

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

WESTERN COMMON WILDERNESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 20, 2008

PRESENT: Mr. Bill Matheson
Mr. Dusan Soudek
Mr. Lorne Logan
Mr. Alan Kitz
Mr. Blake Maybank
Councillor Reg Rankin

REGRETS: Mr. Phillip Cochrane
Ms. Kelly Morrissey
Mr. Darrell Cooling
Mr. Michael Lamplugh
Ms. Jane Sears
Ms. Susan Smith

STAFF: Mr. Peter Bigelow, Manager, Real Property Planning
Mr. Jan Skora, Coordinator, Real Property Planning
Ms. Melody Campbell, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Bill Matheson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at the Lakeside Recreation Centre

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - NONE

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

Additions:

8.1 Mr Matheson - Community Meeting Updates.

MOVED BY Councillor Rankin seconded by Mr. Maybank, that the Western Common Wilderness Advisory Committee approve, as amended, the order of business. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 List of Issues for Review

Mr. Skora discussed the list of issues to be included in the RFP document. The primary objective is the preservation and protection of the existing wilderness character of the Wilderness Commons area in conjunction with compatible public recreation uses.

Mr. Logan advised that accessibility issues should be added to Point 59.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Review of Blue Mountain/Birch Cove Assessment Study - RFP Review

Mr. Bigelow provided a review of the RFP for the Western Common.

Staff have done RFPs in the past and have the methodologies and process in place to develop the document. One of the main questions is how much input the Committee will require in order to go forward.

Mr. Maybank advised that there needs to be an inventory and analysis on the type of forest. Forest potential as well as wetland potential will be addressed in the scope.

The Committee made the recommendation for staff to proceed with the process.

MOVED BY Councillor Rankin, seconded by Mr. Kitz that the Committee adopt a collaborative approach with the Consultant and HRM staff and for HRM staff to move forward with the RFP process. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The amount of contact with the Consultant was discussed. Mr. Bigelow advised that the

contact could be on a milestone basis. The RFP will indicate milestones.

Mr. Skora will send an electronic copy of a draft of information that can be released to Committee members and they can send comments to staff. Mr. Bigelow advised that the final RFP will be sent to procurement, once the RFP is released to the public it can be discussed at greater detail with the Committee.

The funds are available. The Committee will hold stewardship on the process once a Consultant is determined.

Timelines were discussed. The consensus the proposal could be complete by years end.

Mr. Matheson thanked Mr. Bigelow and Mr. Skora for their presentation and continuing work as they prepare the RFP for issue.

6. REPORTS - NONE

Mr. Bigelow discussed the request for land sale. He advised that at present HRM is not prepared for a land sale. Water quality concern is an issue. Also, it would not be beneficial to have a land sale while processes are taking place on the Western Common.

7. PRESENTATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE AND PETITIONS

8. ADDED ITEMS

Mr. Matheson advised the Committee of a few community meetings that are coming up in the next couple of weeks as they relate to wilderness issues.

Mr. Maybank added that he will be having a presentation at the NS Museum of Natural History on February 23rd. He will be discussing bird species in Greenland. He spent time studying in Greenland last summer.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 19th.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Melody Campbell
Legislative Assistant