

DARTMOUTH LAKES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES

April 4, 2012

PRESENT: Pierre Clement, Chair
Peter Connor, Vice Chair
Christina Hoehne
Johanna Campbell
Klaus Hellenbrand
Mark McLean
Mark Trevorrow

REGRETS: Councillor Jackie Barkhouse

STAFF: Richard MacLellan, Manager, Energy and Environment
Julie Vandervoort, Legislative Support

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m. in Room 101, Findlay Centre, Dartmouth.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES & NOTES – February 1, 2012 and March 7, 2012

MOVED by Ms. Hoehne, seconded by Mr. McLean that the minutes of February 1, 2012 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Mr. Hellenbrand, seconded by Ms. Hoehne that the notes of March 7, 2012 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Mr. Trevorrow, seconded by Ms. Campbell that the Order of Business be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES -- NONE

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

Mr. Clement entered the meeting at 5:28 p.m. and assumed the Chair; Mr. Connor took his seat.

5.1 Discussion with Butch Galvez, Department of Natural Resources – Wildlife re: Beavers and HRM Lakes (*deferred March 7, 2012*)

A copy of the Department of Natural Resources handbook on beavers was circulated to the Board.

Mr. Butch Galvez, Department of Natural Resources - Wildlife provided a presentation to the Board on the presence of beavers in HRM lakes. He outlined the types of complaints received by the Department of Natural Resources and the solutions to flooding or other forms of property and tree damage. He noted that beaver attacks on pets were rare, that beavers improve water quality and enrich habitat and that lodges are protected and can only be removed by permit. In response to questions, he clarified the use of water flow devices through dams. He added that there is an increase in beavers in urban lakes as there is less trapping and the animal can travel considerable distances. He noted that the number of calls about beavers in HRM lakes is tracked, but the Department no longer does a census of the number of lodges.

The Board asked Mr. Galvez to forward the data on tracking the number of calls the Department receives about beavers in HRM lakes.

In response to a further request from the Board, Mr. Galvez advised that he would forward the Clerk an electronic version of the handbook, if available.

5.2 Dartmouth MPS Water Policy Review (Russell Lake Water Quality)
(deferred February 1, 2012 & March 7, 2012)
(i) Staff Report
(ii) Harbour East Community Council Report

The following documents were before the Board:

- A staff report dated January 26, 2012
- A report from the Harbour East Community Council dated January 18, 2012

Mr. Richard MacLellan, Manager, Energy and Environment provided Board with information binders to assist with the policy review project. He explained that he would be the staff liaison for the Board and facilitate the process.

The Board entered into a discussion on the process and how the work would be structured and divided. Members agreed that allocating every other meeting to the policy review project would unduly prolong the process. Members also agreed that they did not wish to form a subcommittee or schedule additional meetings. The Board agreed that each member would work individually with the information binder and policy review sheets and would post their comments and questions to a “drop box” site, which would then be compiled by staff and provided to the members for discussion at the next meeting.

Mr. MacLellan indicated that he would attend the May meeting, along with additional staff if needed, to answer questions. He referred the Board to page two of the Dartmouth MPS Water Policy Review report dated March 7, 2012 (included in the information binder and distributed at the March 7, 2012 Board meeting). The Board agreed to adopt the seven steps recommended for the Review Project as outlined in the January 26, 2012 staff report and advise the Harbour East Community Council.

MOVED by Mr. Connor, seconded by Ms. Hoehne that the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board prepare a report of recommended policy alternatives for the consideration of Harbour East Community Council to enhance the preservation of water quality, particularly at Russell Lake. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence

Mr. Connor informed members that he had received notice of an upcoming Nova Scotia Department of Environment course on urban wetland restoration. The Chair advised that he would forward the notice and course details to the Clerk to be distributed to Board members.

- 6.2 **Petitions – None**
- 6.3 **Delegations – None**

7. REPORTS

7.1 BOARD MEMBERS

7.1.1 Chairman’s Report – *Mr. Pierre Clement (Verbal Update)*

A brief discussion was held on the water levels in Lake Banook. The Board requested the staff provide a status update on the current water target levels for Lake Banook and how they are maintained.

- 8. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**
- 9. NEXT MEETING DATE – May 2, 2012**
- 10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Julie Vandervoort
Legislative Support