

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES

October 6, 2011

PRESENT: Councillors: Peter Lund, Chair
Barry Dalrymple
Jennifer Watts
Darren Fisher
Lorelei Nicoll

REGRETS: Councillors: Debbie Hum, Vice Chair
Jackie Barkhouse
Dawn Sloane

STAFF: Mr. Richard MacLellan, Manager, SEMO
Ms. Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:20 p.m. in the Dartmouth Chamber, 90 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 8, 2011

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Fisher that the minutes of September 8, 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:

8. Information Report dated September 29, 2011 re: Alderney 5 Energy Project

Additions:

- 9.1 Information Item 6 - Briefing Note dated October 6, 2011 re: Proposed Bylaw S607, An Amendment to Bylaw S600
- 9.2 Information Item 7 - Briefing Note dated October 6, 2011 re: Waste Characterization Study Update
- 9.3 Information Item 8 - Information Report dated September 29, 2011 re: Alderney 5 Energy Project
- 9.4 Information Item 2 - Information Report dated September 8, 2011 re: Brownfield Funding Opportunities

The Standing Committee agreed to discuss item 7.3.1- Halifax Water: Renewable Wind Energy Project Development following Item 6 – Correspondence, Petitions and Delegations.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple 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.

Following a brief review, the Standing Committee's agreed to keep their request on the Green Approach to Procurement on the Status Sheet as there is still additional information to be provided.

Matters proposed to be removed from the Status Sheet were done so following a review of the Information Items brought forward as added items during the approval of the Order of Business.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence – None

6.2 Petitions – None

6.3 Presentations – None

7. REPORTS

7.1 STAFF REPORTS

Item 7.1.3 was addressed at this time.

7.1.3 Halifax Water: Renewable Wind Energy Project Development

A staff report dated September 19, 2011 was before the Standing Committee.

A copy of the presentation entitled: COMFIT- Wind Energy Projects was circulated to the Standing Committee.

Mr. Jeff Knapp, Energy Manager, Halifax Water Commission, delivered a presentation on the COMFIT Wind Energy Projects to the Standing Committee.

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

- 1. Request Regional Council to provide a Letter of Endorsement for the proposed project development; and**
- 2. Request Halifax Regional Water Commission to provide frequent updates to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee and the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) staff to ensure this is a learning opportunity for HRM for Energy Project Development.**

Staff responded to questions of clarification respecting the Renewable Wind Energy Project Development, including location of wind turbines, changes in setback requirements and cost of tower installations for testing.

The Standing Committee suggested that engagement with the surrounding community take place prior to environmental assessments being conducted.

It was noted that the Halifax Water Commission has met with HRM's Watershed Advisory groups and Aboriginal and Community groups on this matter. Staff is seeking

the endorsement of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee's and referral to Halifax Regional Council for its endorsement to proceed.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.1.1 Draft Urban Forest Master Plan (staff presentation)

A copy of the Draft Urban Forest Master Plan presentation was provided for the file.

Mr. John Charles, Planner, Planning and Infrastructure and Mr. James Stemburg, Principle Researcher, Post Graduate at Dalhousie University School of Resource and Environmental Services delivered a presentation on the status of the HRM Urban Forest Master Plan and responded to questions raised by the Standing Committee. It was noted that the Draft Urban Forest Master Plan is projected to come forward to Regional Council in 2012.

7.1.2 Invasive Species: Japanese Knotweed and Flea Beetles

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

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

- 1. Endorse the recommended Municipal Service Standard outlined in the staff report dated September 2, 2011.**
- 2. Authorize staff to seek project or other external funding/programs to:
a. Map infestations of invasive species on Municipal Property; and
b. Develop a corporate management plan for invasive species.**
- 3. Authorize the Mayor to send a letter to the Minister of Natural Resources requesting that the Province of Nova Scotia:
a. Take the lead on Invasive Species Management;
b. Assist Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) with the development of a municipal invasive species management plan; and
c. Develop legislation respecting the importation and distribution of invasive species.**

Staff responded to questions of clarification respecting the Japanese Knotweed and Flea Beetles.

During the discussion Councillor Fisher expressed concern with Japanese Knotweed growing into the canal blocks between Lake Banook and Sullivan's Pond. He questioned who was responsible for removing the Japanese Knotweed and what could be done to solve this problem.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Fisher, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple that the Environmental and Sustainability Standing Committee request a staff report outlining ways to solve the Japanese Knotweed issue on the Canal portion between Lake Banook and Sullivan's Pond. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.1.3 Halifax Water: Renewable Wind Energy Project Development

Matter addressed earlier in the meeting. See page 4.

7.1.4 Save our Lakes Actions

A staff report dated September 19, 2011 was before the Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee Direct staff to:

- 1. Provide an update on the harmonization of the Lot Grading By-Law;**
- 2. Create a Water Issues Advisory Group for a term of 12 months with a mandate to work with staff on the priority actions of the Save our Lakes project as identified by the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee;**
- 3. Prepare an Annual State of the Lake Report in conjunction with the Water Issues Advisory Group;**
- 4. Identify possible opportunities and best management practices for inclusion of Green Infrastructure in the Red Book and for municipal internal practices;**
- 5. Develop a draft statement on Provincial Water Resource Management Issues for endorsement of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee; and**
- 6. Request an update from Halifax Water on the progress and scope of the Waste Water Management Functional Plan.**

A brief discussion was held on the Storm Water Management Functional Plan and Open Space Planning, with staff advising that Paul Morgan is the Manager for this Functional Plan. A meeting will be scheduled in November to meet with the Halifax Water Commission to ensure actions are completed.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. MOTIONS

8.1 Councillor Watts - Improving Effectiveness – Environment Compliance

On behalf of Councillor Outhit, Councillor Watts put forward the following motion for the Standing Committee's consideration.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Fisher that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee direct staff to provide a report on the status of environmental enforcement in HRM, including the jurisdiction and service delivery of the various government bodies. In addition, identify current areas of potential improvements. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Information Item 6 - Briefing Note dated October 6, 2011 re: Proposed Bylaw S607, An Amendment to Bylaw S600

A briefing noted dated October 6, 2011 was before the Standing Committee.

Staff provided clarification on the background for Information Item 6 – Proposed By-law S-607, an amendment to By-Law S-600 and Information Item 7 – Waste Characterization Study update.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple requesting additional background for the next meeting on the Solid Waste Strategy and the Waste Characterization Study, as well as the role of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee and role of the Community Monitoring Committee.

Following a brief discussion, staff suggested hosting two workshops to provide an overview of the Solid Waste Strategy and Waste Characterization Study. The Standing Committee requested that the Community Monitoring Committee be invited to attend the second workshop on the overview of the Waste Characterization Study **and the motion was withdrawn.**

It was noted that should further action/direction need to be taken by the Standing Committee, staff would bring it forward to a future meeting for consideration.

9.2 Information Item 7 - Briefing Note dated October 6, 2011 re: Waste Characterization Study Update

A briefing noted dated October 6, 2011 was before the Standing Committee.

Matter addressed under Item 9.1.

9.3 Information Item 8 - Information Report dated September 29, 2011 re: Alderney 5 Energy Project

A staff information report dated September 29, 2011 was before the Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee forward the September 29, 2011 staff information report entitled: Alderney5 Energy Project to Halifax Regional Council for their information. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.4 Information Item 2 - Information Report dated September 8, 2011 re: Brownfield Funding Opportunities

A staff information report dated September 8, 2011 was before the Standing Committee.

Staff responded to questions of clarification respecting the brownfield funding opportunities outlined in the September 8th staff information report. It was noted that HRM does not currently offer financial incentive programs for brownfields.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

10.1 Councillor Watts

“Take notice that at the next meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee, I intend to bring forward a motion recommending that staff:

1. Conduct a more comprehensive best practices review of the Canadian Municipal Brownfield Incentive Programs, and return to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee with a report; and
2. Specifically related to former gas stations: perform a financial analysis, and draft a potential policy for consideration, where HRM would offer a property owner tax holiday or reprieve to incent the prompt demolition/removal of gas station infrastructure and property remediation. This analysis should include the analysis of the cost of the tax holiday versus the future value of the potential increase in commercial or property tax from the reinvested and recapitalized property.”

11. NEXT MEETING DATE – November 3, 2011

11.1 Discussion re: November Meeting

The Standing Committee agreed to reschedule their November 3rd meeting to Monday, November 14th from 1-4 p.m. at the Dartmouth Chamber, 90 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

Krista Vining
Legislative Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Information Report dated September 2, 2011 re: Summary: 2011 Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corp Project
2. Information Report dated September 8, 2011 re: Brownfield Funding Opportunities
3. Information Report dated September 10, 2011 re: Update Sustainable Procurement
4. Information Report dated September 23, 2011 re: Pyritic Slate Process for HRM Property
5. Information Report from the Transportation Standing Committee dated September 23, 2011 re: Functional Plans with Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee Oversight
6. Briefing Note dated October 6, 2011 re: Proposed Bylaw S607, An Amendment to Bylaw S600
7. Briefing Note dated October 6, 2011 re: Waste Characterization Study Update
8. Information Report dated September 29, 2011 re: Alderney 5 Energy Project