



BEDFORD WATERSHED ADVISORY BOARD
Wednesday, June 8, 2005
Minutes

PRESENT: Mr. Don Lowther, Chair
Mr. Lawrence White, Vice Chair
Deputy Mayor Len Goucher
Mr. Rick Hattin
Ms. Elaine Loney
Dr. Sankar Ray
Mr. Cedric Pilkington
Mr. Lem Murphy

REGRETS: Mr. Kevin Dean
Ms. Kate Hadden
Mr. William Matheson
Ms. Deborah Gillis

STAFF: Ms. Stephanie Parsons, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Nauss Room, Lebrun Centre, 36 Holland Avenue, Bedford.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - May 11, 2005

MOVED by Mr. Cedric Pilkington, seconded by Mr. Lem Murphy, that the minutes of May 11, 2005 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

MOVED by Mr. Rick Hattin, seconded by Mr. Lem Murphy, that the agenda be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES/STATUS SHEET ITEMS

4.1 Status Sheet

4.1.1 Infilling of Moirs Pond

Deputy Mayor Goucher indicated that he had no further update at this time, other than to advise that a meeting is being scheduled to discuss options to resolve this issue.

4.1.2 Kearney/Quarry/Paper Mill Dams

Deputy Mayor Goucher advised the Committee that Annapolis Group Inc. received permission from the Province to proceed with the upgrading and maintenance of the dams. Annapolis Group, sought a legal opinion and was advised that they could proceed. They will only be upgrading Quarry Dam this year.

Mr. Rick Hattin advised that there will be no fish ladders.

4.1.3 Paper Mill Lake: Watershed Water Quality Monitoring Program

Mr. Pilkington advised that Mr. Chris Elliott, Dalhousie University had indicated that there were funds available for testing next year. Mr. Pilkington submitted the invoice from Amec for the Papermill Phosphorous Sampling.

Deputy Mayor Goucher advised that \$5,000 was available from the Grants Committee. He also suggested that the Chair send a thank you letter to Mr. Tony Blouin, Manager, Environmental Performance (Water) thanking him for recognizing the need for the Committees existence and the work that they have done. Deputy Mayor Goucher also advised that there may be funds available from the District Capital Fund. He further suggested that the Board proceed with the Watershed Water Quality Monitoring Program and include the developers as the Board proceeds.

The Chair suggested that the Board invite Mr. Chris Elliott, AMEC and Mr. David Nantes, Annapolis Group and a representative from Greater Homes, to a meeting and advise them as to what the next steps of the Bedford Watershed Advisory Board are.

In response to Dr. Sankar Ray, Mr. Pilkington advised that Annapolis Group Inc. will be conducting water testing locally and that the Board had agreed to this at the last meeting.

4.1.4 Storm Water Management: Union Street Area

In regards to the recent rain storms, Deputy Mayor Goucher advised the Committee that there was no flooding on Union Street. Barricades and sand bags had been put in place, which prevented the water from flowing over the berm.

Mr. Hattin raised concern over the content of the letter that was sent to Canadian Forces Base Halifax regarding the infilling of the Sackville River. He advised that Mr. Don Ambler, HRDA commented that the rock would not affect the floodplain.

The Chair commented that although Mr. Ambler made the comment, he also agreed that the placement of the rock in the floodplain displaces its own mass elsewhere in the floodplain. The Chair commented that his view is that, if the lines are pushed out, and the berm is not high enough, the water will go over the berm and therefore affects Union Street.

Mr. Lawrence White advised that the floodplain map is incorrect. He further advised that a project in Sackville has encountered some problems. It appears that anyone has the option to hire someone to review the mapping. It is also understood that HRM can request that a developer hire someone to review the map. The problem is that the By-Law says that excavation cannot take place in a one and twenty year floodplain. Another party has put fill in the floodplain area and the developers want to remove it in order to increase the stormwater capacity as a safeguard. They have been advised that they were not allowed. It was to his understanding that the By-Law was meant for natural topography and not for topography that has already been disturbed. If a developer is going to increase capacity, it should be allowed.

In response to Mr. Hattin Committee members had varying views as to what the main concern of the Sackville River was, namely:

- maintaining the floodplain
- decreasing the floodplain
- increasing the floodplain

They all agreed that the homes in the area need to be protected.

Mr. Hattin questioned why a property owner cannot elevate the floodplain to remove it. The Chair advised that elevating the floodplain would increase the lines. Deputy Mayor Goucher commented that the area must be flood proof, and not damage the floodplain.

Deputy Mayor Goucher commented that the Sackville River will always be a problem. During the past five months it has been above berm six times. The floodplain in the upper end is disappearing and increasing the run off, therefore it needs to be protected.

The Chair advised that the area was not designated as a floodplain when the homes were built.

Flooding has only been an issue during the past three to four years.

Mr. Hattin commented that HRM should buy the floodplain or reduce the requirements of a floodplain, if it is not going to allow a resident to build on a floodplain that is part of their property.

To solve the floodplain issue the following suggestions were made:

- dredge some flood basins along various sections of the river
- create a artificial holding lagoon

4.1.5 Paper Mill Run - No discussion.

4.1.6 Stormceptors

The Chair advised that Mr. Angus Schaffenburg is going to find out where the Stormceptors are located and what the maintenance schedule is.

In response to Mr. White, Deputy Mayor Goucher commented that he understands that the catch basins are cleaned once a year.

4.2 Terms of Reference

The Chair advised that the Northwest Community Council approved the amendment to the Bedford Watershed Advisory Board's Terms of Reference and set the quorum to six voting members.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - None

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS - None

7. REPORTS

7.1 SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1.1 Water Quality Inventory Committee - No update.

7.1.2 Paper Mill Lake Advisory Committee - No update.

7.2 STAFF REPORTS - None

8. ADDED ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS - None

9. NEXT MEETING - September 14, 2005

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Stephanie Parsons
Legislative Assistant