false hope to those in favour of rail transportation. The present plan does not appear to give a high priority to rail transportation over the next 20 years. If the possibility is to be taken to the public, a synopsis of the study findings should be made available.
- Hopefully HRM has the foresight to look beyond 25 years and will not overlook the opportunity to purchase available rail lines when the Province has them for sale in 2007. Rail travel from Windsor Junction, Bedford and Rockingham to downtown Halifax was quite popular in the mid 1900's.
- Active Transportation Plan is to incorporate options for cycling and walking.
- Consultant be requested to consider the possibility of pieces of sidewalk that are not used being converted to bicycle use.
- The Active Transportation Plan Terms of Reference do include ATV use and how HRM will be dealing with issues around their use.
- Concern that Eastern Passage has been overlooked with regard to transportation in terms of bus service.

MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Deputy Mayor Goucher that Eastern Passage be recognized in the 25 year plan for fast ferry service, as well as, Bedford, Birch Cove and Purcell's Cove. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

- How will the plan address situations such as that which exists on Lacewood Drive (a four lane major roadway into Halifax) where people have difficulty getting out of their driveways?
- In terms of the proximity of buses to routes and the storage of buses, the garage in Burnside is at capacity and work will begin to site garages in other areas of HRM.
- Has any attempt been made to secure lands behind the Burger King in District 17 on

which a popular mountain bike trail is located?

MOVED by Councillor McInroy, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee that the priority level be increased for the Shearwater Bypass and the cross connector from Highway 107 and 207 at Exit 17. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Councillor Fougere, seconded by Councillor Sloane that the possibility of Bayers Road being widened to four lanes be re-considered. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- Concern expressed that there is only one exit from Windsor Junction.

MOVED by Councillor Stretch, seconded by Councillor Snow that Committee of the Whole adjourn at 4:00 p.m. and reconvene at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 10, 2005.

Note was made that in order to keep to the time line, staff will need to have the Plan endorsed for consultation on Tuesday.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

2:40 p.m. - Mayor Kelly left the meeting and Deputy Mayor Goucher assumed the Chair.

Settlement

- Correspondence dated April 28, 2005 from Doris Maley, HRM Regional Planning Committee, regarding affordable housing was before Committee of the Whole for consideration.

Mr. Austin French, Manager, Settlements and Mr. Peter Duncan, Manager, Environment presented the Settlement portion of the Plan. A copy of the presentation is on file.

3:00 p.m. - Mayor Kelly resumed the Chair and Deputy Mayor Goucher took his seat in Council.

Following the presentation a discussion ensued including the following points:

- Councillor Uteck confirmed that Doris Maley is a member of the Regional Planning Committee, but the correspondence before Council is not endorsed by the Committee.
- The plan before Council does not appear to address the existing realities with infill on the Peninsula (i.e. single family dwellings being converted to little more than rooming houses). Immediate measures are needed to halt this trend.

- In response to a comment that the Settlement portion of the plan is very specific while the remainder of the Plan is general, Mr. French explained that settlement affects property rights and has to be specific in order to be implemented as per the Act.
- In response to concern regarding the development of only four lots on existing streets and one lot on a new street proposal, Mr. French explained that in addition development of open space centers is permitted and can be as large as the developer wishes. These developments must be adjacent to an existing development.

MOVED by Councillor Streach, seconded by Councillor Snow that Elmsdale and Jeddore be considered as corridors of development rather than circles of development. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- Concern expressed that only water services and not sewer services are planned for Beaverbank/Kinsac area there is a belief this will be a prime location for infill development.
- Suggestion that the proposal that developers be permitted to give money in lieu of including affordable housing in their developments will create ghettos. Staff responded the intent is that money in lieu of housing would not be overused and assurances were given that care would be taken to ensure this didn't happen.
- Note made that the proposal is that no new private roads will be permitted under the Regional Plan.

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Murphy that the issue of whether Rainnie Drive site continue to be identified as an Opportunity Site for potential development be reviewed during the public consultation.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee that Committee of the Whole Council reconvene on Thursday, May 5, 2005 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Jan Gibson
Municipal Clerk