

# **HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**

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## **SOLID WASTE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OCTOBER 25, 2001 MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Reg Rankin, Chair  
Councillor Jim Smith  
Councillor Gary Meade  
Councillor Gary Hines

**ABSENT:** Councillor Dawn Sloane

**GUEST:** Councillor Russell Water

**STAFF:** Mr. Brian Smith, Director of Solid Waste Resources  
Mr. Jim Bauld, Diversion Planning Coordinator  
Ms. Sherryll Murphy, Assistant Municipal Clerk

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1.	CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA .....	3
2.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES - September 20, 2001 .....	3
3.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None .....	3
4.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES .....	3
4.1	Provisions for Solid Waste Management in MGA/By-Law S600 (Information Report) .....	3
4.2	SWRAC - Public Participation .....	4
4.3	Worm Composting/Vermicomposting (Information Report) .....	4
4.4	Construction and Demolition License By-law L-200 Update (Information Report) .....	4
5.	SOLID WASTE OPERATIONS REPORT - VERBAL .....	7
6.	NEW BUSINESS .....	7
7.	ADDED ITEMS .....	7
8.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING .....	8
9.	ADJOURNMENT .....	8

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

The items were added to the agenda:

- 7.1 Use of Blue Box vs Blue Bag
- 7.2 News Release - Halifax Regional Municipality Awarded Funding to Study Compost Use on Sports Fields

**MOVED by Councillor Meade, seconded by Councillor Hines that the agenda, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - September 20, 2001**

**MOVED by Councillor Meade, seconded by Councillor Hines that the minutes of September 20, 2001 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

**4.1 Provisions for Solid Waste Management in MGA/By-Law S600 (Information Report)**

- An information report dated October 4, 2001 submitted by Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor, was before the Committee for consideration.

Councillor Rankin briefly reviewed the October 4, 2001 Information Report noting that the Mr. Anstey has explained that the MGA was a uniform statute intended to provide a common governance for all Nova Scotia municipalities. The Act did contemplate however that a municipality might adopt an integrated solid-waste management strategy and Section 325(j) gave municipalities the authority to enact any by-laws necessary to carry out that strategy. Mr. Anstey goes on to note that the HRM Solid Waste Management Strategy at the time of the enactment of the MGA had been developed, in place and to a large extent implemented'. Councillor Rankin went on to note that Ms. Murray's concern in this regard was that the reference to a citizen led, multi-stakeholder, consensus decision making process had been excluded from the MGA.

There was no further action with regard to this matter.

#### **4.2 SWRAC - Public Participation**

- An information report dated October 15, 2001 submitted by Brian Smith, Director, Solid Waste, was before the Committee for consideration.

Councillor Rankin briefly reviewed the October 15, 2001 report advising that in staff's view the Public Participation should continue to follow the Approval of Minutes on the agenda. Staff feels that there is an opportunity to speak to any matter on the agenda as well as any other topic of concern to them. Placing the Public Participation portion of the meeting at the end of the agenda may give rise to further discussion/debate of agenda items which have already been addressed.

Commenting that he had no problem with the placement of Public Participation after Approval of the Minutes, Councillor Smith indicated that he did not see that placing the public participation portion of the meeting at the end of the agenda would create difficulties. He noted that public participation at Community Councils appears at the end of the agenda without resulting in a rehash of items already dealt with. He noted that public participation was just that — an opportunity for the public to participate.

There was no further action on this item.

#### **4.3 Worm Composting/Vermicomposting (Information Report)**

- An information report dated October 12, 2001 submitted by Brian Smith, Director, Solid Waste Resources, was before the Committee for consideration.

Mr. Bauld briefly reviewed the October 12, 2001 indicating that staff recognizes the value of vermicomposting as one option for residents, particularly for those in apartments. However, vermicomposting is not all encompassing waste management option as not all organic material can be included (i.e. meat, dairy). Mr. Bauld went on to advise that HRM will be promoting vermicomposting through two venues, the first being a general article in the Naturally Green newsletter and the second being the Waste Resources website. Mr. Bauld noted that an article had appeared in yesterday's newspaper.

A brief discussion and questioning of staff ensued. There was no further action on this item.

#### **4.4 Construction and Demolition License By-law L-200 Update (Information Report)**

- An information report dated October 16, 2001 submitted by Brian Smith, Director, Solid Waste Resources, was before the Committee for consideration.

Mr. Bauld briefly reviewed the October 16, 2001 information report noting that a second application for a processing facility had been received yesterday. He went on to advise that he was scheduled to meet with By-law Enforcement on site tomorrow. All four major C&D operators are rapidly becoming compliant. Mr. Bauld went on to advise that staff hoped to achieve licensing of these operations within two to three weeks. In addition, subsequent to Council's resolution regarding the Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) and Land Use Bylaw (LUB), the process will begin to enact the appropriate amendments. Mr. Bauld advised that he would be meeting with Kurt Pyle to establish a schedule of Public Meeting dates. He went on to advise that it is proposed that in the absence of a Regional Planning Advisory Committee, the Solid Waste Advisory Committee would host the public meetings across all of the Community Council areas. A schedule of meetings will be developed which the Chair of this Committee will have an opportunity to review.

Referring to the four major C&D operations involved, Mr. Bauld noted that Enviro Glass in Westphal was permitted under Development Agreement. Consequently, he would be meeting with the Development Officer on site tomorrow to ensure that the Development Agreement is in compliance and to determine if there are any issues relative to the C & D operation that are separate from the Development Agreement.

