



P.O. Box 1749
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Item No. 12.1.1
Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee
December 5, 2019

TO: Chair and Members of Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee

SUBMITTED BY: -Original Signed-
Simon Ross-Siegel, Legislative Assistant

DATE: November 20, 2019

SUBJECT: 2020 Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee Meeting Schedule

ORIGINS

It is the practice for the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee (ESSC) to adopt a meeting schedule for the upcoming year.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

The Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee Terms of Reference (Schedule 5 of Administrative Order One, The Procedure of the Council Administrative Order) states:

Administration and Procedures

9. The Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee meetings shall meet no less than four (4) times annually, preferably monthly, or as determined by this Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee approve the proposed 2020 meeting schedule as outlined in Attachment 1 of this report.

BACKGROUND

In accordance with Section 9 of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee Terms of Reference, the Standing Committee shall meet no less than four (4) times annually, preferable monthly, or as determined by the Standing Committee. The ESSC generally meets the 1st Thursday of each month in Council Chamber, 3rd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

DISCUSSION

The proposed 2020 schedule provided as Attachment 1 of this report, proposes 4 regular meetings and 7 'if required', and takes into account statutory holidays, March Break, meetings of Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) and Halifax Regional Council. The approval of this schedule will allow members of Council, staff and the public to be notified and plan in advance for meetings. The Chair of the Standing Committee, with input from staff, has the authority to cancel a scheduled meeting should it be deemed necessary. A special meeting for a time sensitive matter may be called with appropriate notice, provided it is done in accordance with the HRM Charter and Administrative Order One. Where 2020 is an election year, with polls anticipated to open as early as October 6 and the Municipal Election is anticipated for October 17, 2020, Regional Council meetings have not been planned for the month of October. Although there are no restrictions in the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter or the Municipal Elections Act preventing Council from conducting business close to an election, there may be a perceived benefit to incumbents. Similarly, where possible, Standing Committee meetings have not been scheduled for the month of October.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications associated with the recommended course of action.

RICK CONSIDERATION

A delay in approval could result in additional delays for other HRM Committee meeting schedules, as the Standing Committee schedule may impact the timing of other Committee meeting times and dates.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The 2020 meeting schedule for the Standing Committee, once adopted, is posted to the HRM calendar at Halifax.ca to enable members of the public and media to have access to the meeting schedule, agendas and reports.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental implications associated with the recommended course of action.

ALTERNATIVES

The Community Council may recommend and/or adjust the proposed 2020 meeting schedule as they see fit.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Proposed 2020 Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee Meeting Schedule

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Simon Ross-Siegel, Legislative Assistant, Office of Municipal Clerk, 902.490.6519

Attachment 1

Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee Proposed 2020 Meeting Schedule

Date	Time	Location
January 9, 2020 <i>*if required</i>	1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Council Chambers – 3 rd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax
February 6, 2020 <i>*if required</i>	1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Council Chambers – 3 rd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax
March 5, 2020	1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Council Chambers – 3 rd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax
April 2, 2020 <i>*if required</i>	1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Council Chambers – 3 rd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax
May 7, 2020 <i>*if required</i>	1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Council Chambers – 3 rd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax
June 4, 2020	1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Council Chambers – 3 rd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax
July 2, 2020 <i>*if required</i>	1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Council Chambers – 3 rd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax
August 6, 2020 <i>*if required</i>	1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Council Chambers – 3 rd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax
September 3, 2020	1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Council Chambers – 3 rd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax
<i>No October meeting</i>		
November 5, 2020	1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Council Chambers – 3 rd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax
December 3, 2020 <i>*if required</i>	1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Council Chambers – 3 rd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax

***Please be advised that meeting times and locations are subject to change**