



**ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
October 4, 2018**

PRESENT: Councillor Tony Mancini, Chair
Councillor Richard Zurawski, Vice Chair
Councillor Bill Karsten
Councillor Shawn Cleary
Councillor Lisa Blackburn

REGRETS: Councillors Steve Streach

OTHERS PRESENT: Councillor Lorelei Nicoll

STAFF: Kelly Denty, Acting Director, Planning & Development
Joshua Judah, Solicitor
David Perusse, Legislative Assistant
Phoebe Rai, Legislative Assistant

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

The agenda, reports, supporting documents, information items circulated, and video (if available) are online at halifax.ca.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m., the Standing Committee moved into an In Camera (In Private) session at 3:16 p.m. and reconvened in public session at 3:23 p.m. and adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 3, 2018

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the minutes of May 3, 2018 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

14.1 CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS – Private and Confidential Report

15.1 Natural Disaster Mitigation Program – Flood Risk Assessment Study

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Two-third majority vote required.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS - NONE

6. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE

7. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE

8. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

9. NOTICES OF TABLED MATTERS – NONE

10. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

10.1 Correspondence

The Legislative Assistant noted that the Municipal Clerk's Office received correspondence from Bob Fond dated May 6, 2018, and from S.M. Mandaville dated October 4, 2018, all of which was circulated to members of the Standing Committee.

10.2 Petitions - None

10.3 Presentations

10.3.1 HRM Climate Action Report Card – iMatter Halifax

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Correspondence form Lilian Barraclough dated April 26, 2018
- Proposed Climate Inheritance Resolution

Lilian Barraclough and Neria Atwine, iMatter Halifax, provided the Standing Committee with a presentation outlining the updated Climate Report Card grading for HRM highlighting gaps in the Municipality's climate action. They noted that the Municipality has received an overall grade of B-, which is an upgrade from the C grade received in the previous report card. Barraclough noted that this was a result of greater youth involvement and the Climate Action Plan.

They also presented a proposed climate resolution recommending that Regional Council take more aggressive action to combat climate change. They noted that Halifax has an important role in combating climate change, and the Resolution recommends that the Municipality complete or update a Halifax Climate Action Plan that significantly reduces HRM's greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by the year 2040 for both corporate and community emissions.

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request a staff recommendation report exploring the implications of the proposed Climate Inheritance Resolution on the Municipality, as presented by iMatter Halifax at the October 4, 2018 meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.

Responding to questions from members of the Standing Committee, Barraclough noted that the Municipality received a grade of B- for solid waste management due to there being an increase in volume of waste which was out of proportion to the population increase in Halifax.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Chair thanked Lilian Barraclough and Neria Atwine for their presentation and commended the presenters for taking a leadership role on climate change in their communities.

10.3.2 Lake Recovery; a Global Issue with Local Implications – Carl Yates, Halifax Water

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Presentation titled "Lake Recovery in Nova Scotia – Evidence for Occurrence"

Carl Yates, General Manager, Halifax Water, provided the Standing Committee with a presentation on lake recovery in Nova Scotia, and in the HRM in particular. Yates noted that the level of sulphur or acidity in Nova Scotia lakes has significantly decreased over the past number of years as a result of reduced levels of acid rain caused by efforts to reduce sulphur dioxide emissions in the United States. As a result, Halifax Water is having to transition from treating water for acidity, to treating it for increased levels of organic matter resulting from increased biological activity caused by falling sulphur levels.

Responding to questions from members of the Standing Committee, Yates noted that they do not expect a significant change in the levels of sulphur dioxide emissions coming from the United States, despite declining environmental regulation. This is largely due to the fact that coal burning is becoming increasingly uneconomical. In relation to the mandate of Halifax Water, Yates noted that their primary function is to ensure the quality of drinking water. However, they also have an environmental stewardship role to ensure that the watersheds are protected and maintained. Yates noted that there has been a significant increase in algal blooms in the watersheds they maintain; further noting that while warmer temperatures and less acidic water likely play a role, more research is required.

The Chair thanked Carl Yates for the presentation.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD - NONE

12. REPORTS

12.1 STAFF - NONE

12.2 BOARDS AND COMMITTEES - NONE

12.3 MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE

12.3.1 Councillor Cleary – Reduction of Garbage Blown Out or Removed from Municipal Waste Receptacles

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A request for the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee's Consideration form.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Karsten

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request a staff report with recommendations to reduce the garbage that is blown out or removed by animals from municipal waste receptacles.

Councillor Cleary spoke to the Standing Committee regarding the motion, noting that some Municipal garbage receptacles have lids, where others do not. Those that do not have lids are more likely to have their contents blown out or have scavenging wildlife remove it. As a coastal city, much of this waste then ends up in the ocean and lakes. Cleary noted that they would like for the staff report to outline a plan and budget to implement the proposal.

Councillor Zurawski suggested a possible amendment which would also look at the feasibility of implementing lids for waste receptacles for residential and commercial properties. Upon further discussion with members of the Standing Committee, Zurawski decided to table the amendment for possible consideration as a separate motion to come forward at a future meeting.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.3.2 Councillor Zurawski - Elimination of Drive Throughs

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A request for the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee's Consideration form.

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request a staff report looking at drive throughs and the feasibility of their elimination in HRM.

