

PENINSULA COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES

April 16, 2012

PRESENT: Councillor Jennifer Watts, Chair
Councillor Jerry Blumenthal, Vice Chair
Councillor Dawn Sloane

REGRETS: Councillor Sue Uteck

STAFF: Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal that the minutes of March 5, 2012 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Sloane that the agenda be approved as presented.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES/STATUS SHEET

4.1 Business Arising: None

4.2 Status Sheet:

4.2.1 Information Report: Land Use By-law Regulation of Heat Pumps

An information report dated March 12, 2012 was submitted.

Councillor Sloane noted that Councillor Uteck had requested the report. She suggested that since Councillor Uteck was unable to be in attendance this evening, that the report remain on the Status Sheet until Councillor Uteck has opportunity to advise whether she is satisfied with the information received.

The Chair indicated that this item would remain on the Status Sheet and would be placed on the regular agenda of the next Community Council meeting.

**4.2.2 Information Report: Historic Irishtown Special District Signage Project
Irishtown**

An information report dated March 2012 was submitted.

Councillor Sloane, in referring to the information report, advised that she was pleased to see that this project will be going forward.

This item is to be removed from the Status Sheet.

5. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION: None

6. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION: None

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS: None

8. HEARINGS:

8.1 Public Hearings: None

8.2 Variance Appeal Hearings: None

9. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS:

9.1 Correspondence: None

9.2 Petitions: None

9.3 Presentations:

9.3.1 Friends of Schmidville Re: Information Report on Interim Land Use Bylaw Changes for Schmidville

A brochure entitled, *Schmidville, an Historic neighbourhood in the heart of a modern city* was circulated.

Mr. Garth Bennett and Mr. Larry Haiven, representing Friends of Schmidville provided a presentation in response to the staff information report on Interim Land Use Bylaw Changes for Schmidville which was submitted to Peninsula Community Council's February 13, 2012 meeting.

Mr. Bennett began the presentation by introducing the following area residents sitting in the public gallery who were in attendance in support of the Friends of Schmidville application for heritage conservation designation: Margaret Ann Bennett, Judy and Larry Haiven, Dina Desveaux, and Margie Venoit

Mr. Bennett advised that Community Council has been very supportive of their efforts over the past few years and he thanked the Community Council members and staff for their support and work to date on their application.

Mr. Bennett advised that the Friends of Schmidville recently received a study they commissioned from graduates of Dalhousie University's planning school on the special heritage nature of the community. In addition to this, Mr. Bennett added that for the past few months, they acquired the services of an intern from the Planning School who provided them with the following information: an update on the historic nature; notable residents of the area; and architectural details of 11 houses in the neighbourhood (bringing their total to 20); a population pyramid for Schmidville from the 2006 census; a profile of the year of dwelling construction; private dwelling types; several historic maps of the district illustrating houses and local manufacturers as well as lists of residents and their occupations at several historic periods going back to the 1870's. Also, a template was provided so they can continue to add to that part of their historic research.

Referring to the information report, Mr. Bennett indicated that it plays down the sense of urgency the residents feel and what Community Council indicated when they made their presentation to Community Council last year. Mr. Bennett added that the purpose of this evening's presentation was to ask Community Council to re-evaluate the situation and support moving up their heritage application. He noted that the current timeline they have been given for their application is approximately six years, but that they would like this moved up due to the concern of encroachment on the area.

Mr. Haiven addressed Community Council and provided an overview of the history of Schmidville and elaborated on the architecture and the historical nature of various homes in the area. Mr. Haiven explained that the reason they wish to have their application dealt with as soon as possible is due to the continual development that is encroaching on the area and is threatening the unique historic character of their neighbourhood. Mr. Haiven requested Community Council's support in expediting their application.

Councillor Sloane advised that she was supportive of the group's request and was very appreciative of the work they have been doing. Noting that there was community support for the application and that the Friends of Schmidville have done significant work in regard to the application, Councillor Sloane indicated that she was prepared to move a motion in support of their request to have their application moved up on the list of areas under consideration for heritage designation.

