

**Councillor Request for Information**

**T Included on Agenda**

(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office  
by Noon Thursday)

**Added Item**

(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office  
by Noon Monday)

Date of Council Meeting: **November 10, 2009**

Subject: **Chester Spur Line Trail Committee**

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**Request:**

Please add "**Chester Spur Line Trail Committee**" to the Regional Council agenda for November 10, 2009.

**Reason:**

for discussion

I would like this response as:

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email to Mayor and/or Councillor/Municipal Clerk's Office |  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Memo to Mayor and/or Councillor/Municipal Clerk's Office  |  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Report to                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Council | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Council |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recommendation Report to                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Council | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Council |

Councillor Reg Rankin

District 22

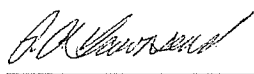
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PO Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

Chebucto Community Council  
November 2, 2009

**TO:** Chair and Members of Chebucto Community Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**   
Phillip Townsend, Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management

**DATE:** October 1<sup>st</sup>. 2009

**SUBJECT:** Chester Spur Active Transportation Corridor Committee

**INFORMATION REPORT**

**ORIGIN**

Moved By Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Walker, that Chebucto Community Council:

1. Request that a public committee be formed for the active transportation corridor formally known as the Chester Spur Line and that the committee be comprised of one representative from the Bayers Lake Business Association ( to be determined by the Association), two residents residing in the Fairview portion of District 15 and four residents residing in the Springvale/Fairmount and Rockwood subdivisions portions of District 17; and
2. That the Committee include three members of Council, representing the three Districts that the trail has homes or businesses located, namely, District 10, District15 and District 17. These Councillor appointments will be Ex-Officio on the Committee; and
3. That staff going forward Terms of Reference for the Committee at the next meeting of Chebucto Community Council, being held on Monday, October5, 2009; and
4. That Committee vacancies be advertised in the following Saturday Municipal notices in the Halifax Herald, Saturday, September 19 and Saturday, September 26. In addition, all members of Chebucto Community Council will advertise on their respective HRM websites.
5. Written notice will be provided to all property owners on the mailing list for the public meetings, including the Bayers Lake Business Association.

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**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

September 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Western Region Community Council regarding the CN Chester Spur Line - Active Transportation Corridor Committee Representation.

MOVED BY Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Lund that the Western Region Community Council request that the CN Chester Spur Line Active Transportation Corridor Committee Representation be increased to include members from District 22 and 23 to offer more balance to the Committee.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Committee of the Whole Report of April 22, 2008, Titled - Regional Trails Program. This report provided overall procedural direction and guidance to the regional trails program.

The Council approved recommendations contained in the report are:

- 1) Recognize the Halifax Regional Trails Association (HRTA) as the principal partner to plan, develop and operate HRM's regional trails system, and 2) Approve funding criteria and disbursement process for trails maintenance funds.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**BACKGROUND**

The Chester Spur Line is a key spine within the Regional Trails System currently under implementation by HRM. The proposed rails to trails project will pass through several districts and eventually connect six other regional spines; BLT Trail, St. Margarets Bay Trail, Mainland North Linear Trail, Long Lake/Northwest Arm Drive Trail, Bedford Highway Bike Lanes, Halifax Urban Greenway.

**DISCUSSION**

Given the significance of this trail and the fact that it passes through commercial, residential, sensitive watershed and business park areas it is vital to have good representation of the various interests associated along its path. These include adjacent landowners, businesses, connecting community trails and potential users. In accordance with HRM's policies around Regional Trails and community consultation, a Community Trail organization is to be developed with a broad representation of interests and issues. It is a best practice to include persons with different and dissenting viewpoints in order to find a more complete solution. To these ends HRM has advertised for interested persons to initiate a Community Trails Committee. The applications are in and staff are prepared to sit down with interested Councillors to ensure good representation for this working committee.

There is a time sensitivity issue associated with the development of the Chester Spur as an active transportation corridor. Current funding from multiple levels of government (1 million dollars) must be spent by March 31, 2011. This dictates that established best practices for trails development be employed. This includes community consultation. The Regional Trails Program has a proven track record in this regard and HRM staff have been directed to make this a priority project.

The Draft Terms of Reference attached in appendix A, provides the initial framework for the formation of the CN Rail Line Active Transportation Corridor Committee. The TOR follow the Halifax Regional Trails Community Development Model format for the formation of a typical volunteer community trail association under the guidelines provided by Regional Council.

One of the first tasks of the newly formed trails group will be to adjust, ratify and approve their Draft Terms of Reference.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

There are no budgets implications associated with this report

**FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN**

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Appendix A - Draft Terms of Reference

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/cc.html> then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by : Paul Euloth, Coordinator of Regional Trails 490-4415

Report Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Peter Bigelow, Manager of Real Property Planning - 490-6047

Financial Approval by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cathie O'Toole, CGA, Director of Finance 490-6308

**Draft**  
**Terms of Reference**

**CN Rail Line Active Transportation Corridor Committee**  
**(Chester Spur)**

Drafted: October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009

**Purpose**

The purpose of the CN Rail Line Active Transportation Trails Committee is to work with HRM in and oversee the planning, development, promotion and stewardship of the Chester Spur abandoned rail line as it transitions to an active transportation trail corridor.

**Goals**

Develop the Chester Spur Active Transportation, Rails to Trails Corridor as an integrated component of the Regional Trail network, maximize the number of active transportation trips in the area and raise awareness of the benefits of the trails corridor for active healthy living.

**Mandate**

- To function as a non-government organization (NGO) formally constituted under the Societies Act of Nova Scotia, have an elected board of directors and distribute approved minutes to it's members and interested members of the public.
- To partner with HRM to plan, construct and maintain the Chester Spur AT Corridor in accordance with current approved policies for planning, construction and maintenance of regional trails.
- To articulate the community's and Regional Trails' AT perspective and vision
- To be the community voice and recognized spokesperson for all partners associated with the corridor
- To have trail development as one of its primary mandates
- To abide by the mission, vision goals and values of the Halifax Regional Trails Association and attend HRTA meetings on a regular basis
- To formulate a community consultation process for the Chester Spur Corridor that respects all partners and fits with HRM's Community Engagement Strategy
- To support the building of the corridor inside the guidelines of the HRM Active Transportation and HRM Regional Plan
- To initiate funding requests to external government and corporate funding partners as required
- To provide information to the public and committee members upon request as to decisions made for the expenditure of public funds

## **Composition**

The committee shall be comprised of community volunteers from across HRM and in particular from Districts 10, 15, 17, 18, and 22, one member of the Bayers Lake Business Association (to be determined by the Association) and one member of Halifax Water. During the capacity building phase, local community volunteers residing in Fairview and in the Springvale/Fairmount and Rockwood subdivisions will also be encouraged to participate. As with other Regional Trails Groups, the organization is open to all persons which have an interest in issues associated with this trail and the regional trails network. Councillors from Districts 10,15, 17, 18 and 22 are welcome to participate as ex-officio members.

The committee shall have a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson to be elected from amongst its members at the first meeting of the committee each year. Only voting members from the Committee are to be considered for these appointments. One committee member and two alternates should be identified to represent the committee on the Halifax Regional Trails Association which meets every second month.

## **Meetings**

The Committee shall meet once a month at a time and place to be determined. Additional meetings should be held as required or as called by the Chair.

## **Reporting**

There must be both internal and external reporting measures to satisfy good practice in the expenditure of public funds and planning of public assets. All capital expenditures must be itemized and a detailed invoice for goods and services submitted by the committee to HRM Trails Staff.

The committee must file a financial statement in accordance with the Societies Act and keep Community Council apprised and involved as appropriate.

## **Role of Staff**

The Regional Trails Coordinator or the Trail Specialist from the western side shall resource the committee and be available upon request. Staff will bring the regional trail business planning perspective to the meetings and assist the committee in all facets of AT trail implementation.

Staff will emphasise Infrastructure and Asset Management's approved environmental and sustainable infrastructure goals and objectives as they relate to trails

Additional staff from other business units will be available as required. As this project has received federal/provincial/municipal funding with considerable time limitations and this section is a key connection within the overall regional trails network staff and the committee must make the planning and construction of the trail a priority and work towards meeting funding regulations.