



**DISTRICT BOUNDARY RESIDENT REVIEW PANEL MINUTES
November 18, 2022**

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

REGRETS: Pierre Gareau
Greg Zwicker

OTHERS PRESENT: Councillor Trish Purdy
Councillor Sam Austin
Councillor Tim Outhit

STAFF: Liam MacSween, Elections and Special Projects Manager
Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk
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 1:14 p.m., and adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:14 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 – NONE

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

Additions: None

Deletions: None

MOVED by Russell Walker, seconded by Kate Sullivan

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

Correspondence was received and circulated for item 9.1.1.

For a detailed list of correspondence received refer to the specific agenda item.

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

The following was before the Panel:

- Staff recommendation report dated November 17, 2022
- Correspondence from Doris Ann MacDonald, Jim Smith

MOVED by Russell Walker, seconded by Kate Sullivan

THAT to complete Phase Two of the 2022 District Boundary Review, the District Boundary Resident Review Panel recommend that the Executive Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve the proposed polling district boundaries as set out in Attachments 1 and 3 of the staff report dated November 17, 2022 for submission to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.

Emile Pothier, Planning and Research Analyst gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Panel regarding the differences between the Panel's recommendation and staff's recommendation for electoral boundaries.

The Panel brought forward questions and comments for consideration:

- Terminology regarding growth is not uniform i.e. area is likely to grow as compared to expected to grow. Staff responded that the Regional Plan had identified opportunity sites and some of these sites still have barriers such as infrastructure issues while others do not so this accounts for the difference in terminology.
- Is the area of Fall River/Waverley going to experience growth? Staff responded there is potential for growth in this area; however, there are ongoing water infrastructure issues.
- Changes to existing District 4 includes the communities of Cherry Brook and North Preston, to unite with the other historical African Nova Scotian communities of Cherry Brook and Lake Loon. An additional public meeting was held in the community of Cherry Brook and John Ariyo, Panel member provided an overview. Public feedback was positive regarding the proposed electoral district; however, there were negative comments regarding the process as the preference is to have additional community consultation.

Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk, Liam MacSween, Elections and Special Projects Manager, Kurt Pyle, Manager Social & Heritage Policy Program, Planning and Research Analyst responded to questions of clarification from the Panel.

The Panel, by consensus moved public participation forward and heard public comment at this point.

Tim Outhit, District 16 spoke to the potential negative result of having Bedford West realigned with District 14. Outhit noted that community infrastructure such as Charles P. Allen High School, the BMO Centre, and the community facility attached to the High school would not be in District 16.

Outhit spoke to the criteria of communities of interest and that many residents in the Larry Uteck area do not identify with Bedford. The housing form is much denser in the Larry Uteck region while the other neighbourhoods in District 16 are lower density such as single unit dwellings. The Bedford West neighbourhood is more aligned with this housing type.

Sam Austin, District 5 spoke positively regarding proposed District 5 and that the communities of interest criteria had been considered.

Austin suggested the one area for reconsideration may be the Grahams Grove area and that consideration be given to realigning this area with District 6.

Trish Purdy, District 4 spoke positively regarding District 4 and that communities of interest had been maintained with maintaining Preston and Cherry Brook together.

Staff provided an overview of an alternative option for District 5

- Inclusion of Graham's Grove neighbourhood to District 5

Staff provided an overview of alternative options for District 16 as follows:

- **Option 1** –This option includes the Royal Hemlocks area in District 10, while maintaining both sides of Larry Uteck Blvd east of Highway 102 in District 16. This option also includes the majority of Bedford West within District 16. The intent of this option was to keep Bedford West together with Bedford as a community of interest, while removing the Royal Hemlocks area from the district as a trade-off in terms of the number of electors in District 16, as some feedback had suggested that residents of this area may not identify as much with Bedford.

- **Option 2** – This option includes the Brookline area (Bedford West sub-areas 7 and 8) in District 14, while other sub-areas of Bedford West (north of Larry Uteck Blvd and south of Hammonds Plains Rd) are included in District 16. This option also maintains the Royal Hemlocks area in District 16. The intent of this option was to include areas of Bedford West with some key community facilities in the same district as Bedford, while mitigating the increase to the number of electors by including the developing Brookline area in District 14, similarly to the current boundary between the existing Districts 13 and 16.

- **Option 3** – This option includes Atlantic Acres Industrial Park and lands to the west in District 14, along with areas west of Larry Uteck Blvd and the proposed Highway 113 (Bedford West sub-areas 1, 8, and 12). This option includes other areas of Bedford West in District 16, as well as the Royal Hemlocks area. The intent of this option was to maintain the more developed areas of Bedford West with some key community facilities in the same district as Bedford, while mitigating the future increase in electors by including areas that have the most capacity for future development in another district.

MOVED by Russell Walker, seconded by Pamela Brennan

THAT Item 9.1.1 be deferred to a future meeting of District Boundary Resident Review Panel and that staff provide a supplementary staff report to include options for District 5 and District 16.

MOTION TO DEFER PUT AND PASSED.

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

This matter was dealt with under item 9.1.1 2022 District Boundary Review Project – Phase Two.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – November 23, 2022

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Jill McGillicuddy
Legislative Assistant