



**ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
May 12, 2016**

PRESENT: Councillor Jennifer Watts, Chair
Councillor Lorelei Nicoll
Councillor Tony Mancini
Councillor Brad Johns

REGRETS: Councillor Bill Karsten
Councillor Barry Dalrymple, Vice Chair

STAFF: Ms. Jane Fraser, Acting Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. David Greener, Solicitor
Ms. Phoebe Rai, Legislative Assistant

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/SCenv>

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. and the Standing Committee adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 4 and April 12, 2016

MOVED by Councillor Johns, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the minutes of February 4 and April 12, 2016 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Johns

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

- 4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE**
- 5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE**
- 6. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE**
- 7. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE**
- 8. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE**
- 9. NOTICES OF TABLED MATTERS – NONE**

10. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

10.1 Correspondence - None

10.2 Petitions - None

10.3 Presentation

10.3.1 John Hawkins and Derek Estabrook of Heritage Gas re: Natural Gas Initiatives and Supply & Pricing Update

The following was before the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

- A presentation dated May 12, 2016

Mr. John Hawkins and Mr. Derek Estabrook of Heritage Gas provided a presentation. Highlights include:

- Natural gas helps achieve greenhouse gas emissions targets in the Community Energy Plan;
- Forthcoming reduction in the Base Energy Charge for RC1 commercial customers, pending a final hearing with the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board;
- Commentary with respect to natural gas supply and pricing;
- Opportunities for cooperation between Heritage Gas and HRM including using natural gas as a 'bridge fuel' to renewable energy and expanding the natural gas system in HRM through revisions to the Subdivision By-law.

Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Estabrook responded to questions of clarification, noting the following:

- It is difficult to calculate the payback period for conversion to natural gas, as the rate of return is a function of how much you save from your current choice, and the price of oil has been fluctuating. Historically, the payback period has been roughly five to ten years.

- The current marketing focus is on the approximately 9000 residential customers who are on a gas main but have not yet converted to natural gas. In the long term, Heritage Gas is looking to expand pipeline mains in urban areas where density makes it economically viable.

The Chair thanked the presenters for providing information for the Committee's consideration.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

12. REPORTS

12.1 STAFF

12.1.1 Ecology Action Centre – Home Adaptation Audit Program (“HAAP”)

The following was before the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated March 12, 2016

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request that the Ecology Action Centre submit a formal, detailed proposal for the Home Adaptation Audit Program once the program details are finalized and partners are confirmed.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.1.2 National Zero Waste Council Management Board Alternate

The following was before the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated April 20, 2016

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council appoint the Manager of Solid Waste Resources as an alternate to the National Zero Waste Council Management Board, Council appointment for a term up to October 31, 2016.

Responding to questions of clarification, Mr. Kevin Arjoon, Municipal Clerk advised that staff recommends a term to October 31, 2016 in light of the upcoming municipal election to allow for incoming Councillors to express interest in serving on the Board.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2 COMMITTEES - NONE

12.3 MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE

12.3.1 Councillor Nicoll – Update on the Solar City Program

The following was before the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

- A Request for Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee Consideration form submitted by Councillor Nicoll
- A staff information report dated April 21, 2016

The Chair welcomed the newly appointed Manager of Energy & Environment Ms. Shannon Miedema and Energy Specialist Mr. Adam Hayter.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Johns

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee forward the information report dated April 21, 2016 to Regional Council for their information.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

- 13. MOTIONS - NONE**
- 14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) - NONE**
- 15. ADDED ITEMS - NONE**
- 16. NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE**

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Kelly Schnare provided commentary with respect to the Solar City Program. She suggested that the communications plan for the program include clear guidelines for how community-based non-profit groups and charities such as the Sierra Club of Canada can participate. Ms. Schnare also highlighted the opportunity for solar demonstrations on government-owned buildings.

The Chair advised that the municipality has a strong program for introducing solar and other sustainability measures into existing buildings.

- 18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Thursday, June 9, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.**

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

Phoebe Rai
Legislative Assistant