

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES

October 4, 2012

PRESENT: Councillor Barry Dalrymple, Chair
Councillor Jennifer Watts, Vice Chair
Councillor Peter Lund
Councillor Darren Fisher
Councillor Debbie Hum

REGRETS: Councillor Lorelei Nicoll
Councillor Jackie Barkhouse
Councillor Dawn Sloane

STAFF: Mr. Joshua Judah, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant
Mr. Ted Aubut, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. in the Dartmouth Chamber, 90 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 6, 2012

MOVED by Councillor Lund, seconded by Councillor Fisher that minutes of the September 6, 2012 meeting 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 1 - Memorandum from the Municipal Clerk's Office dated September 27, 2012 entitled: Request for Presentation to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee
- 9.2 Councillor Hum – Federation of Canadian Municipalities Funding re: Solar City Initiative
- 9.3 Councillor Dalrymple - Minas Basin Pulp and Power re: Presentation before the Standing Committee

MOVED by Councillor Fisher, seconded by Councillor Hum 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.

4.1.1 Clarification from Staff re: Green Approach to Procurement

Ms. Anne Feist, Procurement Manager explained that HRM's preferred approach is to adhere to standards that advance environmental elements, such as those endorsed by third party certification bodies. Adhering to Green Seal, Eco Logo or other certification programs, she noted, helps bidders understand requirements and puts HRM procurement officers in a good position to make relatively easy, defensible awards based on information provided by bidders.

An alternate approach is to work with vendors to establish standards that incorporate environmental considerations into project specifications. Ms. Feist explained that this approach is more difficult because it requires detailed knowledge of environmental implications of products. However, once the standard is developed, the process and benefits would be similar to those of third party certification: with clear standards, bidders would understand what is expected of them and HRM Procurement Officers could make justifiable awards based on the standard.

Ms. Feist, in her conclusion, noted that moving away from a standards-based model opens the door to subjective decision-making, in turn making it difficult for staff to justify awards. She explained that it is for this reason that HRM has been hesitant to award points to bidders that have a green overlay to their bids. Only in selective situations have points been used, such as in a RFP for bundled commodities from service providers for office supplies or janitorial services. In these particular circumstances, she explained that points were awarded as a means to better understand the environmental implications of certain commodities so that, down the road, HRM could define them in terms of a certification.

The Chair called for questions of clarification.

Councillor Fisher thanked Ms. Feist for her presentation and for contacting him recently on this matter. He agreed that HRM's procurement process must be fair and transparent. However, he hoped that HRM could find ways to value, by way of bonus points or otherwise, bidders who offer green products. He expressed concern that current HRM practices deterred green service providers from applying because they could not present the lowest bid. This would be the case, he explained, if HRM ordered trucks, choosing the least expensive model over a more expensive, but environmentally friendly option. Councillor Fisher noted that if bonus points were applied to this scenario then the environmentally-friendly model might slide in and win the bid.

Ms. Feist reiterated that HRM procurement officers are interested in environmentally-friendly options and regularly assess the environmental implications of products they are considering for purchase. However, the challenge for procurement professionals at HRM and elsewhere is integrating environmental criteria into a credible procurement process. Procurement professionals have to be able to justify the decisions they are making so that the process is fair to vendors and end users.

Councillor Hum indicated that in the mid-2000s she had asked staff through Regional Council to consider a green and fair trade procurement policy, which would have huge implications for HRM business units. She noted that while a policy had been developed, it is incomplete. As for awarding bonus points, she indicated that while it has merit it presents a number of implementation challenges.

Councillor Watts expressed support for HRM's adherence to green certifications and suggested that they be listed on HRM's website so the public would be aware of the standards to which the Municipality subscribes.

Ms. Feist responded that while certifications are a good starting point, the challenge will be moving beyond the standards that are certified by third parties.

Councillor Lund wished to know if other municipalities faced similar difficulties in developing green procurement policies and whether HRM is headed towards a points system.

Ms. Feist replied that despite some victories, procurement professionals everywhere seem to be struggling with this matter, including her colleagues at the Province. As for awarding points, Ms. Feist reiterated that the procurement process must be clear and credible, by advancing existing standards and developing new ones. She noted, further, that contracts are not always awarded to the lowest bidder. In the case of some vehicle tenders, for instance, bidders were assessed on the basis of fuel consumption and emissions.

As there were no more questions, the Chair thanked Ms. Feist for her participation and requested that this item be deleted from status sheet.

