

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

**ENERGY AND UNDERGROUND SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

September 22, 2008

PRESENT: Councillor Andrew Younger, Chair
Councillor Jim Smith
Councillor Sheila Fougere
Councillor Sue Uteck

REGRETS: Councillor Debbie Hum

STAFF: Mr. Angus Doyle, Manager of Utilities Coordination,
Traffic & Right-of Way Services
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor
Mr. Julian Boyle, Energy Auditor, Infrastructure and Asset
Management
Mr. Carl Yates, General Manager, Halifax Regional Water
Commission
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:21 a.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOVED by Councillor Fougere, seconded by Councillor Smith that the minutes of August 7, 2008 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. **APPROVAL OF ORDER OF BUSINESS / ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

MOVED by Councillor Fougere, seconded by Councillor Smith that the agenda as presented be accepted. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/DEFERRED ITEMS**: None

5. **NEW BUSINESS**:

5.1 **5 Year Capital District Streetscape Improvements Plan**

5.2 **Review of Recommended Priority List of Utility Undergrounding Projects**

The Chair advised that items 5.1 and 5.2 were related, therefore, they would be dealt with together.

Mr. Barry Yanchyshyn, Real Property Planning, provided a presentation on a 5-year capital estimate for the Capital District Streetscape Project. He advised that five streetscapes were identified as priority and were put through an evaluation matrix for assessing the undergrounding priorities. He added that work has been done on Portland Street and a number of improvements carried out along Gottingen Street, and the three remaining streetscape priorities are Spring Garden Road, Barrington Street, and Quinpool Road,

Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor advised that staff was preparing a report which is expected to be ready by the end of the month to request an addition to HRM's Legislative requests in connection to the HRM by Design. She noted that the addition is to provide, as part of the Development Officers mandate, that undergrounding as part of the development process be required within the Capital District.

At 10:39 a.m. Mr. Yates retired from the meeting.

A discussion ensued and staff responded to questions

In response to a question, Ms. Donovan advised that Nova Scotia Power and Aliant will bear the costs associated with their utilities. She added that based on past experience these costs are about half, which is a significant portion.

Councillor Smith referred to the prioritizing of streetscape places and questioned if Wyse Road is considered part of the capital district by staff and if there is opportunity for undergrounding.

Mr. Yanchyshyn explained that the Capital District has five priorities. As well, there is a regional streetscape fund and Council has adopted Herring Cove, Main Street, Dartmouth, and Sackville Drive as the three regional priorities. He added that Wyse Road does not appear in that report, as it focuses mostly on commercial areas and centres. Mr Yanchyshyn advised that staff will be looking at a bit of Wyse Road in terms of the Dartmouth Common Plan.

In response to a question by the Chair, Mr. Doyle advised that it would be very expensive to carry out the primary undergrounding on Quinpool Road.

At 10:56 a.m. Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan retired from the meeting.

Mr. Doyle advised that this was the first time criteria was used to evaluate projects. The criteria was applied to four applications; three were in the Plan and the other one was Ochterloney Street. He added that Ochterloney rated lower as the development didn't offer much of a benefit; it is not a streetscape priority; and there is no plan to repave the street or sidewalks. He noted that the intent was to provide a report to ask for consideration for the ranking and to focus on Spring Garden Road and Quinpool Road for funding approval.

The Chair referred to the staff recommendation, and requested that if a motion is to be put forward that Item 1 and 2 of the recommendation specifically mention *Capital District* streetscape improvements, to which it was agreed.

Councillor Smith requested that the motion include a reference that a future review would include consideration of Wyse Road, **to which it was agreed.**

MOVED by Councillor Fougere, seconded by Councillor Uteck that the Energy and Underground Services Advisory Committee recommend Regional Council:

1. **Approve the utilities underground application ranking, undertaken by HRM staff and Spring Garden Road and Quinpool Road be considered for funding approval.**
2. **Funding for these projects be allocated as part of the associated Capital District Streetscape Improvements.**
3. **Approve an annual funding review too be established to identify upcoming opportunities and associated costs, including Wyse Road.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6. **ADDED ITEMS:** None

7. **NEXT MEETING DATE:**

It was agreed to cancel the October 17, 2008 meeting.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant