



**WESTERN COMMON ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
April 24, 2019.**

PRESENT: Jane MacNeill, Vice Chair
Wayne Shellnut
Frank Johnson
Betty Hutchings
Councillor Richard Zurawski

REGRETS: Shirley Jollimore, Chair
Kelly Carlton
Michael Lamplugh

STAFF: Gareth Evans, Recreational Planning Specialist
Alex Quinn, Construction Engineer, Capital Parks Projects
Simon Ross-Siegel, Legislative Assistant

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

The agenda, reports, supporting documents, and information items circulated are online at halifax.ca.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. and adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Councillor Zurawski informed the Committee that the municipality has recently acquired two more properties in the Birch Mountain Cove region and has received \$860,000 from the Canada Nature Fund, a Federal grant program.

Vice-Chair Jane MacNeill informed the Committee that there would be a clean-up event for the Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Rails to Trails on Saturday, April 27, 2019 starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Coke Plant in the Lakeside Industrial Park.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES– January 26, 2018

MOVED by Richard Zurawski, seconded by Frank Johnson

THAT the minutes of January 23, 2019 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

It was suggested that Item 10.1.1 be moved to the end of other staff reports and discussions.

MOVED by Richard Zurawski, seconded by Frank Johnson

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Two-third majority vote required.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

6. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST – NONE

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS – NONE

9. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

10. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

10.1 STAFF

10.1.1 New Member Orientation

The following was before Committee:

- A staff presentation dated April 24, 2019

Simon Ross-Siegel, Legislative Assistant, shared an Advisory Board and Committee Orientation presentation. A copy of this presentation is on file. The Committee's role and mandate were reviewed along with their terms of reference. Simon Ross-Siegel also reviewed the role of the Chair, quorum, conflicts of interest, the agenda, the components of a committee meeting, and member conduct guidelines.

10.1.2 Update on Nichols Lake Trail

Gareth Evans, Recreational Planning Specialist, and Alex Quinn, Construction Engineer, Capital Parks Projects, updated the Committee on the construction of the Nichols Lake Trail. Since the previous meeting of the Committee on January 23, 2019, there has been no further work performed and no further changes to the capital budget for the project.

10.1.3 Staff Update – Draft Report regarding bridge options

The following was before Committee:

- A draft CBCL report dated December 21, 2018

Alex Quinn provided an update to the Committee on bridge crossing options for the Western Commons trail crossing at Nichols Run. Alex Quinn outlined features associated with several proposed options for a bridge crossing including a prefabricated bridge either assembled on site or lifted into place by helicopter, a timber crossing bridge, a permanent pedestrian-only bridge, and a temporary boardwalk floating structure. Staff stated that it would be important to maintain some permanent form of motorized access over the watercourse to give all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) or other motorized vehicles access to the other side of the trail should there be a need to provide emergency or rescue services, as well as to perform general trail maintenance.

In reply to questions from Committee members, Alex Quinn stated that staff is unable to provide detailed information regarding projected costs associated with the options identified in the draft report. Gareth Evans stated that information provided in the draft report is intended to provide information regarding an initial phase of work in this issue and to provide preliminary information to the Committee. In reply to questions, staff also indicated that the cost of the draft CBCL report was under \$10,000.

Alex Quinn stated that following staff's preliminary review of the options identified in the report, a substantial amount of work remains including obtaining environmental permits and conducting geotechnical surveys. Staff stated that the extent of the geotechnical work required is unlikely to differ between the options listed in the report.

Regarding construction timeline differences associated with the options, Alex Quinn stated that the timelines for construction would be similar for options identified in the report.

Staff agreed to provide an update on the capital budget at the next meeting of the Committee.

Several members discussed options to consider supplemental and alternate sources of funding, including district capital funds. The Legislative Assistant offered to provide follow up to the Committee regarding district capital fund policy and to coordinate discussions between staff and Councillors on this issue.

10.1.4 Staff Update – Western Common Wilderness Common Master Plan design standards regarding trail widths and construction

Gareth Evans distinguished trail design standards for the Committee. The Master plan identifies that trails in the Nichols Lake section of the Western Common are currently designed to be Barrier-Free "assisted accessible" trails. The terminology for these refers to the grade and average six-foot width. Currently, staff is experiencing time and cost challenges to build these trails due to their narrow width for construction. In response to these challenges, staff internally discussed and wishes to consult with the Committee on a proposal to widen the temporary passage width for construction with the intention to bring in larger equipment to facilitate construction. Staff clarified that the final constructed trail is still aiming for the creation of a six-foot barrier-free trail with minimal disruption to the wilderness park. In reply to questions from members, Alex Quinn stated that the proposed change could enable construction teams to transport eight times more material per single trip, though staff added that these estimates are based on incomplete figures. Staff agreed to provide further information on the potential construction improvements and cost savings at a future meeting. Gareth Evans stated that the Master Plan provides some flexibility

to pursue this option and staff does not therefore believe that it is necessary to amend the Master Plan. However, staff added that it would be valuable for the Committee to discuss this option to provide direction to staff regarding the Committee's inclination regarding the proposed change.

11. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

12. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – NONE

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – TBD

Several Committee members expressed a desire to consider moving the July meeting to the fourth Wednesday in June. Simon Ross-Siegel indicated that staff would consult with the Chair to propose alternative meeting date recommendations for the July meeting.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Simon Ross-Siegel
Legislative Assistant