



DISTRICT BOUNDARY RESIDENT REVIEW PANEL MINUTES
October 3, 2022

PRESENT: Diane Childs, Chair
Russell Walker, Vice Chair
John Ariyo
Pamela Brennan
Pierre Gareau
Kate Sullivan

REGRETS: Greg Zwicker

OTHERS PRESENT: Councillor Austin
Councillor Cuttell
Councillor Deagle Gammon
Councillor Hendsbee
Councillor Kent
Councillor Mancini
Councillor Purdy

STAFF: Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk
Liam MacSween, Elections and Special Projects Manager
Jill McGillicuddy, 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 3:40 p.m., and adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people, and that we are all treaty people.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 14, 2022

MOVED by Russell Walker, seconded by John Ariyo

THAT the minutes of September 14, 2022 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

- Item 10.1 - Identification system for the proposed electoral districts

Deletions: None

MOVED by Pierre Gareau, seconded by John Ariyo

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

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

Correspondence was received and circulated to members.

7.2 Petitions – None

7.3 Presentation - None

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 2022 District Boundary Review Project – Phase Two public Engagement Process

The following was before the Panel:

- Staff recommendation report dated September 23, 2022
- Presentation from Narrative Research

Margaret Chapman, Chief Operating Officer and Partner, Narrative Research gave a presentation regarding the Phase Two public engagement process and responded to questions of clarification from the Panel.

Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk and Liam MacSween, Elections and Special Projects Manager responded to questions of clarification from the Panel.

MOVED by Russell Walker seconded by Kate Sullivan

That the District Boundary Resident Review Panel approve the proposed public engagement schedule, survey, and presentation parameters for Phase Two of the District Boundary Review project as outlined in the discussion session and revised attachment two of the staff report dated September 23, 2022.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.2 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WORKING GROUP – NONE

10. ADDED ITEMS

10.1 Identification system for the proposed electoral districts

Panel members outlined their concern regarding potential confusion as the proposed electoral districts do not always align with the existing electoral districts resulting in community members not able to easily compare existing electoral district X to proposed electoral district X. Currently, the proposed electoral districts are using a numbering system, but it is not aligned with the existing numbering system applied to the current electoral boundaries.

Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk, Liam MacSween, Elections and Special Projects Manager, and Margaret Chapman Chief Operating Officer and Partner, Narrative Research responded to questions of clarification from the Panel.

The Panel determined an alphabetic system would be applied to the proposed electoral boundaries. Additionally, a name/number identifier will form part of the submission to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.

MOVED by Dianne Childs, seconded by Russell Walker

THAT District Boundary Resident Review Panel revise the proposed maps to incorporate letters in place of district numbers for the proposed maps.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Tony Mancini, District 6 spoke to the potential negative result of having the Craigsburn Drive area in District 2 with the Waverly/Fall River/Wellington/ Windsor Junction communities. Mancini noted that residents of this neighbourhood have expressed their view; they should be in the Dartmouth elector district.

Mancini spoke to the criteria of communities of interest and that the majority of District 2 is suburban/rural in nature and that the Craigsburn area identifies as an urban area. Additionally, there is no shared commonalities with schools, places of worship, or organized sports teams. Also, given the diverse proposed boundary, effective representation would be challenging.

Mancini suggested the survey should go live prior to the public engagement sessions.

Cathy Deagle Gammon, District 1 spoke to the challenges of naming/identifying the proposed electoral districts. The proposed districts as illustrated are confusing as the proposed numbered districts do not align with the existing electoral districts.

Deagle Gammon spoke to the criteria of communities of interest and how the communities of Spider Lake and Craigsburn do not identify with the other more rural/suburban areas within the district. The proposed district encompasses a large geographical area which will have a potential negative impact on citizen representation by elected officials and financial impacts on various community groups who benefit from Councillor financial support.

Deagle Gammon noted that it appears the primary criteria utilized in determining the proposed boundaries was number of electors and communities of interest were not consider.

Sam Austin, District 5 spoke to the potential negative impacts of splitting communities. The proposed boundaries have divided the communities of Dartmouth and Cole Harbour. In the 2010 Electoral Boundary Review, there were similar proposals and Council amended the Dartmouth boundary prior to moving the application forward and the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board mandated changes to the Cole Harbour proposed boundary, resulting in the existing boundary of Cole Harbour.

David Hendsbee, District 2 questioned if the population numbers utilized by Panel members were based on eligible voters or all residents aged 18 or over. There was concern with the significant size of the proposed boundary. Hendsbee questioned if the Panel considered criterion of commonality of communities, traffic patterns, district capital funds, and historical connections. Hendsbee suggested consideration be given to a proposal of 18 districts.

Patricia Cuttell, District 11 spoke to the ongoing, concurrent planning process of creating community boundaries. The proposed electoral boundary splits the existing community by removing Prospect. The residents of Prospect have shared commonality with the “Sambro Loop” community. Cuttell suggested the public engagement meeting scheduled for Spryfield be relocated to the Prospect area given there are no proposed boundary realignments in the Spryfield area.

Trish Purdy, District 4 spoke to the concern of Cole Harbour community being split along Cole Harbour Road. As outlined by previous speakers, there was a similar proposal that the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board had rejected and mandated the community be retained. The proposed elector boundary would result in splitting the community of interest, Cole Harbour Place would not be located in Cole Harbour, Cole Harbour Heritage Museum would no longer be located in Cole Harbour, and there would be a potential negative impact to minor sports teams.

Purdy further noted that the identification system of the proposed boundary maps lacked clarity as current boundary identifiers were not interchangeable with the proposed boundary identifiers.

Rebecca Kent, District 3 spoke to the criteria of communities of interest outlining the importance to community members, reaffirming outlined potential challenges to splitting communities, potential of representations of communities without shared interests, and the desired consistency by community members. The Panel should consider a variance to voter parity greater than 10% as it may be justified in some areas. Also, the Panel should give consideration to Councillor’s input.

Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk advised the population statistics used by the Panel were adopted by motion and are from the Federal Census. The *Municipal Government Act* outlines five criteria that the Panel must consider. The Panel was directed to consider 16 elector boundaries and additional boundaries are not part of the project scope. The findings and recommendations will be forwarded to the Executive Standing Committee with the final application submitted to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board by December 31, 2022.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – October 12, 2022 (if required)

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

**District Boundary Resident Review Panel Minutes
October 3, 2022**

Jill McGillicuddy
Legislative Assistant