

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES

April 16, 2012

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

STAFF: Ms. Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. in the Dartmouth Chamber, 90 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 1, 2012

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Fisher that the minutes of March 1, 2012 be approved, as presented.

Councillor Lund clarified that in reference to Richard MacLellan's response to testing contaminated soil; once contamination is *suspected*, testing must then be conducted.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions

9.1 Councillor Watts – Discussion of Councillor Adams' motion to Regional Council April 17, 2012 on the district energy project

It was noted that it is unusual for Standing Committees to discuss matters that are scheduled on upcoming Council agendas, but it is at the discretion of the Standing Committee if they chose to discuss the matter.

9.2 Councillor Watts – Update to Council Report Template: Environmental Implications Section

9.3 Councillor Nicoll – Information Item 5 – Information Report dated April 11, 2012 entitled: Unwanted Distribution or Mismanagement of Flyers

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

4.1 STATUS SHEET UPDATE

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

Councillor Lund requested confirmation as to when the revised lot grading by-law work plan would be before the Standing Committee, as no date was indicated within the March 19, 2012 staff information report.

Matters proposed for removal, including the item on Municipal Incubation of Solar Energy, were deleted from the Status Sheet.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence – None

6.2 Petitions – None

6.3 Presentations

6.3.1 Municipal Policy Opportunities around Solar Energy (*Don Roscoe of Solar Nova Scotia*)

A copy of the presentation was provided for the file.

Mr. Don Roscoe of Solar Nova Scotia delivered a presentation entitled: Passive Solar and the Subdivision.

Mr. Roscoe and staff responded to questions in relation to passive solar and the need to develop best practices for protecting rights to solar access.

During the discussion suggestion was made that Solar Nova Scotia make a submission on solar energy to the Regional Plan Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Sloane that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee direct staff to consider solar orientation as outlined in Solar Nova Scotia's presentation of April 16, 2012, and report back to the Standing Committee as to how input from Solar Nova Scotia and the best practices for solar orientation can be included in the Regional Plan Five Year Review.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7. REPORTS

7.1 Staff Reports

7.1.1 HRM Street Light Review

A staff report dated March 9, 2012 was before the Standing Committee.

A copy of the presentation was provided for the file.

Mr. Angus Doyle, Utilities Coordination Manager delivered a presentation on HRM's street light review to the Standing Committee.

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

- 1. That HRM develop an implementation plan for taking ownership and converting all municipal streetlights to Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology in accordance with recent amendments to the Energy-Efficient Appliance Act; and**
- 2. That the Streetlight Conversion Plan be approved by Regional Council prior to implementation.**

During the discussion, staff responded to questions and concerns related to:

- the cost implications identified for a twenty year life cycle evaluation with a ten year implementation period
- the present quality of service received on maintenance of burnt out lights (ie. NSPI and HRM response times and percentage of burnt out lights in urban, suburban and rural areas)
- the disposal of old sodium lights
- Financial opportunities (ie. FCM, the Province or Federal government)
- Concern expressed regarding lighting standard; LEDs not omitting as much light or having a different colour than high pressure sodium lights; the importance of communicating with the public on how HRM will meet lighting standards

In response to questions raised by Councillor Sloane, staff advised they would provide further information on financial options, disposal of old fixtures and streetlight maintenance in the report to Regional Council.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. MOTIONS – NONE

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Councillor Watts – Discussion of Councillor Adams’ motion to Regional Council April 17, 2012 on the district energy project

A brief discussion was held as to why this matter did not come forward to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee prior to Regional Council. Following a brief discussion, it was noted that this question could be raised at tomorrow’s Council session.

Councillors Hum and Barkhouse exited the meeting at 3:52 p.m.

9.2 Councillor Watts – Update to Council Report Template: Environmental Implications Section

Staff provided a brief overview of the implication of the Environmental Implications section of Council reports. Highlights were as follows:

- direction of the Executive Standing Committee
- does not add any burden to staff or create difficult work
- the statement is to identify how the recommendation impacts HRM environmental priorities
- can be used as a learning tool

9.3 Councillor Nicoll – Information Item 5 – Information Report dated April 11, 2012 entitled: Unwanted Distribution or Mismanagement of Flyers

A staff information report dated April 11, 2012 was before the Standing Committee.

Mr. Joshua Judah, Solicitor, Legal Services provided an overview of the April 11th staff information report and responded to questions relating to Municipal opportunities for preventing unwanted distribution or mismanagement of flyers.

During the discussion it was noted that Regional Council passed a motion on April 19, 2011 requesting a staff report from Solid Waste Resource to set out a process which would result in the elimination of the delivery of flyers to residential properties. As part of this process, staff asked legal to identify whether regulations could be placed on freedom of expression.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Watts that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee forward the April 11, 2012 staff information report entitled: Unwanted Distribution or Mismanagement of Flyers to Halifax Regional Council with a recommendation that Halifax Regional Council convene a working group to look at the issue of distributing unwanted flyers. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

11. NEXT MEETING DATE – May 3, 2012

The May 3, 2012 meeting will be held at the Dartmouth Chamber, 90 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Information Report dated February 23, 2012 entitled: Climate Change Workshop Round II – Eastern Passage and Cow Bay
2. Information Report dated March 13, 2012 entitled: Municipal Engagement with Halifax Chamber, Energy Advisory Committee and Atlantic Chapter, Green Building Council
3. Information Report dated March 19, 2012 entitled: Revised Lot Grading By-Law
4. Information Report dated March 27, 2012 entitled: Road Salt Impacts on Lakes
5. Information Report dated April 11, 2012 entitled: Unwanted Distribution or Misplacement of Flyers
6. Memorandum from the Municipal Clerks Office dated April 12, 2012 entitled: Requests for Presentation to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee