

**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES**

October 18, 2005

PRESENT:

Mayor Peter Kelly
Deputy Mayor Len Goucher
Councillors: Steve Streach
David Hendsbee
Gloria McCluskey
Andrew Younger
Bill Karsten
Becky Kent
Jim Smith
Mary Wile
Patrick Murphy
Dawn Sloane
Sue Uteck
Sheila Fougere
Russell Walker
Debbie Hum
Linda Mosher
Brad Johns
Reg Rankin
Gary Meade

REGRETS:

Councillor Krista Snow
Harry McInroy
Stephen Adams
Robert P. Harvey

STAFF:

Mr. Dan English, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - None

3. REGIONAL PLAN

- An Information Report dated October 13, 2005 was before Council.
- A copy of the *PowerPoint* presentation was circulated at this time. A copy is on file.
- A copy of the Regional Plan Update (blue fact sheet), dated October 17, 2005, for public distribution was before Council at this time. A copy is on file.

Mr. Austin French, Project Manager, Regional Plan assisted by Dr. Hugh Millward, Chair of the Regional Planning Committee, and Ms. Susan Corser, Planner, presented the report.

Dr. Millward outlined the four pillars of growth as follows:

- Natural Environment
- Growth Centres
- Linking Communities
- Fiscally Sustainable & A Strong Economy

Dr. Millward advised that Regional Plan updates are scheduled to be presented at the fall sessions of the six Community Councils. A report will be going forward to Regional Council on December 6, 2005 with a public hearing intended for January 2006.

Councillor Mosher arrived at 2:00 pm.

Ms. Corser advised that a blue fact sheet (Regional Plan Update) is in the process of being printed and will be distributed to all homes in HRM this week.

Members of Council raised the following comments/concerns during the ensuing discussion:

- Various members of Council raised concern with fact sheets being distributed to the public without a final review by the District Councillor. Some members of Council indicated it was their understanding that each District Councillor would have an opportunity to review the information prior to distribution. Councillors stressed the importance and necessity for the area Councillor to be up to date on the information being circulated in order to respond to questions that may arise from the public.
- Members of Council also stressed that staff be prepared to outline the implications of the Regional Plan and provide answers to district specific questions at the Community Council sessions.

Mayor Kelly left the Chair at 2:36 pm. Deputy Mayor Goucher assumed the chair at this time.

- Various Councillors stressed the importance of a glossary to define terms such as “shall” or “should” and “as-of-right” vs. “development agreement”. It was suggested that the glossary be posted on the web for the public.

Councillor Smith arrived at 2:50 pm.

Deputy Mayor Goucher called a ten minute recess at 3:00 pm.

Councillor Sloane arrived at 3:00 pm.

Council resumed at 3:13 pm.

Mayor Kelly returned to the Chair at 3:15 pm.

Councillor Streach expressed concern that there may be implications of this Regional Plan that he as a Councillor is not aware of and something may have been overlooked. He requested that staff remain open to any additional comments that may come forward from area residents at the Community Council sessions.

Councillor Smith commented that there was an understanding that the Regional Plan would address current traffic issues when in reality it will alleviate traffic coming in the future with nothing to address the current problems.

Mr. French responded that if staff receive feedback at the Community Council meetings that is deserving of further discussion, that information will be brought back to Regional Council for consideration and a decision as to whether or not any further changes to the revised draft would be warranted.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Jan Gibson
Municipal Clerk