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal that Peninsula Community Council recommends Regional Council approve expediting the Schmidville application on the priority listing of Heritage Conservation Districts and that it be dealt with immediately following the review of the Barrington South district.

Mr. Richard Harvey, Senior Planner responded to questions from Community Council.

In response to a question from the Chair in regard to the status of their application, Mr. Harvey explained that, as the information report states, there is much staff support in recognizing Schmidville as a special area and that it warrants the designation of heritage conservation district. He added that, however, with the initiatives of the Regional Centre project and Corridor studies underway, the issue is a matter of staff resources and the priorities Council has set through the Downtown Plan. Mr. Harvey advised that if the motion on the floor is approved by Community Council and Regional Council, then staff would look at revisiting the ordering.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.3.2 Peggy Cameron – North Common/Oval

Ms. Peggy Cameron, Co-chair, Friends of the Halifax Common advised that the primary interest of the Friends of Halifax Common is to ensure that planning for the Halifax Common takes the long term view and is sustainable. She advised that the 1994 Halifax Common Plan formally adopted by Halifax City Council commits HRM to recapture or increase public lands and public open space on the Common but she felt that HRM isn't doing well in this regard. She explained that, unfortunately, there's still a lack of cohesion for securing public green space and suggested, for example, on the South Common the priority has been parks for cars, not parks for people. Ms. Cameron advised that the Municipality was missing opportunities particularly at a time when it is expected that the population of the Peninsula will increase by 25,000 new residents in the coming 15-20 years

Ms. Cameron referred to the Municipality's recent Request for Proposals for a building at the Oval and questioned that with a limited amount of money available, and with many facilities in disrepair, should money be spent on a new building that is focused on a single short season. She suggested that this matter should not be rushed and that the Municipality maybe missing out on opportunities to redesign the Central Common and find creative solutions.

In conclusion, Ms. Cameron questioned who was looking at the details and at the Common as a whole.

Councillor Sloane provided updates on some of the plans for the Common she was aware of.

The Chair noted that it is unclear as to what is happening on the Common and suggested that it may be appropriate for Community Council to request an information report providing an update.

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal that staff provide an information report outlining the current plans for the Halifax Common, and that timelines associated with these plans. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10. REPORTS:

10.1 Staff Reports: None

10.2 Committee Reports: None

10.3 Members of Peninsula Community Council: None

11. MOTIONS: None

12. ADDED ITEMS: None

13. NOTICES OF MOTION: None

14. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Beverly Miller, Halifax, addressed Community Council and commented on the presentations. With regard to the Halifax Common, she advised that it was extremely crucial to have sustainable planning as there is currently no planning for additional green space and this is done with the knowledge that the Peninsula is expected to have 25,000 additional residents over the next two decades. Ms. Miller advised that she strongly support Schmidville's application for Heritage Conservation Designation.

Ms. Miller advised that she participated in the Centre Plan Community Consultation meeting on the Agricola Street corridor and was concerned that she did not receive a satisfactory answer when she asked if there was protection for existing homes and small businesses. Ms. Miller pointed out that individuals and small businesses in this area have put in a significant amount of money in rejuvenating the area and she was concerned that in the Centre Plan process staff have made no provision to protect what is existing.

Mr. Phil Pacey, Halifax, addressed Community Council and spoke in regard to an e-mail he had sent to the members of Peninsula Community Council earlier in the day concerning comments Councillor Uteck had made in the media about an application for redevelopment of the Fenwick Towers building. Mr. Pacey also spoke about the application advising that he believed it was unnecessary for the developer to extend the building an additional 3.5 feet on the east side. He added that this will require an amendment to the View Planes and he expressed concern about the precedent this would set. Mr. Pacey indicated that if any Councillors wished to discuss this further with him, he would be pleased to do so after the meeting.

15. NEXT MEETING DATE: May 14, 2012

16. IN CAMERA: NONE

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 a.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant