

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES

February 6, 2012

PRESENT: Councillors: Barry Dalrymple, Chair
Jennifer Watts, Vice Chair
Peter Lund
Debbie Hum
Darren Fisher
Jackie Barkhouse

REGRETS: Councillors: Dawn Sloane
Lorelei Nicoll

STAFF: Mr. Phillip Townsend, Director, Planning & Infrastructure
Ms. Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 1, 2011

MOVED by Councillor Fisher, seconded by Councillor Lund that the minutes of December 1, 2011 be approved, as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions

- 9.1 Information Item 4 – Memorandum from the Municipal Clerks Office dated January 31, 2012 re: Requests to Present to Standing Committee

Additional Requests to Present received from:

- Lara Ryan of Canada Green Building Council Atlantic Chapter dated February 2, 2012 re: Current Status of Green Buildings in Canada
- Ross Soward of Halifax Cycling Coalition dated February 5, 2012 re: Lessons Learned and Findings from the Kickstand Professional Workshop for Future Planning

- 9.2 Information Item 3 - Information Report dated December 13, 2011 re: Municipal Incubation of Solar Energy

Information Item

5. Information Report dated January 30, 2012 re: HRM Legislative Requests Strategy

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

In response to a question respecting the nature of Information Item 5, it was **MOVED by Councillor Fisher, seconded by Councillor Watts to add Information Item 5 - Information Report dated January 30, 2012 re: HRM Legislative Requests Strategy to the agenda as Item 9.3, to allow for clarification. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Councillor Barkhouse entered the meeting at 10:19 a.m.

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.

The Legislative Assistant clarified that the report on the Canadian Municipal Brownfield Incentive Program was not available for February's agenda, as indicated on the Status Sheet. The report is projected to be completed by March 2012 and would remain on the Status Sheet.

Matters proposed for removal, with the exception of the Canadian Municipal Brownfield Incentive Program matter, were deleted from the Status Sheet.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence – None

6.2 Petitions – None s

6.3 Presentations – None

Item 9.3: Information Item 5 - Information Report dated January 30, 2012 re: HRM Legislative Requests Strategy was addressed at this time.

9.3 Information Item 5 - Information Report dated January 30, 2012 re: HRM Legislative Requests Strategy

A copy of the staff information report dated January 30, 2012 was before the Standing Committee.

Ms. Anne Totten, Corporate Policy Analyst, External & Corporate Affairs, clarified that the information report is to provide an update to the Standing Committees on the Legislative requests HRM is sending to the Province as a formal package this Spring. As well, to provide some key messages should Standing Committee members speak with Provincial colleges or stakeholders on this matter.

In response to a question raised, Ms. Totten advised that some of the amendment requests have not been formally turned down, but have not yet been forwarded on to the Legislature by the Cabinet Committee. Instead of having several amendments that do not necessarily connect to one another, HRM is trying to demonstrate to the Province how these amendments together will advance the Regional Plan goals, as well as advance economic development.

7. REPORTS

7.1 STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

7.1.1 Councillor Sloane – Request for Report re: ComFIT Program

Councillor Barkhouse moved the following motion on behalf of Councillor Sloane:

MOVED by Councillor Barkhouse, seconded by Councillor Fisher that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee direct staff to:

1. **Provide a summary report respecting municipal investment opportunity for small wind turbines (50 KW and under); and**
2. **Include an overview of the ComFIT program and eligibility requirements.”**

During the discussion Councillor Watts asked that the report identify whether ComFIT is asking for further public consultation over and above what is outlined in HRM's By-law for wind turbines.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. MOTIONS

8.1 Councillor Watts – Disposal of Surplus HRM Equipment

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Barkhouse that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request a staff report on the disposal of surplus HRM equipment to ascertain environmental impacts of our disposal practices.

During the discussion, Councillor Lund suggested the report include information on the benefits of reusing equipment. Councillor Watts advised that this was part of the information she received back from staff during her initial discussions.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Information Item 4 – Memorandum from the Municipal Clerks Office dated January 31, 2012 re: Requests to Present to Standing Committee

The Standing Committee reviewed the requests to present as identified in the January 31, 2012 memorandum from the Municipal Clerks Office.

Following a brief discussion it was, **MOVED by Councillor Fisher, seconded by Councillor Barkhouse that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:**

1. **Continue to defer Elmsdale Landscaping Ltd.'s request to present pending the completion of a staff report re: HRM's Compost Processing Options;**
2. **Approve the joint request of Sackville Rivers Association and the Nova Scotia Department of Environment to present in April 2012;**
3. **Defer Atlantic Wood Works' request to present pending the receipt of additional clarification and background information;**

4. **Approve Canada Green Building Council Atlantic Chapter's request to present in March 2012;**
5. **Refer Halifax Cycling Coalition's request to present to the Transportation Standing Committee for their consideration and if approved, ask that the Transportation Standing Committee notify the Environment and Sustainability and Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committees the details of this meeting so that members have an opportunity to attend; and**
6. **Remain open to any and all requests for presentations, which fall within the Standing Committee's mandate, with no more than one (1) presentation per month.**

Discussion ensued and Councillor Watts suggested the sixth recommendation be amended to hear *no more than two (2) presentations per month*, to which the Standing Committee agreed.

The motion now reads:

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

1. **Continue to defer Elmsdale Landscaping Ltd.'s request to present pending the completion of a staff report re: HRM's Compost Processing Options;**
2. **Approve the joint request of Sackville Rivers Association and the Nova Scotia Department of Environment to present in April 2012;**
3. **Defer Atlantic Wood Works' request to present pending the receipt of additional clarification and background information;**
4. **Approve Canada Green Building Council Atlantic Chapter's request to present in March 2012;**
5. **Refer Halifax Cycling Coalition's request to present to the Transportation Standing Committee for their consideration and if approved, ask that the Transportation Standing Committee notify the Environment and Sustainability and Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committees the details of this meeting so that members have an opportunity to attend; and**
6. **Remain open to any and all requests for presentations, which fall within the Standing Committee's mandate, with no more than two (2) presentations per month.**

The Legislative Assistant provided an overview of the Standing Committee's process for presentations. Written submissions are received and reviewed during monthly agenda review meetings by the Chair and appropriate staff; a monthly memorandum is then prepared for the Standing Committee's consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.2 Information Item 3 - Information Report dated December 13, 2011 re: Municipal Incubation of Solar Energy

Mr. Julian Boyle provided an overview of the December 13th information report and verbal update on the Municipal incubation of solar energy related to procurement, capacity building and legal aspects. Highlights were as follows:

- the Request for Proposal related to vendors closes February 14, 2012
- a report will be provided to Regional Council in the next few weeks respecting the creation of a flat fee for permits
- staff is reviewing the possibility of scheduling a solar training workshop for the inspectors around late March 2012
- staff has drafted a contract with the homeowners, which has been reviewed by Legal
- the Province enabled Legislation to allow HRM to loan money to homeowners through the Property Tax; a by-law for solar energy is being drafted similar to HRM's LIC By-law that will secure funding for projects such as roads, water and sewer
- a Steering Committee has been established with the Department of Energy, HRM's Energy and Environment and Efficiency Nova Scotia related to programing design input, as well as the cost sharing, business case and financing model

Staff responded to questions of clarification in relation to the Request for Proposal (RFP). The Department of Energy is committed to funding up to \$1.2 million for this project. Staff is also working through some eligibility issues with FCM, as this is not a municipal piece of infrastructure. It is projected that a report will be before Regional Council mid to late April 2012 to award the RFP, as well as to endorse the financing model.

During the discussion, the Standing Committee requested a status update on the draft solar energy by-law, as well the possibility of having Solar Nova Scotia make a presentation at their March 2012 meeting.

9.3 Information Item 5 - Information Report dated January 30, 2012 re: HRM Legislative Requests Strategy

This matter was addressed earlier in the meeting, see page 4.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

10.1 Councillor Lund

Take Notice that at the next scheduled meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee, I will move a motion to request a staff report, including recommendations, on:

1. Current practices of HRM in the investigation of potentially contaminated soils/sediment and management of impacted materials on and off site; and
2. Procedures for the investigation and management of impacted materials on and off site to be uniformly applied across HRM departments on decommissioning and construction projects.

11. NEXT MEETING DATE – March 1, 2012

The meeting will be held at the Dartmouth Chamber, 90 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

Prior to adjourning, the Standing Committee recognized that this was the last meeting for Director, Phillip Townsend and expressed their appreciation to Mr. Townsend for all his efforts and leadership over the past years. Mr. Townsend expressed his gratitude to the Standing Committee for being so engaged and passionate on environmental issues.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Krista Vining
Legislative Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Information Report dated November 17, 2011 re: Functional Plan Update: Water Quality Monitoring Functional Plan
2. Information Report dated December 5, 2011 re: IPSOS Public Affairs Survey: Municipal Solutions for a Greener Earth
3. Information Report dated December 13, 2011 re: Municipal Incubation of Solar Energy
4. Memorandum from the Municipal Clerks Office dated January 31, 2012 re: Requests for Presentation to Standing Committee