

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 3, 2011

PRESENT: Councillors: Peter Lund, Chair
Debbie Hum, Vice Chair
Barry Dalrymple
Lorelei Nicoll
Jennifer Watts
Dawn Sloane

REGRETS: Councillors: Darren Fisher
Jackie Barkhouse

STAFF: Mr. Phillip Townsend, Director, Infrastructure and Asset
Management
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor
Mr. Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Waste Resources
Mr. Richard MacLellan, Manager, Sustainable Environment
Management Office
Mr. Angus Doyle, Manager, Utilities Coordination
Ms. Krista Tidgwell, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. CALL TO ORDER.....	4
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 3, 2011	4
3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS.....	4
4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE.....	4
5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS	
5.1 Draft Terms of Reference.....	4
6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS	
6.1 Correspondence	
6.1.1 Chris Benjamin, Healthy Lawns Coordinator, Ecology Action Centre, dated January 12, 2011, February 2, 2011 and March 2, 2011 re: PFNS Position on HRM Pesticide By-Law.....	5
6.1.2 Alexandra Curtis, resident of Centreville, dated February 27, 2011 re: Maintain Pesticide By-Law	5
6.1.3 Helen Jones, Past Member of Pesticide By-Law Advisory Committee, dated March 2, 2011 and March 3, 2011 re: FeHEDTA	5
6.2 Petitions – None	5
6.3 Presentations	
6.3.1 Proposed By-Law S-607 Revisions (<i>staff presentation</i>).....	5
6.3.2 Project 00953: Wind Energy Facilities in HRM (<i>staff presentation</i>)	6
7. REPORTS	
7.1 STAFF REPORTS	
7.1.1 Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan	7
7.1.2 Invasive Species.....	7
7.1.3 Corporate Knights Sustainable Cities Rankings 2011	7
7.1.4 Corporate Sustainability Filter.....	7
7.1.5 Solar City Update (<i>verbal update</i>).....	7
7.1.6 Lake Banook Weed Growth (<i>verbal update</i>).....	7
8. MOTIONS – NONE.....	7
9. NOTICES OF MOTION	
9.1 Councillor Peter Lund	7
9.2 Councillor Peter Lund	7

10. ADDED ITEMS	
10.1 Councillor Sloane re: Request for Staff Report on Pyritic Slate Process	8
10.2 Councillor Watts re: Request Staff Report on Fair Trade Towns Certification Process	8
11. NEXT MEETING DATE – April 7, 2011 (<i>change in meeting location – Media Room</i>).....	9
12. ADJOURNMENT	9

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 3, 2011

The Committee deferred this matter to the next meeting date.

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

Additions:

- 10.1 Councillor Sloane re: Request for Staff Report on Pyritic Slate Process
- 10.2 Councillor Watts re: Request for Staff Report on Fair Trade Towns Certification Process
- 6.1 Correspondence
 - 6.1.1 Chris Benjamin, Healthy Lawns Coordinator, Ecology Action Centre, dated March 2, 2011 re: PFNS position on FeHEDTA
 - 6.1.2 Alexandra Curtis, resident of Centreville, dated February 27, 2011 re: Maintain Pesticide By-Law
 - 6.1.3 Helen Jones, Past Member of Pesticide By-Law Advisory Committee, dated March 2, 2011 and March 3, 2011 re: FeHEDTA

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Nicoll, that the Order of Business be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

5.1 Draft Terms of Reference

A draft copy of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee's Terms of Reference was before the Committee for review.

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Watts, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee's Draft Terms of Reference be approved, as presented.

The Committee entered into a brief discussion.

Councillor Lund suggested an amendment to the Terms of Reference, noting that similar wording from Section 3.5.2 should be added on the end of Section 3.1.2 for consistency purposes. However upon further review, he did not feel an amendment was required.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence

6.1.1 Chris Benjamin, Healthy Lawns Coordinator, Ecology Action Centre, dated January 12, 2011, February 2, 2011 and March 2, 2011 re: PFNS Position on HRM Pesticide By-Law

6.1.2 Alexandra Curtis, resident of Centreville, dated February 27, 2011 re: Maintain Pesticide By-Law

6.1.3 Helen Jones, Past Member of Pesticide By-Law Advisory Committee, dated March 2, 2011 and March 3, 2011 re: FeHEDTA

MOVED by Councillor Hum, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee refer Items 6.1.1, 6.1.2 and 6.1.3 to staff for review and report for the next meeting. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6.2 Petitions – None

6.3 Presentations

6.3.1 Proposed By-Law S-607 Revisions (*staff presentation*)

A copy of the presentation dated March 3, 2011 entitled: Increasing Diversion, By-Law S-600 was before the Committee.

The Committee reviewed a video produced by the Community Monitoring Committee respecting an overview of the Otter Lake facility.

Mr. Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Waste Resources, delivered the presentation to the Committee and responded to questions of clarification respecting the proposed changes to By-Law S-600.

In response to questions raised by Committee members respecting the cost of the mini green bins placed in apartment units, Mr. Helm advised that he would provide Council with an approximate cost value for Tuesday's Council session.