In response to a question from the Chair regarding a time line for submission of an application, Mr. Bauld advised that staff has been working with the operators since the approval of the By-law. He went on to indicate that staff has taken a 'good faith' approach with regard to submission and believe that the operators are working in 'good faith' to meet the requirements of the By-law. Responding to a suggestion that the Committee might set a deadline for submission of application, Mr. Bauld indicated that staff would welcome such an action on the part of the Committee.

Councillor Hines commented that he had received information some time ago that Preston C & D was in arrears relative to some fines which had been issued. Councillor Hines asked if these fines had been paid and the problems resolved. He went on to ask if in the case the fines/problems had not been resolved, would HRM be issuing a license to the operation.

Mr. Bauld indicated that he had no information in this regard and would follow up with the Development Officer.

A further brief discussion regarding an appropriate deadline ensued and it was **MOVED by Councillor Hines, seconded by Councillor Meade that the deadline for submission of an application under the Construction and Demolition License By-law L-200 be thirty (30) days from the date of the October 25, 2001 meeting of the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

A further discussion regarding the remedies available to HRM should these operations not comply with the 30 day deadline ensued, with staff being directed to seek guidance from Legal Services regarding these remedies. Note was made that the remedies should be made known to the operators.

Referring to the report relative to agenda item 4.3, the Chair noted that on Page 3 of that report, staff points out that there are bans and that it is necessary for apartment properties to provide access to tenants to carry out the necessary separation. Councillor Rankin went on to ask staff if any consideration had been given to an amendment to the Building Code, particularly with regard to the construction of new apartment buildings, requiring that they be 'user friendly' to separation of waste materials.

Responding, Mr. Bauld provided information relative to the work in this area being carried out with apartment owners across HRM. He went on to note that some of the developers in the Clayton Park West area are already building in areas for the collection of organics and recyclables on a by floor basis. Mr. Bauld noted that such an amendment would be beneficial and support the Waste Management Strategy.

**MOVED by Councillor Hines, seconded by Councillor Smith that staff look into the possibility of approaching an amendment to the Building Code which would provide that new construction, particularly new apartment buildings, be required to provide collection areas for waste in line with the Solid Waste Management Strategy and further that staff bring back a report as to need and pertinence of such an amendment. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Bauld referred to correspondence dated October 24, 2001 from Mary Belliveau, Director of Residential Tenancies, Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, in which Ms. Belliveau commits that when changes are made to the regulations which determine the Standard Form of Lease, they will 'provide key words and space on the lease for the parties to assign and describe responsibilities regarding waste'. Mr. Bauld went on to note that this correspondence will be forwarded to Councillor Uteck in response to her concerns in this regard.

Referring to staff's comments that some developers in the Clayton Park West area are already providing collection facilities, Councillor Rankin suggested that the development companies involved should be recognized for their corporate leadership in the area of Waste Management. Note to be made that their actions are in line with HRM's goals under the Waste Management Strategy.

Councillor Hines confirmed that staff would be bringing back a report responding to his questions regarding Preston C & D.

**5. SOLID WASTE OPERATIONS REPORT - VERBAL**

Mr. Bauld, with the use of an overhead, provided an overview of the Waste Resources Activity Report (Tonnes) to the end of September 2001.

Councillor Rankin, referring to his request from the last meeting regarding the inclusion of C& D Waste, once again asked that staff include these numbers in their reporting. He went on to note that if staff did not have a firm number, he would ask they provide a best guess. Mr. Bauld noted that once the operations are licensed, a monthly report would be received thereby providing the requested numbers.

Note was not that the report refers to 'All Streams', however, this is somewhat misleading. For example, the data does not include hazardous waste, C & D waste, backyard composting, blue bags, enviro depots, private operators. Councillor Rankin requested that staff do their very best to include these streams of waste in its next reporting. In addition and in response to comments made by Councillor Walker, the Committee requested that staff review collection by area and report on the variance.

A brief discussion relating to the balancing of loads to the two solid waste composting facilities ensued. Note was made that the arrangement with Lunenburg helped in balancing these loads, as well as, forming a part of HRM's contingency plan. Responding to a question, Mr. Smith indicated that staff hoped to bring forward a preliminary report regarding the requested contingency plan by the end of the calendar year.

**6. NEW BUSINESS - NONE**

**7. ADDED ITEMS**

**7.1 Use of Blue Box vs Blue Bag**

Councillor Meade noted that he had received phone calls regarding why HRM chose to use blue bags rather than the blue box.

In response, Mr. Smith noted that the blue box system required that the box be emptied right into the truck. He went on to advise that during the development of the Waste Management Strategy a decision had been made to go with blue bags and, consequently, all the infrastructure in place is designed to handle blue bags.

Councillor Rankin asked if it would be possible to consider the blue box option during the next tendering process.

Mr. Bauld, providing further explanation, noted that the blue box system required a more capital intensive system (i.e. design of trucks) and was a slower process than the blue bag presently in place. He went on to note that the blue bag system is cost effective and as effective in terms of waste management as the blue box system.

**7.2 News Release - Halifax Regional Municipality Awarded Funding to Study Compost Use on Sports Fields**

Mr. Smith distributed and briefly reviewed a news release relating to the award of funding to the Halifax Regional Municipality from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green Municipal Funds to study compost use on Sports Fields. He went on to note that this release would be issued later this afternoon.

**8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Friday, December 7, 2001 beginning at 1:30 p.m. in Halifax Hall, Ground Floor, City Hall.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Sherryl Murphy  
Assistant Municipal Clerk