



**WESTERN COMMON ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
June 26, 2019**

PRESENT: Shirley Jollimore, Chair
Jane MacNeill, Vice-Chair
Kelly Carlton
Betty Hutchings
Michael Lamplugh
Wayne Shellnut

REGRETS: Councillor Richard Zurawski
Frank Johnson

STAFF: Gareth Evans, Recreational Planning Specialist
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 the Committee adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Chair, Shirley Jollimore informed the Committee that staff is continuing to receive applications for the vacant position for the Western Common Advisory Committee for a member with experience in an Environmental Non-Government Organization. Applications will be received up to July 15th, 2019. Members are invited and encouraged to reach out to potential candidates.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 24, 2019

The Committee requested that for Item 10.1.3 the reference to a “pedestrian bridge” be changed to “prefabricated bridge” for consistency with the report.

MOVED by Wayne Shelnut, seconded by Jane MacNeil

THAT the minutes of April 24, 2019 be approved as amended

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The agenda was approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

6. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS – NONE

9. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

10. REPORTS

10.1 STAFF

10.1.1 Staff update on the Nichols Lake Trail

Gareth Evans, Recreational Planning Specialist, provided an update to the Committee and answered questions regarding the Nichols Lake Trail. There has been no additional construction to the trail as of this time. Staff have reached out to Cobequid Consulting for options regarding proposed path locations on the opposite of Nichols Run to avoid further water crossings. The contract will likely be complete in the Fall of 2019.

10.1.2 Staff Update on the Capital Budget

Gareth Evans provided an update to the Committee and answered questions regarding the capital budget. There is currently \$85,000 reserved for work on the Western Common Wilderness Park. Staff added that any work under \$100,000 is not required to seek approval from Regional Council or the be publicly advertised. Under the current budget, there are no additional funds proposed for this account until the 2022/23 budget.

In response to questions from Committee members, staff also stated that community integration funds will eventually provide between \$325,000 and \$375,000 dollars available to the Western Common due to the Waste Management facility expansion, though the development delays are also delaying the receipt of these funds. Staff proposed to update the Committee on changes to the funding and the budget should there be adjustments or changes from Parks Capital prior to the October meeting.

10.1.3 Staff Update on Geotechnical Work for Bridge Footing

Gareth Evans provided an update to the Committee and answered questions regarding the geotechnical work for the Nichols Lake crossing. Staff have issued a short-form Request for Proposals (RFP) to provide survey, geo technical and permitting work for the Nichols Lake water crossing. Staff intend to rely on this work in determining which is the best bridge option for the crossing. The RFP closed yesterday, and the consultant will be selected by the end of July of 2019. Hydro-analysis will determine appropriate bridge height for storm resilience, and the geotechnical work is anticipated to cost between \$65,000 and \$70,000. The final report is likely to be available at the end of October, but staff cautioned that the work timeline is very weather dependent. Consultants require relatively dry conditions to perform the work.

Several members expressed concern about the presence of persons on the unfinished trail despite existing barriers and signage informing residents that the trail is under construction. Regarding unauthorized access on the unfinished trail, staff reiterated that other than providing signage indicating the trail is closed, there is little staff can do to prevent persons from accessing the trail.

10.2 COMMITTEE

10.2.1 Information Regarding process for future elections

The following was before the Western Common Advisory Committee:

- A staff memorandum dated June 20, 2019

Committee members discussed HRM elections policies for the elections of Chair and Vice-Chair for Advisory Committee. Several Committee members also expressed an interest in discussing and developing a proposed meeting date schedule for 2020, recognizing that members often have challenges meeting in July.

In response to questions from members, the Legislative Assistant indicated they would send out information emails to all members updating them regarding their term-end dates and policy regarding re-applying.

10.3 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES – NONE

11. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

12. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Dusan Soudek, Chair, Stewardship, Friends of Blue Mountain - Birch Cove Lakes Society, requested if the Committee could provide updates on any work to address messy campsites in the Western Common Wilderness Park and the installation of signs. Gareth Evans stated that staff would follow up with parks operation staff on these items and provide an update to the Committee. Dusan Soudek also inquired about rumours regarding the possible expansion of the Ragged Lake Business Park as part of a review of the business park functional plan.

Mary Ann McGrath, Co-Chair, Events, Friends of Blue Mountain - Birch Cove Lakes Society, informed the Committee that the society has received some information suggesting possible expansion of the Ragged Lake Business Park. Members are concerned about potential encroachments on the Western Common Wilderness Park as well as potential future challenges for the maintenance of clear accessible public access ways into the park on Bayer's Road. Several Committee members discussed the possibility of

requesting planning or real-estate staff to provide an update on planning matters for any business parks adjacent to the Western Common Wilderness Park.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – October 23, 2019

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Simon Ross-Siegel
Legislative Assistant