

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY
STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES

October 3, 2013

PRESENT: Councillor Barry Dalrymple, Chair
Councillor Jennifer Watts, Vice Chair
Deputy Mayor Reg Rankin
Councillor Lorelei Nicoll
Councillor Darren Fisher
Councillor Bill Karsten
Councillor Steve Craig

STAFF: Mr. Mike Labrecque, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Joshua Judah, Solicitor
Mr. Richard Maclellan, Manager, Energy and Environment
Mr. Gord Helm, Manager Solid Waste Resources
Ms. Laurie Lewis, Diversion Planning Coordinator
Mr. Quentin Hill, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. in the Dartmouth Chamber, 90 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 5, 2013

MOVED by Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Nicoll, that the minutes of September 5, 2013, be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions: 9.1 Presentation Request – NS Home Builder Association
9.2 Presentation Request – Nova Waste Solutions
9.3 Councillor Karsten: FCM Sustainable Communities Conference Trade Show

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Karsten, that the order of business be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Business Arising – None

4.2 Status Sheet

Councillor Craig commented that the status sheet was not useful for determining the status of each item. He requested that staff provide new information to update to make the status sheet current.

Councillor Fisher provided some background information on item 8: Dan-X recycling. He advised that there was a tour of the Dan-X facility on October 25, 2013.

A discussion on the status sheet ensued.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Nicoll to remove item 2: Standing Committee mandate/powers to be removed from the Status Sheet.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Nicoll recommended that the current status of each item be included on the status sheet; if it was to be removed or remain. She added that the Committee could then make one motion to remove all the items that were recommended for removal.

Mr. Mike Labrecque, Deputy CAO advised that some of the requested changes could be considered.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Watts that item 9: Blue Mountain Birch Cove Regional Plan is removed from the Status Sheet.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence

The Committee agreed to address all the added items concerning correspondence and presentation requests.

6.1.1 Presentation Request: Bag to Earth

A presentation request dated September 20, 2013 was before the Committee.

9.1 Presentation Request: Nova Scotia Home Builders Association

A presentation request dated September 26, 2013 was before the Committee.

9.2 Presentation Request: Nova Waste Solutions

A presentation request dated September 30, 2013 was before the Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee grant presentation requests for Bag to Earth and NS Home Builders Association for the November 2013 meeting and further to grant a presentation request to Nova Waste solutions to the December, 2013 meeting.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6.2 Petitions – None

6.3 Presentation

6.3.1 Clean Nova Scotia – Partnership Opportunities

Ms. Andrea MacDonald, Director of Programs of Clean Nova Scotia provided a presentation to the Committee. She stated that Clean Nova Scotia wanted to take the

opportunity to look at how they can strategically work with HRM in the future as they begin a new four year plan. She noted that Clean NS works in the following areas:

- Sustainable Transportation
- Waste Reduction
- Water Stewardship
- Energy

Ms. MacDonald advised that Cleans NS role is education and community engagement and that is how they see the value of what they can offer in support with HRM. She added that they are looking at how they can support better community consultation of environmental issues. She clarified the following areas which Clean NS currently works in HRM:

- Sustainable Transportation, since 2006 working on vehicle and fleet efficiency. Teaching efficient driving techniques and finding the right vehicle for your needs. She noted that they have supported municipal, private and public fleets.
- Watershed Restoration work: includes streams restoration and watershed health. She advised they also work on coastal work with reef balls which are artificial reefs.
- Stormwater: two key areas where Clean NS worked. She added they recently had a stormwater conference to bring together subject matter experts. She stated their main program was a homeowner education program to improve stormwater management and was funded through HRM. She advised they have now reached over 100 homes over the past year.
- Energy efficiency: focus on demand side energy and have been the delivery agent for Efficiency NS.
- NS Youth Corp: Run by Clean NS and have had 87 youth employed in the environment sectors.

After completion of the presentation Ms. MacDonald responded to questions of clarification of the Committee.

Councillor Dalrymple thanked Ms. MacDonald and Clean Nova Scotia for presenting to the Committee.

6.3.2 QUEST Solar Sub-Committee

A report titled "Planning for Solar Energy: Halifax Regional Municipality" was before the Committee.

Mr. John Crace, provided the presentation on behalf of QUEST Solar sub-committee. He stated that the presentation was to introduce ten recommendations to the Committee. He noted that the recommendations came from QUEST's review of two studies commissioned by HRM in 2012. Mr. Crace outlined the growth of solar power using examples of how many industries are using and marketing the energy. He added that the solar resource in Nova Scotia is one of the best in the world. He explained that the technology has become cheaper, more efficient and the price per watt generated is

going down. He stated that HRM is already a leader in the field with the Solar City Program, but noted there is not a policy platform in place to support a solar program on a consistent basis. Mr. Crace provided the following recommendations for the Committee to consider supporting:

- HRM adopt a policy requiring a minimum of 15% of all new HRM owned buildings' energy use is met from solar technologies or integrated design.
- HRM develop a policy and guidelines that require houses constructed in rural areas follow passive solar criteria.
- HRM start in depth solar planning policy development immediately.
- HRM adopt a definition of Solar Ready and work with Province to expand existing Efficiency Nova Scotia Programming to include rebates and incentives for Solar Ready Construction.
- HRM Planning dedicates resources to enable these solar recommendations and hire a planner dedicated for two years to solar policy development and implementation.
- HRM and the Province of Nova Scotia launch a program for homes to obtain an energy rating and label at the point of sale to encourage energy literacy as well as promoting the value of solar.
- HRM create a solar ready bylaw and policies that mandate new construction solar readiness in both residential and commercial buildings in HRM.
- HRM work with Province and support legislation and policies, collaborating on a Provincial Solar Act.
- HRM adopt a vision for solar.

Councillor Watts applauded the recommendations and felt it was good challenge for HRM to think about its role around solar energy and ability.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request a staff report examining all 10 (ten) recommendations outlined in the QUEST Solar Committee report with priority to the following:

- 1. That HRM take a corporate leadership role in respect to solar by adopting a policy that 15% of all energy used by new buildings would be provided by solar.**
- 2. That by the end of 2014 HRM adopt planning policies designed to require passive solar orientation in rural areas and investigating the possibility that this recommendation could be included in the RP+5 process.**
- 3. That HRM investigate the potential to hire a planner on a 2 year term to research and design a program to ensure increased adoption of solar friendly planning policies and this position be created in the next fiscal year.**

Mr. Labrecque cautioned the Committee about the requests in the motion. He requested that staff take away the requests and see what the options are. He added that there may be resource implications.

In response, Councillor Watts stated she was concerned about the timeline of returning a staff report on all the recommendations. She further added that she would be open to have the motion reworded but did not want to see a report delayed for a long period of time.

Councillor Fisher added that he supports the recommendations outlined by QUEST and looked forward to a report coming back to the Committee.

Councillor Nicoll felt the motion was too specific and questioned if the motion could be simplified to have staff review the recommendations presented and report back to the Committee.

Mr. Labrecque advised that it would be easier for staff to review the ten recommendations and have something back to the Committee by the December 2013 meeting.

Councillor Karsten recommended the amendment of the motion to remove the three specific requests and staff review the ten recommendations as presented by QUEST and report back to the Committee.

Deputy Mayor Rankin advised he supported the motion with the three recommendations included. He reasoned that it might be a good use of staff resources to look into using solar.

Councillor Craig said he would support the motion to have a general look at the recommendations and have staff report back to the Committee. He added solar technology was a wonderful opportunity to move away from using non-renewable resources.

Councillor Watts agreed to withdraw the three priorities in the motion with the understanding that staff would come back with a report to the Committee in December.

The motion before the Committee now reads:

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request a staff report examining all 10 (ten) recommendations outlined in the QUEST Solar Committee report.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7. REPORTS

7.1 Staff

7.1.1 Regulatory and Policy Strategy: Stormwater Management

A staff report dated September 11, 2013 was before the Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend Regional Council to direct staff to:

- 1. Prepare for Public Hearing, a consolidated Regional Lot Grading By-Law based on the objectives outlined in this report;**
- 2. Develop a memorandum of understanding on Erosion and Sedimentation Control with Halifax Water, Nova Scotia Environment , Clean Nova Scotia, and the Nova Scotia Homebuilders Association;**
- 3. Continue to develop a Stormwater Management By-law based on the objectives outlined in this report;**
- 4. Develop a standardized Environmental Section template for consideration of objectives outside the scope of the Lot Grading By-Law or Stormwater Management By-Law, for future planning projects and**
- 5. Align the Streets By-law to the Wastewater Rules and Regulations with respect to substances originating on private property, crossing the right-of-way and entering the storm system.**

Councillor Craig was pleased to see the work on stormwater management and lot grading bylaw moving forward. He requested clarification on recommendation three, he wanted to know if stormwater treatment was meant to imply disposal to the street or neighbouring properties and wanted to know about options of enforcement.

Mr. Richard Maclellan, Manager Energy and Environment explained that enforcement needs to address all components included in the report. He added that with respect to stormwater treatment they are generalized topics as there are many different regulations across the Country. He noted that currently there are no regulations that require treatment of stormwater in Nova Scotia.

Councillor Fisher stated he wanted to see the Stormwater management and lot grading bylaw move forward but understands there are many jurisdictional issues could slow the process down.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Maclellan advised what the report accomplishes is that it provides a straight forward lot grading bylaw; erosion and sedimentation control Memorandum of Understanding. He added that the stormwater

Bylaw is the issue that has the most complexity. He further explained that there has been considerable effort made in looking at an enforcement mechanism.

Councillor Watts wanted to know if there would be a measurable around sedimentation control to see if the guidelines are being met.

Councillor Craig noted that currently nine bylaws with respect to upgrading and stormwater bylaws and wanted to know if the goal was to be moved into one bylaw.

Mr. Maclellan explained that there are a number of people who do not understand the guidelines and what they should or should not be doing in relation to sedimentation and erosion controls. He further added that they could find out how many people are getting training in erosion and sedimentation practices. He added that enforcement is challenging based on different jurisdictional boundaries being controlled by HRM, Halifax Water, Provincial and Federal Governments. Mr. Maclellan acknowledged that the goal was to move all nine bylaws into one bylaw.

Deputy Mayor Rankin was concerned about the lot grading bylaw. He noted that the legal relationship is between the homeowner and the person who did the lot grading certificate. He requested that consideration be given to changing the legal relationship of the lot grading bylaw to include the municipality, so that the Municipality has the ability to protect the homeowner.

Mr. Labrecque responded that he did not know how the Municipality could be included but assured that staff would be looking into the question from the Deputy Mayor.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Presentation Request: Nova Scotia Home Builders Association

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting. See page 4.

9.2 Presentation Request: Nova Waste Solutions

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting. See page 4.

9.3 Councillor Karsten: FCM Sustainable Communities Conference and Trade Show

A pamphlet advertising the 2014 FCM Sustainable Communities Conference and Trade Show was before the Committee.

Councillor Karsten suggested that it might be beneficial for a couple of the Environmental and Sustainability Standing Committee members to attend the conference.

The Committee agreed to have the Chair look into having some of the Committee attend the upcoming conference.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

11. NEXT MEETING DATE – November 13, 2013

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Quentin Hill
Legislative Assistant