

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
June 26, 2007
MINUTES

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Kelly, Chair
Deputy Mayor Sue Uteck
Councillors: Krista Snow
David Hendsbee
Harry McInroy
Gloria McCluskey
Andrew Younger
Bill Karsten
Becky Kent
Jim Smith
Mary Wile
Sheila Fougere
Russell Walker
Debbie Hum
Linda Mosher
Stephen D. Adams
Brad Johns
Robert P. Harvey
Reg Rankin
Gary G. Meade

REGRETS: Councillors: Steve Streach
Patrick Murphy
Dawn M. Sloane
Gary Martin

STAFF: Mr. Wayne Anstey, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER	3
2.	APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES	3
3.	NORTH DARTMOUTH TRUNK SEWER	3
4.	ADOPTION OF OFF LEASH PARKS STRATEGY	5
5.	ADJOURNMENT	

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kelly called the meeting to order at 11:08 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOVED by Councillor Wile, seconded by Councillor Meade that the minutes of June 12, 2007 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. NORTH DARTMOUTH TRUNK SEWER

- A staff report dated June 25, 2007 was before Council.
- A copy of the PowerPoint presentation was before Council.

Mr. John Sheppard, Manager, Environmental Engineering Services, assisted by Mr. Ian Guppy, Senior Environmental Engineer, and Mr. Peter Bigelow, Manager, Real Property Planning, presented the staff report.

Highlights of staff's presentation are as follows:

- Staff is recommending Option 3, a gravity sewer along the western shore of Lake Banook, as it is the less costly option and more reliable than Option 1 (Pumping Station).
- The estimated capital cost, in 2007 dollars, for Option 3 is \$4.2 million plus \$1 million for HADD (Harmful Alteration, Disruption or Destruction of fish habitat) and \$4.5 million for the 100 year life cycle cost.

Councillors Smith, Johns and Karsten entered the meeting at approximately 11:22 a.m.

- The North Dartmouth Trunk Sewer is intended to serve: the private development known as Dartmouth Crossing, HRM lands intended for future industrial development (Burnside North) and privately owned lands designated Urban Settlement known as the Dartmouth East/Port Wallace Master Plan Area.
- Integration of this project with the Sullivans Pond and Lake Banook Master Plan included discussions with a Stakeholder Committee representing local residents, the paddling community, First Nations and wildlife groups.
- The impact on the paddling course, immediate adjacent landowners, landowners around Lake Banook, public park users, the habitat as well as the issue of possible cultural assets have been explored.

Councillors Mosher and Fougere entered the meeting at 11:38 a.m.

- Staff recommend that any further public consultation be tied to the option which Council directs staff to pursue. Additional opportunity for public input will be during the regulatory approval process.

Councillor McInroy entered the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

- Funding for the project has been identified in the Halifax Regional Water Commission's two-year business plan (2007/08 and 2008/09). There will be Capital Cost Contributions from Dartmouth Crossing, Dartmouth East/Port Wallace and Burnside North (HRM Business Park).
- The first opportunity to complete the work will be through the fall and winter of 2008.
- The 2008 National and 2009 World Canoe Championships create a very tight timeline.

Mr. Peter Bigelow, Manager, Real Property Planning, explained that the trunk sewer work will remain close to the shore of Lake Banook to minimize disturbance to the lake and existing tree stands. The natural shoreline will be re-established and habitat areas reinstated in areas where the pipe will run under the lake bottom. Land areas disturbed by construction and not required for maintenance access will be replanted. A new public pathway will be created and will connect to existing trails to form a loop around the lake. Work will be coordinated to take advantage of lower lake levels if, during construction, it is necessary to lower the lake level. An archaeological survey of the pipe path for cultural assets will be conducted.

Councillor McCluskey commented that her main concern is the impact this project may have on the world class Lake Banook paddling course. She requested that staff consult with Mr. Steve Giles as he is familiar with the paddling course.

Councillor Hendsbee requested that an extension to service the Main Street area along Highway #7 be considered for any capture capacity within the serviceable boundary along Montaque Road to the Cherry Brook by-pass.

Councillor Karsten expressed concern with the tight timelines for the project and the environmental concerns such as the fish habitat.

Staff responded to additional concerns of Council as follows:

- The Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Committee (DLAB) have been and will continue to be part of the focus group.
- The only private land owner directly affected by this project would be the YMCA property. All work will be done either in the water or on HRM property. The owners of the YMCA property regard this project as an advantage in regard to securing easements. The lakeshore will be their parkland dedication to the Municipality.
- The waterlots are further down and will not be crossed during this project. The path will go from the small park at Brookdale Crescent to the street along to

Birch Cove.

MOVED BY Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Younger that the Committee of the Whole recommend that Regional Council:

- 1. Authorize staff to start the necessary processes in order to implement Option 3, a gravity sewer along the western shore of Lake Banook, as outlined in the Discussion section of the staff report dated June 26, 2007.**
- 2. Authorize staff to create easements in the name of the Halifax Regional Water Commission (HRWC) across any of the HRM Lands over which the sewer is to be constructed, given that the HRWC will be the owners of the sewer once the merger is completed and the sewer constructed.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The meeting recessed at 11:54 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 1:05 p.m. with the same members present with the exception of Councillors McInroy, McCluskey, and Johns.

4. ADOPTION OF OFF LEASH PARKS STRATEGY

- A staff report dated May 17, 2007 was submitted.
- A PowerPoint Presentation regarding Off Leash Parks Strategy was submitted.

Mr. Peter Bigelow, Manager, Real Property Planning, addressed Council and advised that this matter has involved a team approach because it requires the cooperation of number of business units. He added that the purpose of today's presentation was to get constructive feedback from Council as to whether staff are on the right track with the direction of the Strategy.

Mr. John Charles, Planner, Real Property Planning provided the presentation to Council.

At 1:08 p.m. Councillor Snow entered the meeting.

The following points were noted in Mr. Charles' presentation:

- C Over 250 citizens provided feedback in the public sessions.
- C The current proposed strategy has six guiding principles as follows:
 - C Accessibility
 - C Affordability
 - C Balance
 - C Cleanliness
 - C Environmental/Cultural Sustainability

C Natural Beauty

C In the six workshops held, the clear majority rejected the volunteer based “bottom up” approach which is the Markham/Mississauga model because they felt it would be too much effort, and unfairly force dog owners to assume HRM responsibility for bylaw enforcement and park maintenance.

At 1:11 p.m. Councillor Smith entered the meeting.

C There was overall support for the spirit of the guiding principles, goals and objectives not related to volunteer activities.

C There was the suggestion that a portion of dog license fees be dedicated to support off-leash area development.

C The majority of workshop participants wanted conveniently located, clean, cost efficient and safe and simple off leash areas; with many participants recommending the adoption of Calgary’s responsible Pet Owners approach.

C The participants also recommended HRM develop off-leash areas in existing facilities

C One pilot site in 2007 and 2009 would be insufficient to meet the immediate needs for more off-leash areas.

C Developing sportsfields as an interim option was also discussed.

C The Strategy focusses on low cost options for off-leash activities in existing parks.

C The proposed Strategy Communication and Education Plan will compliment Animal Services dog licensing initiatives; only licensed dogs will be permitted in off-leash areas.

C No additional user fees are proposed but volunteer fundraising for special capital improvements for off-leash areas was considered as an option.

C Calgary’s 3E Approach has been adopted in the Strategy.

C The Strategy proposes a phased approach to off-leash area development over the next two years. A number of parks and sportsfields will be selected for off leash activities.

C Off leash areas will be administered by an interdepartmental off-leash strategy committee from Community Development, Police Services, and Transportation and Public Works.

C Approval of the Strategy would have no direct budget implications for 2007 and 2008. Implementation costs of \$10,000 can be accommodated within current budget allotments.

C Staff conclude that the current strategy can be serviced, but beyond that there are financial and staff resource risks associated with an expansion of the program in year 1 or 2 of the Strategy.

C Background research has shown that off-leash programs are inherently risk-based ventures; cities such as Toronto and Vancouver experienced early successes in off leash areas but recurrent site selection difficulty and related user conflict have resulted in multiple staff reports and delays to the implementation schedule. Both cities are currently developing new off-leash

strategies.

A discussion ensued with staff responding to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Younger , seconded by Councillor Karsten that Regional Council approve the Off Leash Parks Strategy, as set out in Appendix “A” of the staff report dated May 17, 2007.

The following amendments were put forward:

MOVED by Councillor Younger, seconded by Councillor Snow that Section 3.5.1, bullet 2 of the draft Off-leash Parks Strategy be amended to remove the words, ‘school grounds’. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

At 1:35 p.m. Councillor Kent entered the meeting.

At 1:57 p.m. Councillor Fougere entered the meeting

In response to a question by Councillor Harvey, Mr. Charles referred to Section 4.1 of the Strategy and advised that ‘Range Park’ was a typographical error, and should not have been included in the list.

MOVED by Councillor Fougere, seconded by Councillor Wile that Flinn Park be included in the Year 2 group of pilot sites. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

At 2:15 p.m. Councillor McInroy entered the meeting.

MOVED by Councillor Hum, seconded by Councillor Walker that an off-leash dog park be considered in the overall Master Plan for the Mainland Common. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Harvey referred to Section 4.2 Sportsfields, in the Strategy and suggested that staff follow up with the Acadia Recreation Club in Sackville, as they may be interested in exploring the idea of off-leash activities.

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Sloane that staff give consideration to providing a fenced-in off-leash area at the Don Bayers field. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Smith that staff explore the possibility of a fenced-in off-leash area at the corner of North Park/Rannie Drive/Cogwell Street. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The motion as amended:

MOVED by Councillor Younger , seconded by Councillor Karsten that Regional

Council approve the Off Leash Parks Strategy, as set out in Appendix “A” of the staff report dated May 17, 2007 with the following amendments:

- **That Section 3.5.1, bullet 2 of the draft Off-leash Parks Strategy be amended to remove the words, ‘school grounds’.**
- **That Flinn Park be included in the Year 2 group of pilot sites.**
- **That an off-leash dog park be considered in the overall Master Plan for the Mainland Common.**
- **That staff give consideration to providing a fenced-in off-leash area at the Don Bayers field.**
- **That staff explore the possibility of a fenced-in off-leash area at the corner of North Park/Rannie Drive/Cogwell Street.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Jan Gibson
Municipal Clerk