

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

January 19, 2012

PRESENT: Councillor Jennifer Watts, Chair  
Councillor Debbie Hum, Vice Chair  
Councillor David Hendsbee  
Mr. Lawrence Plug  
Mr. David Jackson  
Mr. Troy Nauffts  
Mr. Walter Regan  
Mr. Clive MacGregor  
Ms. Elizabeth Pugh  
Mr. Wayne Groszko (for Scott MacPhee)  
Ms. Devon Peavoy  
Mr. John MacLennan

REGRETS: Mr. Myles McCallum

STAFF: Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Regional Trail Coordinator  
Mr. David MacIsaac, TDM Program Supervisor  
Ms. Julie Vandervoort, Legislative Support  
Ms. Holly Richardson, Coordinator, Real Property Policy  
Mr. John Charles, Planning & Infrastructure

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## 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. in Room 108, Bloomfield Centre.

## 2. UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were made:

- Councillor Hendsbee announced the Take the Roof off Winter snowshoe event at 11 a.m. January 21, 2012 at Porter's Lake
- Halifax Cycling Coalition birthday party at 6:30 January 19, 2012.
- Halifax Cycling Coalition helping to coordinate a January 31, 2012 public talk from Copenhagen visitors coming to a two-day AT conference
- Hike NS is hosting its first Hike-Walk-Snowshoe Summit in Kejimkujik Park (event is now filled to capacity)

## 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 8, 2011

Ms. Pugh noted that she is listed as both present and absent in the minutes; she was present. The Chair noted that the reference to Multi-Use Pads in item 7.3.1 should read Multi-Use Paths, and the last sentence of paragraph two in item 7.3.1 should read "The Committee felt that based on this comment the Active Transportation Advisory Committee would like to be involved in discussions about mountain bikes and hiking trails." Mr. MacLissac noted that, in item 8.4.1, concerns about catch basins should be referred to him, not to Mr. Jackson.

**MOVED by Councillor Hum, seconded by Mr. MacGregor that the minutes of December 8, 2011 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## 4. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

The Chair advised that she was adding item 9.1 (Correspondence dated November 28, 2011 from Mr. S. Bruce Fitzner, Chief Engineer of Highway Problems, Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal ) as an information item.

**MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Mr. Plug that the order of business be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## 5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

### 5.1 Winter Snow Removal on Trails

Councillor Watts reminded Committee members that while snow removal on trails may not be a priority, AT trails will be cleared and to call 490-4000 and track the complaint if clearing is not done.

## **6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**

### **6.1 Trail Access for Visually Impaired Residents**

Mr. Nauffts provided an update, stating that he was seeking additional information on how to structure a grant application. Ms. Debaie added an overview of the preliminary meetings about this initiative held with provincial counterparts. Mr. Nauffts stated this matter should be tabled for the present, he would advise the Committee of any progress and when this item could return to the agenda.

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

### **7.1 Correspondence**

#### **7.1.1 Bike Routes and Safety – Correspondence dated November 17, 2011 from Mr. Al Darrach**

The Chair referred the Committee to Mr. Darrach's letter expressing concern about the safety of drivers and cyclists on the Bedford Highway. The Chair added that this Committee could not endorse cyclists using pedestrian sidewalks. Mr. Plug noted that the education around the one-metre law is lacking the direction that drivers should wait to pass cyclists, not drift into another lane to provide one metre.

Mr. MacIsaac noted that the corridor is currently being analyzed for capacity and options and this issue is linked to Multi-Use Paths.

**MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. MacGregor that Mr. MacIsaac provide an information report on the status and AT priority of this issue. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **7.1.2 Lower Water Street Bike Lane – Correspondence dated January 7, 2012 from Mr. Ross Soward, Co-Chair Halifax Cycling Coalition**

Mr. MacIsaac provided an update on the current bike lanes, the options such as eliminating some parking, creating share arrows, or using the opportunities provided by upcoming changes to existing buildings. He added that the Barrington trail paving will be complete this spring or summer and work is currently underway on how to direct cyclists to Lower Water Street on an interim basis. He stated he would respond, by letter, to the Halifax Cycling Coalition.

### **7.2 Petitions -- None**

### **7.3 Presentations**

#### **7.3.1 Open Space Functional Plan – Ms. Holly Richardson, Coordinator of Real Property Policy**

A background report and overview, dated January 19, 2012, was before the Committee.

Ms. Richardson provided a presentation on the Open Space Plan, noting that the Plan is in the initial stage and while this was the first check-in with the Committee there would be more as the Plan progresses. She stated that, in alignment with the Regional Plan, there would be an acquisition strategy to build an open space network and that Phase 1 is the Regional Centre. In response to questions from Committee members, Ms. Richardson clarified the following:

- how targets and achievements will be measured
- how community priorities will shape allocating “points” for what kind of open space is desirable
- open space and “useable” open space for recreation
- upcoming website, focus group discussions, online surveys and social media
- definition of green, blue, grey and white open spaces and the inventory and mapping of such categories
- parkland requirement for new apartments and condominiums

Mr. Regan noted the opportunity presented by the plans underway for the anniversary of the Shubenacadie Canal System. The Chair added that 2012 was a crucial year for public consultation about the Regional Plan and the Open Space Plan and Active Transportation proponents need to be involved.

### **7.3.2 North-South Peninsula Bike Route Consultations – Mr. David MacIsaac, TDM Program Supervisor**

Mr. MacIsaac provided a presentation on the strengths and weaknesses of the four possible corridors, the meetings held with North End stakeholders and the possible “paint on the road” dates. He stated there was tremendous support for the corridor even among Agricola Street business owners concerned about the parking issue. He noted that the next step was to research how parking works now in the area and to hold public consultations in February or March 2012. Staff will then make a recommendation to Peninsula Community Council and one of the four routes will be chosen initially, with additional routes to follow.

## **8. REPORTS**

### **8.1 Safety and Education Sub-Committee**

The Chair stated there was no report at this time as the sub-committee has not met yet.

### **8.2 Bike Week**

Mr. MacGregor noted that planning for this event is underway and that this year there will be a bike-to-work week with an award to the workplace with the most participation.

### **8.3 Staff**

Mr. MacIsaac stated that staff were meeting on the issue of cyclists and roundabouts and he would report on this at the next meeting. He added that he would also bring a list of current staff projects and seek the Committee's input on priorities.

Ms. Debaie provided an update on the Chain of Lakes Greenway Plan, the Sackville Rivers Association upcoming Greenway Study, the templates for six guaranteed wheelchair accessible trails with civic numbers, discussions on signage and the process to leverage funding for community trails. She also noted that the Halifax Greenway will extend to St. Mary's University.

### **8.4 Committee Members**

Mr. Regan (Halifax Regional Trails Association) noted that HRTA was included in the review of the HRM Bike & Trails Map scheduled for spring 2012. He added an update on the Halifax North West Trails Association plans for an extension, stated that HRTA will try to send a representative to the February Kickstand Conference, and that the First Lake Trails Association is working with Mr. Nauffts on funding for tactile signage for the First Lake Trail.

### **8.5 New Business – Draft Bike and Trails Map Review – Mr. David MacIsaac**

Due to time constraints, Mr. MacIsaac offered to stay after the meeting and provide copies of the maps to members who wished to discuss this item.

## **9. ADDED ITEMS**

### **9.1 Correspondence dated November 28, 2011 from Mr. S. Bruce Fitzner, Chief Engineer of Highway Problems, Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal**

This correspondence was circulated as an information item.

## **10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -- NONE**

## **11. NEXT MEETING DATE – February 16, 2012**

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.