

# HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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## WESTERN COMMON WILDERNESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

May 10, 2010

PRESENT:

Mr. Bill Matheson  
Mr. Dusan Soudek  
Mr. Alan Kitz  
Ms. Susan Smith  
Mr. Lorne Logan  
Mr. Blake Maybank  
Mr. Darrell Cooling  
Councillor Reg Rankin

REGRETS:

Ms. Kelly Morrissey  
Mr. Michael Lamplugh  
Mr. Phillip Cochrane  
Ms. Jane Sears

STAFF:

Mr. Jan Skora, Coordinator, Real Property Planning  
Mr. John Charles, Planner, Real Property Planning  
Ms. Melody Campbell, Legislative Assistant

**\*Final meeting of Committee - minutes administratively approved\***

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - April 28, 2010**

**MOVED by Mr. Soudek, seconded by Mr. Kitz, that the minutes of April 28, 2010, as presented, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

**MOVED by Mr. Cooling, seconded by Mr. Kitz, that the Order of Business, as presented, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - NONE**

**5. PRESENTATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE AND PETITIONS**

**6. REPORTS**

**6.1 Western Common Wilderness Common Master Plan**

Mr. John Charles, Parkland Planner, reiterated the staff responses to the comments received on the Draft Western Common Wilderness Common Master Plan. He advised that all comments and responses are available on the HRM website.

The following points of discussion ensued among the Committee members:

- the WCWC Master Plan area is approximately twenty times the size of Point Pleasant Park
- a formal review of the area and plan must be carried out every five years to review components and ensure that the planning is proceeding
- an advisory committee be formed to incorporate ongoing oversight of the plan and assist in developing details for each phase
- the integrity of the park cannot be changed without full public consultation and public hearings, nor cannot be changed by a council motion or by arbitrary ideas by HRM staff
- the importance of preservation of wilderness values, environment, ecological activity and animal connectivity was emphasized by committee members
- the WCWC Master Plan is tied to the HRM Active Transportation Plan
- some issues, for example, off leash for dogs, camping sites, are too detailed at this level of consideration
- HRM staff work with peers in the Provincial Government on many issues and will continue to do so
- some sites in the area need remedial work
- it was noted that funding could be available for remedial work under the Provincial OHV funds on locations where OHVs are permitted
- the plan works with forest management, not against, as in the forest management plan for Point Pleasant Park

- the Protection of Property Act provides more protection and authority of lands than By-law P-600

**MOVED by Mr. Dusan, seconded by Mr. Kitz, that the Western Common Wilderness Advisory Committee endorse, in principle, the Western Common Wilderness Common Master Plan, and forward it to Western Region Community Council for consideration.**

Mr. Maybank stated that he appreciates all of the work and analysis that has been put into the Plan, but he stressed that the Master Plan has large weaknesses regarding enforcement designation. He suggested that the whole area should be designated as Regional Park.

Mr. Maybank stated that if there is no Regional Park Designation for lands in the Western Wilderness Common there is no Protection; if there is no Protection there is no Wilderness; if there is no Wilderness there is no need for a Wilderness Master Plan.

**MOVED by Mr. Maybank, seconded by Ms. Smith, that the Western Common Wilderness Advisory Committee amend the motion to add:**

- 1. That the Western Common Wilderness Advisory Committee requests that, irrespective of the proposed phasing of Western Wilderness Common facility development, that the Western Common Wilderness Master Plan be amended such that all HRM lands in the Western Common Wilderness be designated P-600 Regional Parkland (Zone X) in Phase One of the plan's implementation, with the following exceptions (which can be designated in later phases): the Greenhead Road (allowing for a three metre corridor), and the 200 acres comprising the Otter Lake Solid Waste Management Facility.**
- 2. That the Western Common Wilderness Advisory Committee's approval and support of the Western Common Wilderness Master Plan is contingent upon the implementation of the Committee's 10-05-2010 Resolution regarding implementation of Regional Parkland Designation in the Western Wilderness Common.**

**The MOTION TO AMEND WAS PUT AND DEFEATED.**

**The MAIN MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

It was noted that the next meeting of Western Region Community Council will be held on Monday, March 31, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Brookside Junior High School in Hatchets Lake.

- 7. ADDED ITEMS - NONE**

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Melody Campbell  
Legislative Assistant