

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES

September 8, 2011

PRESENT: Councillors: Debbie Hum, Vice Chair
Barry Dalrymple
Jennifer Watts
Darren Fisher
Lorelei Nicoll

REGRETS: Councillors: Peter Lund, Chair
Jackie Barkhouse
Dawn Sloane

STAFF: Mr. Phillip Townsend, Director, IAM
Ms. Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m. in the Dartmouth Chamber, 90 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 4, 2011

MOVED by Councillor Fisher, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple that the minutes of August 4, 2011 be approved, as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additional Information Item:

5. Response from Dr. Gaynor Watson-Creed, Medical Officer of Health, CDHA dated August 31, 2011 to the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee's letter of June 7, 2011 re: Community Heavy Metal Garden Study

Deletion:

- 5.1 Discussion re: Wind Turbines (*deferred August 4, 2011*)

Additions:

- 9.1 Information Item 4 – Briefing Note dated September 8, 2011 re: Municipal Operations – 4-Stream Project
- 9.2 Discussion re: Nova Scotia Environment Act Review Process

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

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 STATUS SHEET UPDATE

A copy of the Status Sheet was before the Standing Committee for review.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

- 5.1 Discussion re: Wind Turbines (*deferred August 4, 2011*)**

Item removed from the agenda during the approval of the Order of Business.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

- 6.1 Correspondence – None**

6.2 Petitions – None

6.3 Presentations – None

7. REPORTS

7.1 STAFF REPORTS

7.1.1 Functional Plans with Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee Oversight

A staff report dated July 25, 2011 was before the Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

- 1. Forward a copy of the staff report dated July 25, 2011 to the Committee Workplan Workshop for September 2011;**
- 2. Forward a copy of the staff report dated July 25, 2011 to the Transportation Standing Committee and Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee to identify the areas of interest of these Committees; and**
- 3. Direct staff to provide an update on each of the identified Functional Plan at a schedule to be determined at the Workplan Workshop.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.1.2 Blue Flag Beach Candidacy

A staff report dated July 28, 2011 was before the Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Fisher, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

- 1. Forward a report containing the originating information report and briefing note overviewing the Blue Flag program and the following recommended motion to Regional Council:**

“That Halifax Regional Municipality declare its candidacy as a Blue Flag candidate community and is committed to meeting the outstanding criteria at Birch Cove Beach”.
- 2. Direct staff to work with Environmental Defence to assess whether the water quality results at Black Rock and Dingle/Flemming Park Beaches meet Blue Flag criteria.**

Staff responded to questions of clarification respecting the various HRM beaches and the criteria for the Blue Flag Beach program.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Dalrymple respecting the Halifax Waterfront application, staff advised that they would contact Waterfront Development Corporation Limited to determine whether HRM can offer assistance with their application process. If needed, staff would bring this information back to the Standing Committee for consideration.

Further discussion was held respecting the Birch Cove Beach Blue Flag Feasibility Study and the costs identified in the July 28, 2011 staff report.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.1.3 Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan, 2012 Update

A staff report dated August 15, 2011 was before the Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend to Regional Council to approve a corporate greenhouse gas emission reduction target of 30% of 2008 levels by 2020, in accordance with the plan attached to the staff report dated August 15, 2011.

Discussion was held respecting the Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan 2012 Update, including:

- Opportunities around District Energy and other options
- Integration of HRM transportation
- New subdivision regulations, which would assist with reduction of greenhouse gas emissions

Note was made that ongoing efforts in this area have proven positive for HRM.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. MOTIONS – NONE

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Information Item 4 - Briefing Note dated September 8, 2011 re: Municipal Operations – 4-Stream Project

A briefing note dated September 8, 2011 was before the Standing Committee.

Staff responded to questions of clarification respecting the various options for four (4) stream compliance and concept and cost of the Big Belly units.

9.2 Discussion re: Nova Scotia Environment Act Review Process

Mr. Richard MacLellan, Manager, Sustainable Environment Management Office, provided an overview of the *Nova Scotia Environment Act* review process. It was noted that an update will be provided to the Standing Committee for their October meeting respecting staff's discussions with the Nova Scotia Environment.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

11. NEXT MEETING DATE – October 6, 2011

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Krista Vining
Legislative Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Briefing Note dated September 8, 2011 re: Regional Plan Timeline / Rural Road Standards
2. Briefing Note dated September 8, 2011 re: Status Update, Urban Forest Master Plan
3. Photos submitted by Councillor Hum re: Kearney Lake Headwaters & Increasing Lake Water Level
4. Briefing Note dated September 8, 2011 re: Municipal Operations – 4-Stream Project
5. Response from Dr. Gaynor Watson-Creed, Medical Officer of Health, CDHA dated August 31, 2011 to the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee's letter of June 7, 2011 re: Community Heavy Metal Garden Study