Councillors reviewed the Status Sheet, with Councillor Lund noting that a report had yet to be provided on current practices of potentially contaminated soils and sediment. The Clerk was asked to follow-up with staff.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – September 6, 2012

5.1 Blue Mountain Birch Cove Regional Park – Conceptual Plan and Objectives

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Hum that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee defer item 5.1 until receipt of staff response to the Stewart McKelvey letter dated September 6, 2012 with the understanding that, if appropriate, a special meeting be held to consider staff's response.

Councillor Hum expressed her disappointment in the continued deferral of this matter, urging staff to bring forward their report as soon as possible.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence - NONE

6.2 Petitions - NONE

6.3 Presentations

6.3.1 DAN-X Recycling Limited re: recycling mercury bulbs rather than sending to landfill for disposal and a review of their new MP 4000 recycling plant

An overview presentation submitted by Dan-X Recycling Limited was before the Standing Committee.

Mr. David Hall, President of DAN-X Recycling explained that he and business partner Mr. Dana Emerson, Vice President, established their company in 2009 with the goal of diverting mercury-containing lamps from landfills. Since opening their facility in Burnside, DAN-X has processed 600,000 used bulbs, notably high intensity discharge lamps used in street lighting, compact fluorescent bulbs used in homes, fluorescent tubes used in commercial and public buildings, and neon tubes used in signs.

He explained that in 2012 the company won exclusive rights to the Balcan MPC 4000 recycling system, making it the only company in Canada that can process all types and sizes of bulbs. As a next step, DAN-X hopes to purchase a mercury distiller. This would allow the company to extract mercury powder on-site rather than shipping it to manufacturers in the United States, which DAN-X does currently.

Mr. Hall reminded Councillors that mercury is a poisonous substance that can leach into the soil of landfills. He noted, further, that currently there are few lamp recycling programs, which means that most spent bulbs are sent to landfills even though they contain 1% mercury bearing phosphorous powder. DAN-X's goal is to prevent all materials from bulbs from entering the waste stream, by salvaging the glass, the plastic, even the mercury, which can be used to make new light bulbs.

Noting the Municipality's commitment to sustainability, Mr. Hall invited HRM to use DAN-X services to recycle all spent bulbs from municipal buildings, including libraries and schools. As a client, HRM would be provided cartons to collect spent bulbs at designated sites. Once filled, the cartons would be transferred, either by a pick-up service arranged by DAN-X or by HRM staff, to the Burnside processing plant. Mr. Hall then provided examples of his company's current clients, which include Bell Media, Clean Nova Scotia and Efficiency Nova Scotia.

Finally, Mr. Hall asked for HRM's support in the purchase of a mercury distiller, which would allow DAN-X to process all lamp materials in Burnside.

The Chair thanked Mr. Hall for his presentation and invited Councillors to ask questions of clarification.

Councillor Fisher informed his colleagues that he had toured the company's facilities and had been so impressed that he contacted the Chair to request that DAN-X appear

before the Standing Committee. He noted that he would like HRM staff to examine the possibility of recycling spent light bulbs.

Councillor Lund congratulated DAN-X for providing such an important service and asked if the company hopes to service out-of-province clients, given that they hold exclusive rights on MPC 4000 technology.

Mr. Hall replied that the company's priority is to expand their services in Atlantic Canada.

Councillor Lund noted that Ontario has strict rules about the disposal and transportation of mercury because it is a hazardous material. Given this, he wanted to know if DAN-X would have difficulty transporting spent bulbs across provincial borders.

To this, Mr. Hall explained that DAN-X Recycling already ships materials across borders without difficulty because florescent bulbs are not considered hazardous waste as long as they are not broken.

Staff indicated that in the absence of regulations, most household bulbs end up in the landfill. However, they reassured Councillors that mercury does not leach into the ground because landfills are properly lined. Staff noted that HRM would be interested in working with the Province on consumer responsibility. As for DAN-X, staff explained that they had already met with Mr. Hall and were pleased with the recycling services offered. As a final note, staff clarified that the recycling of spent bulbs applies to unbroken bulbs only.

Councillor Lund asked if the Standing Committee should propose regulations for the transportation of mercury, to which staff agreed to find out what current regulations cover.

Councillor Watts asked that Mr. Hall clarify what is being asked of HRM and if households can access DAN-X services.

Mr. Hall explained that DAN-X prefers bulk pick-ups and therefore tends to service commercial clients rather than residential clients. To break into the residential market, he noted that DAN-X is exploring the possibility of having drop-off boxes at recycling depots around HRM. Once the box is full, DAN-X would transfer its contents to Burnside for processing. As for HRM, Mr. Hall reiterated that he is asking that the Municipality use DAN-X services to recycle spent bulbs in municipal buildings and that the Municipality assist DAN-X in the purchase of a mercury distiller.

Councillor Watts, in a follow-up question, asked if DAN-X had considered working with the Resource Recovery Fund Board (RRFB) to bolster consumer responsibility. Mr. Hall indicated that DAN-X has met with the RRFB and will find out shortly if it will help fund the purchase of a mercury distiller.

The Chair thanked Mr. Hall and Mr. Emerson for their participation, noting that HRM staff and Standing Committee members are excited about the work DAN-X is undertaking. He encouraged staff to continue their discussions with Dan-X and suggested that HRM could have a role in educating companies of DAN-X services.

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

- 1. Staff prepare a report investigating the possibility of recycling spent bulbs used in municipal facilities; and**
- 2. Halifax Regional Council prepare a letter to other levels of government to gain clarity on regulations relative to the disposal of mercury light bulbs**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6.3.2 Fusion Halifax re: Fair Trade Town Halifax Bid

A report prepared by Fusion Halifax on the designation of HRM as a Fair Trade Town was before the Standing Committee.

Ms. Kaitlin Pianosi, Director of the Fusion Sustainability Action Team thanked Councillors for this second opportunity to talk to them about Fusion Halifax's bid to have HRM designated a Fair Trade Town. She quickly reviewed her organization's mandate, noting that it brings together young professionals that want to make Halifax a more sustainability city, as well as a better place to live and play.

She then introduced Donal Power, Fair Trade Town Coordinator who would explain the benefits of applying for this designation.

Mr. Power explained that becoming a Fair Trade Town would confirm HRM's commitment to the greater availability of fair trade products, to following ethical purchasing policies, and to supporting the principles of fair trade. In order to receive the designation, HRM, he continued, would have to meet a series of goals, including increasing the availability of fair trade products in the community. Once these goals were achieved, HRM would join a network of over 1,000 fair trade towns worldwide, including Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal, St. John's and Wolfville, which was the first Canadian city to get the designation.

Mr. Power highlighted the benefits of a Fair Trade Town designation, one being raising awareness of ethical purchasing. In this area, he noted that HRM has already taken an important first step by adopting fair trade-friendly catering guidelines. Being designated a Fair Trade Town would strengthen HRM's commitment in this area, in turn bolstering the Municipality's international profile as a progressive jurisdiction.

On process and procedure, Mr. Power explained that HRM's bid must be approved by Fairtrade Canada, which will assess the Municipality's bid on six criteria, namely:

- Political support for the designation
- Availability of fair trade goods at stores, supermarkets, restaurants and cafes around the municipality
- Support from the community
- Organization of awareness-raising campaigns on fair trade
- Establishment of a Fair Trade Town Committee; and
- Long-term planning to ensure the project is viable

To achieve the first goal, Mr. Power asked that HRM and Fusion develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) demonstrating both parties' commitment to this project. In it, HRM could pledge, among other things, to use fair trade goods at meetings.

To achieve the second goal, he explained that Fusion Halifax is surveying businesses in HRM to ensure that at least 52 retail outlets and 26 catering outlets offer two or more Fair Trade certified products. He indicated that he is confident that HRM can meet the minimal requirements.

For the third, Mr. Power noted that Fusion Halifax is reaching out to Dalhousie University, the Nova Scotia Community College, the Ecology Action Centre and other organizations to gain sufficient community support.

For the fourth, Fusion Halifax plans to organize public events, with the support of HRM. He requested that HRM commit to publishing 1 or 2 press releases per year and contribute to the costs of a designation ceremony to which Council would be encouraged to attend.

To meet the fifth goal, Mr. Power explained that a permanent committee would be struck and that HRM would have representation on it.

Finally, to achieve the sixth goal, Fusion Halifax will take the lead organizing events, like an annual forum involving church groups, schools, and farmers markets. The goal of this and other events would be to promote recycling and the purchase of organic and sweat-shop free goods. Mr. Power explained that HRM could play a role in advertising these events on the municipal website.

Ms. Pianosi concluded the presentation by requesting that HRM co-sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Fusion Halifax in which the Municipality:

- Expresses support for the Fair Trade Town designation
- Identifies the main contact person at HRM on this project
- Commits to using fair trade products
- Commits to establishing a webpage to the Fair Trade campaign
- Commits to publishing 1 or 2 press releases per year on fair trade issues

- Commits to contributing nominal funding for the designation ceremony, and encourages the attendance of HRM officials, including Councillors and the Mayor, at this event.

Mr. Power and Ms. Pianosi responded to questions of clarification from Councillors.

Councillor Watts explained that it has proved difficult to change purchasing behaviour at City Hall, citing efforts to ban bottled water. She noted that fair trade, from what she understood, was not included in current procurement policies. As such, HRM may be purchasing some fair trade products, but has not made a concerted effort to do so. She suggested that future policies should encourage both fair trade and buy-local procurement.

Recalling that Fusion Halifax had appeared before the Committee previously, the Chair asked staff to explain why first attempts at the bid had stalled.

Staff replied that a student group at Dalhousie University had approached HRM about the Fair Trade Town designation two years ago. Since that time, Fusion Halifax has stepped in to take over the project. As next steps, staff noted that the Standing Committee may wish to ask for a staff report on the drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which could then be presented to Regional Council. Staff stressed that while HRM could support the bid, the project will be spearheaded by Fusion Halifax.

On procurement policies, Staff confirmed that HRM has green catering guidelines and that most caterers can provide fair trade products. Given this, it would not be difficult for HRM to purchase a greater share of fair trade products.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Lund that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request staff to draft a Memorandum of Understanding, with the intent that it be co-signed by Fusion Halifax, addressing points raised in Fusion Halifax's presentation to the Committee on October 4, 2012, namely that HRM:

- **Support, in principle, Fusion Halifax's bid to obtain a Fair Trade Town designation for HRM**
- **Identify a staff liaison for partnership with Fusion Halifax**
- **Commit to using fair trade products**
- **Dedicate a page on the municipal website to the Fair Trade campaign and ensure that its contents are up to date**
- **Prepare 1 or 2 press releases, co-branded with Fusion Halifax, announcing HRM's official designation ceremony**
- **Contribute to the nominal costs of hosting a designation ceremony at which Councillors would be present**

Councillor Lund expressed support for this initiative and received confirmation from staff that the MOU would be reviewed by the Standing Committee before it went to Regional Council.

Ms. Pianosi explained that Fusion Halifax is hoping to submit their bid in 2013 and, if accepted, they could host the designation ceremony on Fair Trade Day in May.

Councillor Lund asked if Wolfville is the only municipality in Nova Scotia to have the designation, to which Mr. Power responded in the affirmative. He noted, however, that Engineers without Borders organizes a Fair Trade Campus program that Dalhousie University hopes to join.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7. REPORTS - NONE

8. MOTIONS – NONE

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Information Item 1 - Memorandum from the Municipal Clerk's Office dated September 27, 2012 entitled: Requests for Presentation to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee

A presentation request from Harvey & MacKenzie Architects was before the Standing Committee.

Councillors Watts wished to know if staff was already in discussions with the firm.

Staff explained that Harvey & Mackenzie are requesting that their client's building be tied into the geothermal site on Alderney Drive. HRM, he continued, is currently reviewing the matter and will report back to the Standing Committee in November or December.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Lund that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee defer consideration of the presentation request from Harvey & MacKenzie until a staff policy report is brought forward to Standing Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.2 Councillor Hum - Federation of Canadian Municipalities Funding for Solar City Initiative

Staff indicated that they had received correspondence on October 1, 2012 from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities regarding HRM's application for funding for Solar

City. They indicated that Regional Council would be briefed on the contents of this letter in November by way of a staff report.

Councillor Hum expressed concern over the procurement process for Solar City, noting that she, along with stakeholders, like Solar Nova Scotia, are uneasy with a sole sourcing agreement.

Staff responded that they would be addressing these concerns in a report to Regional Council. They noted, further, that HRM held a competitive solicitation process for the supply and installation of solar panels. The report to Council will explain how the process unfolded and recommend the awardee of the tender.

Councillors Watts asked who on staff should residents be directed to should they have concerns about Solar City procurement. Ms. Feist, Manager, Procurement replied that correspondence could be addressed to her.

9.3 Councillor Dalrymple - Minas Basin Pulp and Power

The Chair reminded Councillors that two weeks prior, the Standing Committee had declined a presentation from Basin Pulp and Power: Since that time, he continued, staff has received new information and is now recommending that the presentation request be approved.

Staff confirmed that they had met with the company twice and had reviewed their technology, noting that it is their opinion that a presentation would be worthwhile

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Fisher that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee accept the request for presentation from Minas Basin Pulp and Power, with the date of the presentation to be confirmed. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

11. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting was scheduled for November 1, 2012

12. IN CAMERA

12.1 Contractual Matter

12.1.1 Internetworking Atlantic Inc. Municipal Access Agreement

MOVED by Councillor Lund, seconded by Councillor Watts that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee convene into In Camera in order to consider the Municipal Access Agreement with Internetworking Atlantic Inc. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m. to convene into In Camera.

Ted Aubut
Legislative Assistant