

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX WATERSHED ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
March 18, 2009

PRESENT:

Ms. Ellinor Williams, Chair
Mr. Walter Regan
Dr. Barry Thomas
Mr. Derrill Hynick
Mr. Ross Evans
Mr. Scott Harron
Deputy Mayor David Hendsbee
Councillor Peter Lund

REGRETS:

Mr. Nathaniel Smith
Mr. David Ripley

STAFF:

Mr. Brian White, Planner
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Acting Municipal Clerk

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Media Room, City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 18, 2009

MOVED by Walter Regan, seconded by Scott Harron, that the minutes of February 18, 2009, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Walter Regan, seconded by Scott Harron, that the Order of Business be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Meeting with Bedford: Merger and Dr. Watts Report

Following discussion on this item it was agreed that the committee would take no action at this time pending the board and committee review report going to Regional Council.

4.2 Future Role of the Halifax Watershed Advisory Board

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

5. DEFERRED AND STATUS SHEET ITEMS - NONE

6. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Williams noted a letter would be forwarded to the Mayor with regards to the committee's report on septic tanks. She also noted she had received a letter from a resident regarding incorrectly located septic tanks in the Head of St. Margaret's Bay area and advised she would send a letter in response advising that this came under provincial jurisdiction.

7. CORRESPONDENCE - NONE

8. REPORTS

8.1 Jacques Whitford/Stantec: Water Quality Testing

Ms. Kate Greene and Ms. Juliann Sullivan, presented their report to the Board.

In response to questions from Deputy Mayor Hendsbee, the committee was advised:

- that some public water supply lakes, but not all, are being recommended for inclusion in the program. Halifax Water will be consulted as they are the responsible body.
- Tidal action was not included as a measure in the ranking system
- none of the tidal water bodies were selected although some were included in Tier I by the ranking system.
- Beaches were not included as a measure of inclusion in Tier I, but later in the process as a community layer.

The committee recommended that the use of those lakes also be identified.

In response to Councillor Lund, the committee was advised anything coastal is beyond the scope of this study.

In response to Mr. Hynick, the committee was advised that a remediation strategy is not being developed at this time. Data will be collected in a phased approach and then this data will be examined by a statistician to figure out what is happening.

Mr. Harron suggested that the group one parameters include signs of visible wildlife sightings.

In response to a question from Mr. White as to how planners would respond to HWAB recommendations requiring water quality monitoring and how they would be incorporated into the overall system of monitoring, the Board was advised that, where development was planned on a lake that was already in the program, the developer would only need to step up the monitoring during construction, as required under the plan. If the lake is not included, monitoring should be required to the level suggested by the plan for the watershed in which it is located. A list of parameters is provided in the plan for water quality monitoring before, during and after construction.

Ms. Williams suggested members of the committee write their comments down for circulation and consolidation at the next meeting.

8.2 Case 01179 - Rockcliffe Village Development Proposal, Northwest Arm Drive/Cowie Hill Road, Halifax

Mr. Kevin Riles and Mr. Rushton, consultant, gave an overview of the proposal to the committee.

Mr. Evans received clarification that the storm water will be piped under the Old Sambro Road, entering a brook which is a tributary of the MacIntosh Run, below Long Lake.

In response to Deputy Mayor Hendsbee, the committee was advised that swales will be located in the central park. The water from individual lots will be diverted to wetland areas for infiltration and bio-retention. Parkland will be deeded to HRM and the greenbelt will be the responsibility of the property owners.

The committee was advised stormwater is directed to a piped storm sewer system which discharges into the central park wetland areas. Compost and wood fibre will be considered for perimeter erosion and sedimentation control. The silt fences are wire mesh and can be left on site, either as a temporary protection measure or they can be adjusted to enhance the site post construction.

In response to Mr. Regan, the committee was advised there will be three natural wetlands and one will be created. There will be an oil and grits separators in each parking garage. Water monitoring will be in place in order to carry out the project and the contractor will be working with staff to establish a baseline and frequency for the monitoring.

Mr. Paul Sampson, Planner, advised that the current zoning on the property is RDD (Residential Development District) and the land use designation is the same. The current zoning allows R-1 and R-2 uses as of right and also provides the ability to enter into a development agreement.

He noted that the current Regional Plan allows for greater watercourse setbacks than when the MPS policies were adopted for this area in 1987. He advised the proposal is currently being reviewed by HRM staff and HRM is requiring that the Red Book standards are met.

9. ADDED ITEMS : None

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2007.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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March 18, 2009

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Julia Horncastle
Acting Municipal Clerk