HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

DATRMOUTH LAKES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES

February 9, 2011

PRESENT:	Mr. Pierre Clement, Vice-Chair Ms. Christina Hoehne Mr. Mark McLean Dr. Mark Trevorrow Ms. Johanna Campbell Mr. Peter Crowther
REGRETS:	Mr. Peter Connor, Chair Dr. Klaus Hellenbrand Councillor Jackie Barkhouse
GUEST:	Mr. Jamie Hannam, Manager of Engineering, Halifax Water
STAFF:	Mr. Cameron Deacoff, Environmental Performance Officer, Infrastructure and Asset Management Mr. Joseph Driscoll, Planner, Community Development Mr. Sean Audas, Development Officer, Development Services Ms. Sharon Webber, Legislative Support

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. CALL TO ORDER 3
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 5, 2011 3
3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS 3
4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES
   4.1 Sedimentation Control re: Runoff from Major Street / Berang Court Development 3
5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE 3
6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS
   6.1 Correspondence 3
   6.2 Petitions 4
   6.3 Delegations 4
      6.3.1 Shubenacadie Canal / Lake Banook System 4
7. REPORTS
   7.1 Pebblecreek Crescent, Dartmouth: Watercourse Buffer 6
   7.2 Chairman's Report 7
   7.3 Synoptic Survey 7
   7.4 Penhorn / Woodlawn Community Vision Action Team 8
   7.5 Waterfront Brochure Project: Revised Guidelines 8
8. ADDED ITEMS - NONE 8
9. NEXT MEETING DATE – March 2, 2011 8
10. ADJOURNMENT 8

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Pierre Clement, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m. in Room 101 of the Findlay Centre, 26 Elliot Street, Dartmouth, NS.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 5, 2011

MOVED BY Mr. Mark Mclean, seconded by Dr. Mark Trevorrow, that the minutes of January 5, 2011 as presented, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Move: Item 6.3.1 Shubenacadie Canal / Lake Banook System to be dealt with first
Item 7.1 Pebblecreek Crescent, Dartmouth: Watercourse Buffer to be dealt with immediately following Item 6.3.1

MOVED BY Mr. Peter Crowther, seconded by Ms. Christina Hoehne that the agenda, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Sedimentation Control re: Runoff from Major Street / Berang Court Development

Mr. Joseph Driscoll and Mr. Sean Audas spoke to this subject. This issue was referred to the Department of the Environment and to date they are not aware of any issues or concerns with this site.

There are policies and requirements contractors must abide by during construction however the engineer who is assigned to the site is responsible to follow up and ensure adherence. There are no sedimentation or storm water controls which are enforced by HRM. The Department of Environment enforce policies for storm water controls only if it directly affects or it might affect fish habitat in areas like Lake Mic Mac. However they would not be interested if the water is going into a storm sewer or field.

DLAB would like to have some input in the formation of the upcoming policy on Storm Water Management. The general consensus is that policies should be put in place to stop as much damage as possible from storm sewage overflows.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence - NONE

6.2 Petitions - NONE

6.3 Delegations

6.3.1 Shubenacadie Canal / Lake Banook System

Mr. Jamie Hannam, Manager of Engineering, Halifax Water, gave a verbal presentation regarding the Shubenacadie Canal / Lake Banook System. Highlights of his presentation are as follows:

- there are four main stakeholders
- the Society for Canoe Championship owns Lock No. 1 and surrounding lands. There is a three party agreement with HRM and the Canal Commission for which HRM holds the deed.
- the Shubenacadie Canal Commission coordinates the upkeep of heritage facilities associated with the canal system and owns Lock No. 2 and Lock No. 3 plus the land on both sides.
- Halifax Water has an obligation and responsibility to operate and maintain the control gate (upper gate) at Lock No. 1 located at the south end of Lake Banook and the trash racks at Sullivan's Pond for storm water control.
- HRM has a significant recreational presence along Lake Banook and Lake Mic Mac (on and off the water). Lake Banook is recognized as a world class paddling venue.
- other Stakeholders would include canoe interests (3 clubs and associations), Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board; private property owners (lakeshore property), general public, Nova Scotia Department of the Environment, the Federal Department of Natural Resources, Tourism and Culture; First Nations community, Federal Fisheries and Transportation (Navigable Waters Act), and the Municipality of East Hants.

On June 12, 2007 HRM and Halifax Water entered into an agreement to transfer wastewater and storm water assets with an effective date of August 1, 2007, with the explicit approvals of the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board. Clause 9 (c) covers the role and responsibility of Halifax Water with respect to the control gate at Lock No.1 and screens at Sullivan's Pond.

Halifax Water operates and maintains the gate at Lock No.1 but is not responsible for maintenance of the remaining lock structure (not responsible for capital upgrades to the control structure or lock). Halifax Water will clear the grass and shrubs from either side of the lock (to maintain access to the control gate) but not on the masonry brick structure.

Halifax Water's protocol for Lake Banook Control includes:

- establishing winter and summer target lake level
- the winter level is lower than summer to accommodate spring thaw
- the operational goal is to keep the lake at target level during both seasons

- Halifax Water's service truck monitors levels and makes required adjustments at gate
- if large amount of rain is expected and the lake is at, or above, target level, Halifax Water will lower the level in anticipation of the rainfall
- during summer months when the weather forecast is for a long dry spell, staff may raise the lake levels to account for the forecasted lack of rain
- Halifax Water also responds to calls from residents, received through the HRM Corporate Call Centre 490-4000 number, in regard to lake levels being either high or low and takes action within operational target level constraints to address those concerns.

HRM is responsible for inspection and maintenance of stone structure of Lock No. 1. The lower locks at Lock No.1 are not part of the operational control for lake levels. They were reconstructed for historical purposes and the Canal Commission has an interest to exercise and to keep alive.

Future project discussions include:

- future upgrades to Lock No.3 by Canal Commission;
- Watershed Study for Fall River, completed by HRM, and Watershed Study proposed for Port Wallace area in 2011/2012
- possible HRM Secondary Planning amendments for Port Wallace
- Regional Storm Water Functional Plan to be completed by HRM.
- future sanitary forcemain, and other utilities, from Port Wallace to Dartmouth Crossing

The maintenance truck goes by Lock No. 1 weekly. If a weather event is scheduled either on the weekday or weekend the monitoring is done on a daily basis until this event is over.

Mr. Pierre Clement inquired if adjustments to Lock No. 1 were done by eye or if there was a model which was used? Mr. Hannem explained that there was modeling in place for the lock. The water levels are eyed and any adjustments are based on the experience of the maintenance personnel. Some modelling was done when the lake was drained for the canoe championship however this information has not been used to date. Mr. Cameron Deacoff expressed interest in obtaining this modelling information. Dr. Mark Trevorrow stated that installing a model for Lock No. 1 could be done rather easily.

Mr. Peter Crowther had a concern with having one person monitoring these locks. It could prove very challenging especially during a weather event which lasts for some time. He also wanted to know what happens to Lock No. 2 and Lock No. 3. Mr. Hannem explained that Halifax Water is only responsible for Lock No. 1 and they have internal procedures for constant monitoring during an extended weather event.

Mr. Jamie Hannem advised the Board that he would welcome feedback on water levels (too high or too low). Mr. Mark Mclean asked what the targets were and if these targets were available to the public. Mr. Jamie Hannem stated that he did not know what these targets were however was sure they were not available to the public. He will ensure that the Board is given these targets and will look forward to feedback to help Halifax Water fine tune these targets as required.

The Board discussed the significant rain event which happened last year, around the first weekend of November. There were significant water levels at that time. The Board questioned whether there were any other ways to control water levels besides the one's presented. Mr. Hannem explained that another control, located 100 feet outside Lock No. 1, could be opened up to help relieve high water levels.

Mr. Hannem was then asked if there was any talk about having electronic monitoring installed on these locks. He said there was no plan to do so at this time, however Halifax Water currently use electronic monitoring on sewage pipes and thought it might also be used for the locks. He explained that the current equipment would have to be tested before being used on the locks if this type of policy was adopted.

Mr. Hannem will forward a copy of his presentation to the Board along with the current target levels for Lock No. 1.

7. REPORTS

7.1 Pebblecreek Crescent, Dartmouth: Watercourse Buffer

Mr. Sean Audas, Development Officer, Development Services gave a presentation regarding an application request to alter the watercourse buffer to construct a swimming pool at 45 Pebblecreek Crescent, Dartmouth, NS.

The presentation included information on the following:

- the Location Plan
- the approved Subdivision Plan
- the Site Plan
- details of the proposed pool
- landscaping details
- letters of approval from Clayton Developments
- relevant legislative requirements (Development Agreement for Portland Hills application sections)

The Board advised Mr. Audas that DLAB was an Advisory Board to the Harbour East Community Council and were only able to offer comments and/or suggestions on this matter. Mr. Audas explained that he was seeking the Board's expertise on this matter per section 5.3.4 of the Legislative Requirements.

Mr. Audas reviewed the handout with the Board. The main concern is the construction of a 12 foot high, at its highest point, retaining wall being built on the property's buffer zone.

During the ensuing discussion, the Board raised the following comments/concerns:

- is staff satisfied that the survey specifications are accurate
- what kind of vegetation is on, and around, the buffer and the to the left side of the proposed site
- is there a plan in place to ensure any damaged plants are replaced
- any replacement vegetation should be formally presented to HRM's Arborist
- the buffer zone should be an undisturbed area; the retaining wall would now be the new buffer and in order to create the retaining wall the buffer would have to be disturbed which is a concern
- there should be assurance from the owner that the retaining wall will be maintained and monitored with a policy in place to ensure that maintenance is done either by the property owner or by HRM then billed to the owner
- ensure any fill used is free from any contaminated substances
- properly installed silt fence, on both properties, must be used during this project and monitored by HRM

Mr. Cameron Deacoff left the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Audas thanked the Board for their comments and recommendations and will reassess the application based on their input.

7.2 Chairman's Report

Mr. Pierre Clement gave a verbal report on behalf of Mr. Peter Connor.

On Tuesday Feb 1, 2011 Mr. Connor happened upon an Atlantic Industrial Cleaners tank truck at the foot of Mountain Avenue at the end of Red Bridge Pond. He asked them if they were taking on water but they told him they were doing oil spill clean-up at the request of HRM. The spill was the result of vandalism which was caused by the theft of copper oil lines. The clean-up materials and technique consisted of a couple of small floating booms with an absorptive material. A suction hose was sipping up the visible oil on the surface of the water. It looked like the oil had entered the pond through the storm drainage system. Mr. Connor introduced himself as a member of DLAB and was thanked by the two workers who were glad that others were aware of their efforts. Apparently, someone from HRM was to meet them on-site but had not arrived at that point.

Mr. Driscoll and Mr. Audas were not aware of anyone going to this site however they will check it out and update the Board at the next meeting.

7.3 Synoptic Survey

Mr. Pierre Clement gave a verbal report on the Synoptic Survey. The project is moving forward quickly. Some sampling will be done the last week of March. They now have helicopters supplied by the Coast Guard as well as students to help with the survey. He was very pleased that everything was coming together. The Nova Scotia Community College is planning public relations in regard to this event.

7.4 Penhorn / Woodlawn Community Vision Action Team

Mr. Pierre Clement gave a verbal report. This group is currently looking for public or community involvement for ideas for the new Vision.

7.5 Waterfront Brochure Project: Revised Guidelines

Mr. Clement advised the Board that on January 13, 2011 a motion was passed that the Harbour East Community Council granted permission to the DLAB to pursue the proposed project to update the Federal Government "Waterfront Living" brochure in consultation with HRM Sustainable Environment Management Office and the Federal Fisheries and Oceans Department under the following parameters: that DLAB only provides information under the area and jurisdiction of the DLAB, and; that a copy of the brochure be distributed to members of the HECC before final print.

Mr. Audas volunteered to have a person from his office work with the Board to do these revisions. He advised that there are brochures in office regarding watercourse buffers which might be helpful.

The original guidelines were created before the current buffer information was adopted. This information should be included in the revisions.

Work on this project will be incorporated in future meetings therefore should be identified as an agenda item until it is completed.

8. ADDED ITEMS - NONE

9. NEXT MEETING DATE – March 2, 2011

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Ms. Sharon Webber
Legislative Support