



**WESTERN COMMON ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 25, 2017**

PRESENT: Mr. Tom Musial, Chair
Ms. Shirley Jollimore, Vice Chair
Ms. Beth McGee
Ms. Kelly Carlton
Ms. Jane MacNeill
Mr. Wayne Shellnutt
Mr. Dusan Soudek
Councillor Steve Adams

REGRETS: Mr. David Patriquin

STAFF: Mr. Tom Jangaard, Parkland Planner
Ms. Margaret Soley, Coordinator Parks Capital Projects
Mr. Gareth Evans, Recreation Planning Specialist
Ms. Sherryll Murphy, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Ms. Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant
Mr. Aaron Windsor, Legislative Support

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Western Common Advisory Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/wcac/170125wcac-agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m., and adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 30, 2016

A request was made to add the word *Reserve* after Regional Park at the top of page 3.

MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Ms. Jollimore

THAT the minutes of November 20, 2016 be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Mr. Soudek, seconded by Ms. McGee

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

- 4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE**
- 5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE**
- 6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE**

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence

The Chair submitted correspondence for the record from David Patriquid noting his regrets for the January 25, 2017 meeting and expressing an interest to serve on an ecologically-oriented sub-committee.

The Chair spoke to correspondence he received from Mike Marriott, President of Safety Minded ATV Association on the Greenhead and Old Couch Road land uses and submitted it for the record. The Committee asked to have this correspondence circulated to them for their next meeting.

The Chair also spoke to and submitted correspondence he received from John Cascadden, Chair of the Community Monitoring Committee for the Otter Lake Landfill Facility dated January 25, 2017 regarding trail width for the Western Common Park and pedestrians and cyclists coexisting. The Committee asked to have this added to their next meeting agenda for discussion.

The Committee agreed that any correspondence received to members personally would be forwarded to the Clerk's Office to be logged and placed on the Committee's next agenda under correspondence.

7.2 Petitions – None

7.3 Presentation

7.3.1 Mike Marriott, President of the Safety Minded ATV Association re: update on the work being done by the Association in the Western Common

Mr. Marriott presented an update on the work and improvements the Association has done to date on various trails in the Five Bridges Lakes Wilderness Area. A copy of the maps and presentation were provided for the file.

Members thanked Mr. Marriott and the Association for their work and recommended information sharing with HRM trails staff.

Members discussed various trails in the Western Common, with Mr. Marriott responding to questions respecting managing and maintenance of trails. Mr. Marriott spoke about the Association working with the owner of the Indian Lake Golf Course to ensure people and vehicles stay on the trail rather than the golf course. He also commented on the Association working with the Halifax Cycling Coalition to allow bikes on trails and installation of signs.

The Committee asked the Clerk's Office to provide a copy of the presentation and maps to members for their information.

MOVED by Ms. MacNeill, seconded by Ms. Carlton

THAT the Western Common Advisory Committee extends their thanks and appreciation to the Safety Minded ATV Association for trails work in the Five Bridges Lakes Wilderness Area.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Adams exited the meeting at this time.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

**9.1.1 Update re: Implementation of the Western Common Wilderness Master Plan
(i) Western Common Master Plan – Nichols Lake Trail Update**

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff memorandum dated January 17, 2017 entitled: Western Common Master Plan Nichols Lake Trail Update

Ms. Margaret Soley, Coordinator Parks Capital Projects explained that their department's role is to implement the Western Common Wilderness Master Plan and that \$50,000 of capital funding has been budgeted each year for the next 20 years. She noted that two kilometers of trail work has been completed to date.

Mr. Tom Jangaard, Parkland Planner spoke to the work being done on the Nichols Lake trail, as outlined in the staff memorandum dated January 17, 2017. He explained the procurement process for tendering out the work and showed a map of the Nichols Lake Trail that outlined the work completed to date and what work still needed to be done. He commented on the challenges of getting heavy machinery and materials into the area, equipment breakdowns and progress being slow.

Members discussed the Western Common Master Plan with staff responding to questions around the consultation and approval process. As recommended by several members, Mr. Jangaard expressed an interest in speaking with Mike Marriott, President of the Safety Minded ATV Association on ideas for

accessing heavily-wooded areas and making the work progress faster on the Nichols Lake Trail. Members suggested that staff communicate with local community groups about the work being done on the parking lot. In response to questions around funding, Ms. Soley responded that funding is approved each year by Regional Council. She noted that in addition to the \$50,000 capital funding, funding from another source has been added to this year's budget for a total of \$150,000. The Committee asked staff for additional information on future trail work within the Western Common Master Plan, including a breakdown of the \$50,000 capital funding and future budgeting to be provided for their next meeting.

9.1.2 Update re: concerns with messy campsites in Otter Lake and along Old St. Margaret's Bay Road (Old Halifax Road)

Mr. Gareth Evans, Recreation Planning Specialist, advised that he had spoken with the Superintendent for Parks West; and they are aware of what is happening in that area. The Superintendent is approaching the matter as a safety issue and the matter has been reported to the RCMP. Mr. Evans could not speak to the RCMP's protocol for getting people out of those campsites but would follow up and report back to the Committee for the next meeting.

In response to comments around community groups cleaning up the sites, Mr. Evans advised that the Superintendent is looking into collaborative partnerships with community members around maintaining parks.

Note was made that these matters are complaint driven and that there was no protocol for staff to drive around looking for areas of concern.

9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

9.2.1 Wayne Shellnutt – Discussion re: Masthead News article entitled: New Bridge Across the Nine Mile River Soon to be Completed

The following was before the Committee:

- A copy of the Masthead News article dated December 12, 2016 entitled: New Bridge Across the Nine Mile River Soon to be Completed

Mr. Shellnutt advised that Mr. Marriott's presentation (Item 7.3.1) addressed this matter. No further action was taken.

9.2.2 Tom Musial - Discussion re: formation of a sub-committee that represents the various areas which each appointed member represents

The following was before the Committee:

- A handout from Tom Musial entitled: options for committee formation

Mr. Musial discussed the formation of sub-committees and the options outlined in his handout.

Discussion was held with Ms. Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant and Ms. Sherryl Murphy, Deputy Clerk providing clarification around the Committee's composition and appointment terms, Terms of Reference and mandate. It was noted that sub-committees are not staffed/supported by the Clerk's Office but if a sub-committee were formed, a member from the Clerk's Office could attend to provide information around their role and reporting to the advisory committee. Members asked staff to provide information around the capital funding model, future budgeting and rollout of the Western Common Master Plan and agreed that at this time the creation of sub-committees was not required but that further consideration could be given if required.

9.2.3 Tom Musial – Discussion re: process of reporting Committee’s work to the public and seeking public input

Ms. Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant explained that the Committee could have community announcements following the call to order to allow members the opportunity to provide updates within the Western Common to members of the public. Ms. Vining noted that written submissions could also be received through the Clerk’s Office, for circulation to the Committee under correspondence. She reminded members that Committee’s meetings are open to the public, and as discussed at the November 30, 2016 meeting, public participation would be held at the end of the meeting prior to adjournment, to allow members of the public to speak for up to five minutes on matters in the Western Common.

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

11.1 Revised 2017 Meeting Schedule

The following was before the Committee:

- A revised 2017 Committee meeting schedule

The Committee reviewed their revised meeting schedule for 2017 with discussion around the number of times the Committee should meet (e.g. monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly)

MOVED by Ms. McGee, seconded by Ms. Carlton

THAT the Western Common Advisory Committee meetings of 2017 be held bi-monthly, the fourth Wednesday of the month, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Prospect Road Community Centre, 2141 Prospect Road, Hatchet Lake.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Krista Vining
Legislative Assistant