

## HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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### HALIFAX WATERSHED ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

May 20, 2009

PRESENT: Ms. Ellinor Williams, Chair  
Mr. Derrill Hynick  
Mr. Barry Thomas  
Mr. David Ripley  
Mr. Scott Harron  
Councillor Peter Lund  
Deputy Mayor David Hendsbee

ABSENT: Mr. Walter Regan (regrets)  
Mr. Ross Evans  
Mr. Nathaniel Smith

STAFF: Mr. Brian White, Planner  
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

The Chair noted that there have been occasions during the meetings when the Board members have engaged in two or three conversations at the same time when discussing an agenda item. She requested that, as a way to ensure everyone has an opportunity to put forward their comments and to maintain an orderly discussion, that members indicate to her when they want to speak, and she would write down their names, and have the Board members speak according to that order.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - March 18, 2009; April 15, 2009**

The Chair advised that there were some corrections she felt should be made to the March and April minutes, prior to the Board considering approval. In addition, she noted that the February minutes also should be reviewed.

A brief discussion ensued and it was **MOVED BY Deputy Mayor Hendsbee, seconded by Mr. Thomas that the minutes of February, March, and April be tabled, and the Chair review and provide any clarifications to the minutes, and bring them back to the June meeting for consideration of approval. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

**MOVED by Deputy Mayor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Lund that the agenda be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO NEXT AGENDA**

The Chair advised that this agenda category was something that had been a past practice of the Board, instituted by the previous Chair, and which she would like to bring back.

Mr. Thomas concurred, explaining that it had been past practice of the Board to only add items to the agenda of the night of the meeting if they were urgent, otherwise they would be items added to the next meeting's agenda.

There were no items put forward at this time for the June meeting.

**5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES:**

**5.1 Case #01179, Rockcliffe Village Development Proposal, Northwest Arm Drive / Cowie Hill Road, Halifax - Recommendations**

A draft version of the Halifax Watershed Advisory Board Recommendations dated May 19, 2009 were submitted.

**MOVED by Deputy Mayor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Lund that the**

**recommendations be approved as presented.**

In response to a question, Mr. White advised that when staff bring this matter forward to Community Council, the Board's recommendations will be part of the information that Community Council takes into consideration.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**6. DEFERRED ITEMS:**

**6.1 Case 01178: Glen Baker Drive, Herring Cove (deferred from November 19, 2008)**

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A staff report dated March 26, 2009 was submitted. This report had been submitted to the April 27, 2009 meeting of the Western Region Community Council.

The Chair advised that staff brought this matter before the Board last November, and although the Board discussed it at the November meeting, due to an oversight, it was not put on any future agendas and, therefore, the Board never provided formal recommendations.

Mr. White explained that the Board still had an opportunity to provide a recommendation because the Public Hearing Western Region Community Council scheduled, will be held June 22, 2009. He made reference to page 4 of the submitted report and noted that he included the verbal comments provided by the Board at the November meeting.

Mr. White provided a brief review of the application, which is for a development agreement to allow for a new residential subdivision on lands off Glen Baker Drive and the Herring Cove Road, highlighting the various watercourses in the vicinity of the proposal. Mr. White noted the following points with respect to the application:

- the property has a slight grade upwards and then falls very quickly toward McIntosh Run.
- the property had been under development many years ago under different ownership and the site is already disturbed.
- page 4 of the staff report notes the comments made by the Board at the November meeting.
- there will be a 100 ft. buffer from water courses.
- 4.55 acres of the land will be retained as permanent conservation land
- HRM will be getting a trailhead at the bottom of the cul-de-sac and this will access other crown lands.
- retention area will not have water in it unless a situation of highest flow occurs.

The Board discussed the application and provided the following recommendations in this regard:

- the water levels in the retention pond should be monitored to ensure that there is sufficient unused capacity to handle a 1/100 year storm at any time.

- the retention pond should be planted with hydro-carbon absorbing/tolerant plants
- a dispersal mechanism should be provided at the storm-water outfalls to prevent soil erosion.
- since the sewage pumping station is to be located adjacent to the storm-water retention pond there is a possibility that, in the event of a power failure, contaminated water could enter the retention pond and eventually be released into the environment. The Board therefore suggests the provision of back-up power and an emergency holding tank attached to the pumping station.
- since the storm water and sanitary sewer systems will be separate, the Board suggests that oil-grit separators are installed to provide some preliminary treatment of the stormwater before it is released into the environment.
- the water quality of the Brook should be tested in accordance with the Water Quality Monitoring Functional Plan guidelines, pre and post construction.

Mr. Herron volunteered to prepare the draft report, which will be brought back to the June 17<sup>th</sup> meeting for final approval.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **7.1 Water Resource Protection Strategy**

A document entitled, "A Framework for a Watershed Protection Strategy in HRM" was submitted by Mr. Derrill Hynick.

Referring to the submitted document, Mr. Hynick advised that he put together a list of issues he believed would constitute a watershed protection strategy. He added that when he began his list it was shorter, however, it grew to a list of 16 issues which he believed are very important and should be brought forward to those in authority for their consideration.

The Board entered a discussion on the items outlined in the document, with some concern expressed that the list was too large for the Board to get involved with, and, rather, it should pick one or two items and focus on those.

Deputy Mayor Hendsbee suggested that the Board send a report to Regional Council requesting that the items on the list be forwarded to staff for comment in regard to what items would be within the municipal mandate and those that are not.

Following further discussion, **it was agreed** that Mr. Hynick, Mr. Ripley, and Mr. Regan would form a sub-committee and work on refining the document and bring it back to the Board next month. The Chair indicated that, in the interim, she could begin drafting the

format of the report which will be sent to Regional Council.

The Chair noted that the Board had been advised previously that watershed studies that HRM was carrying out would come to the Board for review, but nothing has been received yet.

Mr. White advised that staff should be coming back to the Board and presenting the studies. He added that he would follow up and look into ensuring that the watershed studies (both individual and in the Community Visioning process) come to the Board for review at an early stage. He suggested that the Board put this on a Status Sheet.

**7.2 Staff Report on Availability of Planners' Response to HWAB Recommendations**

Mr. White advised that he would have an update for next month's meeting.

**7.3 Staff Report on MPS Policies that Relate to Water Quality Monitoring Throughout HRM**

Mr. White advised that he would have an update for next month's meeting.

The Chair suggested that in future, the agenda include a list of outstanding items that the Board is waiting for updates on, and this will ensure that agenda items are not left off and forgotten.

Deputy Mayor Hendsbee agreed and advised that he would like to add an item for staff to provide an update. He asked that the staff provide an update on whether lakes in all the industrial parks in HRM are being tested for water quality, in particular, Bayers Lake and Ragged Lake. He noted that it may involve going back to Jacques Whitford and see if it is being addressed in the report.

In response to a question by Councillor Lund, Mr. White advised that he would follow up and find out the status of the Jacques Whitford report.

The Chair advised that she would write to Jacques Whitford and recommend they not forget about lakes in industrial parks in their study and, in particular, Ragged Lake or Bayers Lake.

8. **CORRESPONDENCE**: None

9. **REPORTS**: None

10. **ADDED ITEMS**: None

11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - June 17, 2009

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion **MOVED** by Deputy Mayor Hendsbee, seconded by Mr. Herron the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds  
Legislative Assistant

### **Information Items**

- HWAB Most Frequently Recommended Topics
- HWAB Comments: Water Quality Monitoring Program Functional Plan