

HALIFAX WATERSHED ADVISORY BOARD

November 15, 2006

MINUTES

PRESENT: Dr. Wayne Stobo, Chair
Ms. Ellinor Williams, Vice Chair
Mr. Nathaniel Smith
Mr. Walter Regan
Mr. David Ripley
Mr. Derrill Hynick
Mr. Ross Evans
Dr. Barry Thomas
Councillor Mary Wile

STAFF: Mr. Richard Harvey, Senior 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 Halifax Hall, City Hall.

2. Approval of the Agenda and Additions/Deletions

Added Items:

- 7.1 Members Terms
- 7.2 Results - Receiving Water Baseline Sampling Program

The Board agreed to move up item 5.4 on the agenda to be dealt with after item 5.2.

3. Items to be added to Next Agenda

None.

4. Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Ripley made reference to page 5 of the October 18, 2006 minutes concerning a letter he and Nathaniel Smith were to draft. He apologized to Mr. Smith for not contacting him, advising the Board that he communicated with Mr. Regan and Mr. Evans on the matter.

The Chair asked Mr. Harvey if he had any update in regard to discussing the Board's presentation to Council with senior staff.

Mr. Harvey advised that he spoke with Mr. Austin French, Manager of Planning, who was considering the matter. Mr. Harvey suggested that it may be beneficial for him to arrange a meeting with the Chair and senior staff, and noted that he would try and do this prior to the Board's next meeting.

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Ripley that the minutes of October 18, 2006 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. Business Arising from Minutes/Deferred and Status Sheet Items:

5.1 HWAB's Guidelines - Update (Richard Harvey)

Mr. Harvey advised that Ms. Sharon Bond, Manager, Community Development is supportive of including the Board's Guidelines with the information package planning staff make available for the as of right applications. He added that the Legislative Assistant has provided him with printed copies as well as a 'pdf' copy which he will make available to all the planning offices.

5.2 Draft Recommendations - Sandy Lake and Sandy Lake Watershed (submitted by David Ripley)

A draft report on Sandy Lake and Sandy Lake Watershed, prepared by Mr. David Ripley

was submitted.

For information, the Chair explained that this issue arose out of another application the Board reviewed at its last meeting, and the Board agreed that the matter of cumulative effects that the proposed development would have, particularly on Sandy Lake, should be commented on in a separate report to Council.

The Board entered a lengthy discussion concerning the draft report. Mr. Harvey suggested that it was important to examine the boundaries and the policies of the Bedford West Master Plan as it relates to this issue. **It was agreed** that Mr. Ripley and Mr. Harvey would re-draft the document and bring it back for the Board's next meeting.

5.4 Watershed Planning and Management - General Discussion - Invited Guests: Mr. Peter Duncan and Ms. Maureen Ryan

Ms. Maureen Ryan, Senior Planner, Community Development, and Mr. Peter Duncan, Manager, Community Development were invited to attend this meeting to discuss watershed planning as contained in the Regional Plan, and the possibility of Board involvement or assistance to staff on watershed planning.

Ms. Ryan reviewed the natural environment aspects of the Regional Plan and noted comparisons between HWAB's Guidelines and the proposals in the Regional Plan with regard to watershed planning.

Ms. Ryan noted a key point in the Regional Plan is a requirement for watershed studies as a precursor for secondary planning. She advised of three pilot projects involving areas of watershed studies which will look at items such as establishing water quality objectives, the amount of development that can be accommodated in that area; what are the best riparian buffers for the area; and how to protect critical habitats.

In response to a question, Mr. Harvey advised that, under the Regional Plan the Board will continue to review Development Agreement applications, and that in some instances it may be reviewing an application twice.

In response to another question, Mr. Duncan advised that there is no more new by-right development except for what is already in the system. Further to this, Mr. Harvey advised that as-of-right development within the service boundary can still occur, but any new development outside of those areas, and that has not been grandfathered, has to go through the new process.

At 8:05 p.m. Mr. Smith retired from the meeting.

Ms. Williams indicated that, if staff wished, the Board would be available to provide advice and input in HRM's watershed planning. Ms. Ryan and Mr. Duncan advised that it would be a great idea for staff to get feedback from the Board.

Mr. Duncan noted that staff will be issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a study in the Fall River area, and it would be helpful to have the Board's feedback on the RFP. Ms. Ryan noted that they were working on tight timelines, as staff were intending to issue the

RFP before Christmas.

The Chair thanked Ms. Ryan and Mr. Duncan for their presentation and discussion.

The Board recessed at 8:20 p.m. and reconvened at 8:30 p.m.

5.3 Presentation to Regional Council - Update (Richard Harvey)

An update was provided earlier in the meeting, during the Approval of the Minutes

5.5 Grand Lake Watershed - Committee Update by Mr. Walter Regan

Mr. Regan advised that he attended a second meeting and the Committee and noted the following points:

- the Committee is beginning to look at what should be studied
- the Committee is trying to inventory everything now
- the Committee hopes to have something by February in regard to Provincial legislation of drinking water.

6. New Business:

None

7. Added Items:

7.1 Members Terms

The Chair moved this item from the Information Items to the regular agenda.

A memorandum dated November 8, 2006 concerning the expiration of three Board member's terms was submitted.

Referring to the information item on the expiration of terms of three Board members, the Chair noted that Ms. Williams, term is up and that, since her last appointment, she no longer has a residence in District 17, however she has a residence in Bedford. He noted that District 21 is not represented on HWAB, therefore, he was recommending that the Board endorse her re-appointment under Clause 2.2 (c) of the Board's Terms of Reference (i.e. *such other members as determined from time to time by Community or Regional Council in consultation with the Board*).

The Board concurred and endorsed Ms. William's re-appointment under Clause 2.2 (c) of the Terms of Reference.

7.2 Results - Receiving Water Baseline Sampling Program

Ms. Williams requested this item be moved up from Information Items to the regular agenda.

Information dated October 23, 2006 regarding the results of the receiving water baseline

sampling program conducted in September 2006 was submitted.

Ms. Williams expressed concern that the results for Sandy Lake suggest that the water was not even good enough for swimming.

A discussion ensued and the Chair noted from August 2004 to August 2006 there was a substantial average increase over three years and suggested that this increasing trend was troubling. The Chair asked Mr. Harvey if he would contact Mr. Tony Blouin, HRM's Manager of Environmental Performance, and ask him to comment as to whether HRM considers this trend a concern and if HRM is taking any action.

8. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the December meeting would be cancelled unless there was an urgent matter that the Board needed to address.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant