



**WESTERN COMMON ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
April 5, 2017**

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

STAFF: Richard Harvey, Supervisor Community Planning, Planning Services
Gareth Evans, Recreation Planning Specialist
Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant
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/170405wcac-agenda.php>

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APRIL 5, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m., and the Committee adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

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

MOVED by Ms. Jollimore, seconded by Ms. McGee

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. WESTERN COMMON WILDERNESS COMMON MASTER PLAN – CHAPTER 6 REVIEW

The following was before the Advisory Committee:

- Western Common Wilderness Common (“WCWC”) Master Plan

The Advisory Committee broadly discussed the Guiding Principles of the plan, including:

- Landscape connectivity
- Trail connectivity with existing and planned municipal and provincial networks
- Wilderness preservation, including the monitoring of water quality
- That the park welcome and serve visitors and municipal residents from all districts while preserving local community buy-in

The Advisory Committee discussed potential Recreational Activities, including:

- Active transportation, including ATVs and cycling, and the types and widths of trails necessary to accommodate these uses
- Recreational fires and the potential danger surrounding such activity for users and the park
- Canoeing and kayaking, particularly at Nichols Lake
- Swimming, particularly at Nichols Lake; staff noted that it is not practical at this time to provide Lifeguard services at the Nichols Lake beach

The Advisory Committee discussed the Roads and Trails in or near the park, including:

- Old St Margarets Bay Road, it’s ownership (provincial or municipal), and how this road and other bisecting provincially owned properties and roadways could impact the development and uses of the park
- Privately owned properties within the boundaries of the fully realized WCWC, and whether these properties would need to be acquired by the municipality at some point
- Borrow pits in or near the boundary area of the WCWC
- The Chebucto peninsula trail and how it will link with the WCWC trail system
- The Prospect River Bridge and whether its height would accommodate kayakers and paddlers to pass underneath; staff made note that they would return with that information at the next regular meeting of the Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee also briefly discussed historical sites and burial sites that may be discovered during the development of the park and made particular note of the importance of adhering to the provincial *Special Places Protection Act*.

The Advisory Committee further discussed the terms of reference of the WCAC and how the work of the committee could facilitate and mold the implementation of the WCWC Master plan to best satisfy the needs of both community and municipality.

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Mr. Harvey noted that the WCWC Master plan was the end result of great effort and approved by Council and that role of WCAC is to apply local knowledge to advance the WCWC Master plan. The Chair asked if staff would be making regular presentations on development and ongoing capital works. Staff agreed that would be the case.

The Advisory Committee agreed that the work of committee would best be focused on the phase by phase development of WCWC master plan rather than taking a whole project approach given the long development timeline until all phases are complete.

MOVED by Ms. McGee, seconded by Ms. Jollimore

That staff be asked to lead a walking tour (ideally at midday) of the phase 1 construction site for Western Common Advisory Committee members.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

- 4.1 John Cascadden, Vice-Chair for McDonald Lake Residents Association (MLRA); Board Member for Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust (FBWHT); Chair for HRM's Community Monitoring Committee (CMC) for the Otter Lake Landfill dated March 28, 2017**

The Advisory Committee agreed to hear from Mr. Cascadden at their next meeting.

- 4.2 Kimberly Berry, Chair of the Woodens River Watershed Environmental Organization (WRWEO) dated March 28, 2017**

The Advisory Committee agreed to hear from Ms. Berry at their next meeting.

- 5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, May 24, 2017 at 6:30 p.m., Prospect Road Community Centre Art Room, 2141 Prospect Road, Hatchet Lake**

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Aaron Windsor
Legislative Support