6.3.2 Project 00953: Wind Energy Facilities in HRM (*staff presentation*)

A staff report dated February 2, 2011 was before the Committee.

Mr. Roger Wells, Supervisor, Regional & Community Planning, Community Development, provided a brief background history of wind energy within HRM to the Committee.

Mr. Shayne Vipond, Senior Planner, Community Development, delivered a presentation respecting wind energy facilities within HRM to the Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Councillor Nicoll, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Give First Reading and set a public hearing date to consider amendments to the Regional MPS and the Community LUBs to create policy and regulations (typical examples are set out in Attachments A and B of the staff report dated February 2, 2011) for the purpose of regulating Wind turbines in the Halifax Regional Municipality.**
- 2. Adopt the amendments to the Regional MPS and Community LUBs as provided in Attachments A and B respectively of the staff report dated February 2, 2011.**

The Committee entered into discussion.

Councillor Lund advised that this matter is to be considered by the Regional Plan Advisory Committee on March 16th.

Councillor Lund suggested that staff provide the following information:

- Establishment of restrictions for wildlife
- consideration of an open space design cluster for rural areas
- clarification respecting micro roof top mounted turbines and required setbacks

Mr. Vipond indicated that staff is preparing a supplementary report that will be provided to Council in conjunction with the Committee's recommendation report; Councillor Lund's suggestions can be included with this report.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7. REPORTS

7.1 STAFF REPORTS

7.1.1 Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan

7.1.2 Invasive Species

7.1.3 Corporate Knights Sustainable Cities Rankings 2011

7.1.4 Corporate Sustainability Filter

7.1.5 Solar City Update (*verbal update*)

7.1.6 Lake Banook Weed Growth (*verbal update*)

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee defer Items 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 7.1.3, 7.1.4, 7.1.5 and 7.1.6 to the next meeting. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. MOTIONS – None

Councillor Lund stepped down as Chair at 3:40 p.m. and Councillor Hum assumed the Chair.

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

9.1 Councillor Peter Lund

Take Notice that at the next regular meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee to be held on Thursday, April 7, 2011, I intend to move a motion requesting that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council request staff to develop appropriate “Rural Road Standards” (through revisions to the “Red Book”) such that streets and Open Space Design Subdivisions are safe and functional but are also less environmentally damaging than the roads that are now required to be built under current regulations.

9.2 Councillor Peter Lund

Take Notice that at the next regular meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee to be held on Thursday, April 7, 2011, I intend to move a motion requesting that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council request staff to work with the Province on amending the Provincial Erosion Sediment Control Guidelines to account for climate change and to review appropriate Provincial and Municipal policies and regulations relating to properly controlling drainage on new site developments, during and following development, in order to minimize impacts to receiving waters.

Councillor Lund assumed the Chair at 3:41 p.m. and Councillor Hum took her seat.

10. ADDED ITEMS

10.1 Councillor Sloane re: Request for Staff Report on Pyritic Slate Process

Councillor Sloane expressed concern that recently there have been a number of projects that have been considerably increased in price due to pyritic slate being present. She requested that the Committee review the policies pertaining to pyritic slate and hydrogeological studies within HRM.

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Watts, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee direct staff to provide a report outlining policies pertaining to pyritic slate and hydrogeological studies within HRM for the Committee's review and discussion for the next meeting.

During the Committee's discussion, staff noted that HRM does not have policies to which they adhere to respecting pyritic slate and hydrogeological studies within HRM.

Councillor Watts suggested an amendment to the motion requesting a report outlining the current practices concerning investigations of pyritic slate on HRM projects. She commented that if there it looks like there is an opportunity for further policy development that could be discussed at a future meeting, to which the Committee agreed.

The motion now reads as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Watts, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee direct staff to provide a report outlining the current practices concerning investigations of pyritic slate on HRM projects. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.2 Councillor Watts re: Request Staff Report on Fair Trade Towns Certification Process

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee direct staff to provide a report identifying:

- 1. What the Fair Trade Towns certification is;**
- 2. What the process is to becoming a Fair Trade Town; and**
- 3. What are the benefits and costs associated with this.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11. NEXT MEETING DATE – April 7, 2011 (*change in meeting location – Media Room*)

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

Krista Tidgwell
Legislative Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS
March 3, 2011

1. Correspondence from Minister Belliveau dated February January 20, 2011 re: RRFB's Diversion and Incentive Programs
2. Information Report dated January 31, 2011 re: Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP)
3. Correspondence from Minister Belliveau dated February 1, 2011 re: Environment Protection - Blueberry Hill Mine, Tangier
4. Information Report dated February 1, 2011 re: Blue Flag Beaches
5. Information Report dated February 10, 2011 re: Outcome Area: Clean and Healthy Environment
6. Information Report dated February 14, 2011 re: Climate SMART Risk Management Strategy Update
7. Information Report dated February 15, 2011 re: Lake Water Quality
8. Information Report dated March 3, 2011 re: Environment By-Law Enforcement Officer
9. Briefing Form dated March 3, 2011 re: Administrative Order 23 and HRM Pesticide By-Law
10. Briefing Form dated March 3, 2011 re: SEMO Topics Menu and Rolling Agenda