Councillor Zurawski spoke to the Standing Committee about the motion, explaining that there is a thriving 'car culture' in the Municipality and throughout the country, however, in light of the growing environment impacts of climate change and commitments to reduce emissions by 2040, the Municipality should take a look at feasible options to help reduce emissions. Zurawski clarified that what is being requested in a staff report which would explore the feasibility of the elimination of drive throughs in the Municipality for the purposes of planning and looking at all options for cutting down CO2 emissions.

Responding to questions from members of the Standing Committee on whether the proposed elimination could apply to current and future drive through, or just future ones, Kelly Denty, Acting Director, Planning

& Development, noted that the Municipality would not have the authority to eliminate existing drive throughs. Any restrictions could only be imposed on future developments.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.3.3 Councillor Zurawski – Surcharge on Throw Away Beverage and Food Containers

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A request for the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee's Consideration form.

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request a staff report to consider a surcharge for fast food restaurants and coffee shops, or a reduction in the cost of food/beverages for those patrons who bring their own containers.

Councillor Zurawski spoke to the Standing Committee about the motion, noting that the bulk of single use plastics that become litter come from fast-food establishments. They suggested that the Standing Committee once again consider steps that can be taken to mitigate this waste and its negative impact on the environment.

Councillor Cleary proposed the following amendment:

THAT the motion be amended so that the words "fast food restaurants and coffee shops" are replaced with "food, beverage and hospitality sector."

The amendment was considered as friendly.

The motion before the Standing Committee was as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request a staff report to consider a surcharge for the food, beverage and hospitality sector, or a reduction in the cost of food/beverages for those patrons who bring their own containers.

Councillor Karsten noted their support for the substance of the motion, but expressed their concern that there are a number of staff reports already examining this, and that the resulting staff report will invariably come back noting that such a surcharge is outside the authority of the Municipality. They suggested that the Standing Committee instead perhaps consider requesting that the Mayor send a letter to the Province on the issue.

Zurawski noted that even though the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee and the Municipality have not been able to successfully lobby the Province on this issue in the past, the Standing Committee should still be persistent in its advocacy.

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Blackburn

THAT the motion be amended to read as follows: That the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council request that Mayor Savage send a letter to the NS Minister of the Environment, requesting a surcharge or deposit on the food, beverage and hospitality sector, or a reduction in the cost of food/beverages for those patrons who bring their own containers.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.

The motion before the Standing Committee was as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council request that Mayor Savage send a letter to the NS Minister of the Environment, requesting a surcharge or deposit on the food, beverage and hospitality sector, or a reduction in the cost of food/beverages for those patrons who bring their own containers.

AMENDED MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13. MOTIONS - NONE

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

Councillor Karsten left the meeting at 3:11 p.m.

The Standing Committee moved into an In Camera (In Private) session at 3:16 p.m. to deal with the following:

14.1 CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS – Private and Confidential Report

A matter pertaining to contract negotiations and legal advice.

This item was dealt with In Camera (In Private) and the following was ratified in public session:

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded Councillor Cleary

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

- 1. Ratify the recommendation to Regional Council as discussed during the In Camera (In Private) session of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee held on October 4, 2018; and**
- 2. Not release the private and confidential report dated September 22, 2018 to the public.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

15. ADDED ITEMS

15.1 Natural Disaster Mitigation Program – Flood Risk Assessment Study

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff recommendation report dated September 10, 2018
- Staff presentation dated October 4, 2018

Peter Duncan, Manager, Infrastructure Planning, and Youssef Habboush, Program Engineer, provided the Standing Committee with a presentation on the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program, Flood Risk Assessment Study.

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council:

- 1. Accept the methodology contained in the National Disaster Flood Risk Assessment study as set out in Attachment E of the staff report dated September 10, 2018, as the basis for prioritizing mitigation projects in flood prone areas; and**
- 2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to:**

- a. **work with Halifax Water to develop a joint flood risk assessments implementation plan for the ten sites outlined in the Discussion section of the staff report dated September 10, 2018, which will include a funding/cost-sharing strategy with options for consideration of Regional Council during the 2019/20 and 2020/21 business plan and budget deliberations; and**
- b. **submit an application to the National Disaster Mitigation Program to carry out follow-up studies for the Sackville Rivers and Shubenacadie Lakes systems.**

Responding to questions from members of the Standing Committee, Duncan noted that ten (10) sites for priority risk assessments, rather than a greater number, were chosen as to stay within the scope of their allotted budget. They further noted that they want to examine the highest risk areas as a starting point, and continuing their work from there.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

16. NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair invited members of the public wishing to address the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee to come forward.

Walter Reagan, Volunteer, Sackville Rivers Association, noted that the 'Storm Water Quality Function Plan' had previously come before Regional Council but was never implemented. They expressed the view that if the Municipality wants to make a real positive impact on the environment, then this plan should be brought back to Council for approval and implementation. They noted that as the largest Municipality in Atlantic Canada, the HRM is understaff with regards to their environment staff. Reagan further noted that Halifax Water has a number of dams throughout the Municipality. They requested that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request that Halifax Water ensure that these dams have both upstream and downstream fish passages. Reagan further stated that the Municipality should start treating storm water before it is introduced into our watersheds.

Councillor Mancini called three (3) times for any further members of the public wanting to address the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee. There were no additional speakers.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – November 1, 2018

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

David Perusse
Legislative Assistant