



**ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 10, 2019**

PRESENT: Councillor Richard Zurawski, Chair
Councillor Shawn Cleary, Vice-Chair
Deputy Mayor Tony Mancini
Councillor David Hendsbee
Councillors Steve Streach
Councillor Lisa Blackburn

STAFF: Kelly Denty, Director, Planning & Development
Joshua Judah, Solicitor
David Perusse, 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 1:01 p.m. and adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 6, 2018

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the minutes of December 6, 2018 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Councillor Streach, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mancini

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. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE

7. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE

8. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

8.1 Onsite Energy Manager, Efficiency NS - David Brushett

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A presentation titled “On-Site Energy Manager Update”

David Brushett, On-Site Energy Manager, provided the Standing Committee with a presentation on Efficiency Nova Scotia, energy efficiency projects taking place within the Municipality, and the benefits to the Municipality of pursuing energy efficiency.

Councillor Hendsbee joined the meeting at 1:18 p.m.

Responding to questions from members of the Standing Committee, Brushett noted that all new HRM buildings are designed to be LEED certified, with energy efficiency being a major component of achieving a LEED certification. They further noted that recommissioning, or assessing buildings for energy efficiency, is a good practice even with newer buildings; citing the efficiencies achieved at the Dartmouth 4 Pad as an example.

Councillor Zurawski requested that should a presentation go forward to Regional Council on energy efficiency, that the presentation incorporate reference to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) emissions and energy consumption targets.

The Chair thanked Brushett for the presentation

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 relating to item 12.1.2, as well as correspondence from Donna Tufaro, dated December 7, 2018, Beverlee MacLellan, dated December 10, 2018, and Dennis Gregor, dated December 12, 2018, all of which was circulated to members of the Standing Committee.

10.2 Petitions - None

10.3 Presentations - None

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD - NONE

12. REPORTS

12.1 STAFF

12.1.1 Regional Watersheds Advisory Board Review

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report date November 21, 2018

Councillor Streach left the meeting at 1:34 p.m.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mancini

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

- 1. Commence the process to dissolve the Regional Watershed Advisory Board by:
 - a) initiating the process to amend the Regional Municipal Planning Strategy and all applicable municipal planning strategies and land use by-laws referencing the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board and predecessor watershed advisory boards;**
 - b) adopting the public participation program as presented in Attachment 11 of the staff report dated November 21, 2018;**
and
 - c) directing staff to return to Council to dissolve the Regional Watershed Advisory Board and make the necessary amendments to Administrative Order One at the same time as the adoption of the MPS amendments.****
- 2. Direct staff to enter into discussions with the Centre for Water Resource Studies (Dalhousie University) to provide water resource management expertise at pre-arranged prices, under set terms and conditions, if and when required, in accordance with Section 25.3 of Procurement Administrative Order.**
- 3. Direct staff to prepare an annual report on water resource management for the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee (including, as appropriate, wetlands protection, riparian buffers, floodplains, coastal inundation and watershed planning).**

Responding to questions from members of the Standing Committee, Shannon Miedema, Manager, Energy and Environment, and Scott Sheffield, Government Relations and External Affairs, noted that staff do not anticipate that dissolving the Regional Watershed Advisory Board (RWAB) would result in additional costs to the Municipality for third party consulting work for water related matters, as the Municipality already makes these expenditures even with RWAB. Staff noted that often, the Board has sought to pursue work that has been outside of their mandate, overlapping with the work of Halifax Water, and of a complex nature that would require dedicated professional expertise. Staff also noted the large administrative burden of supporting RWAB.

Councillor Cleary expressed concerns about the staff recommendations to dissolve RWAB, suggesting that it may be more appropriate to amend its Terms of Reference to address some of the issues outlined in the staff report. This would include amending the membership composition of the Board to provide it with a more professional and academic orientation.

Deputy Mayor Mancini left the meeting at 1:57 p.m.

MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request a supplementary staff report to examine amending the Regional Watershed Advisory Board's Terms of Reference to incorporate recommendations 1, 4, 5, 6, and 7, from alternative 2 as set out in the Alternatives section of the staff report dated November 21, 2018, as well as to examine amending the composition of the Regional Watershed Advisory Board to reduce the number of at-large citizen appointments, and increasing the number of appointments for water related academics and professionals.

Staff clarified that the supplemental staff report would come back to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.1.2 HRM Park Naturalization Strategy

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report date December 14, 2018
- Correspondence submitted by Bob McDonald

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct staff to advance the naturalization initiatives outlined in the Discussion section of the staff report dated December 14, 2018, including:

- a) **naturalizing areas within parks and right-of-ways which may be difficult to maintain with lawn cover;**
- b) **naturalizing parks or areas within parks that are comprised of older and underutilized park features and equipment;**
- c) **introducing naturalization in new parks or when undertaking park plans for existing parks;**
- d) **raising public awareness regarding the benefits of naturalization and local projects through HRM's website and on-site signage;**
- e) **continuing to foster partnerships with stakeholder and community groups to establish naturalization projects; and**
- f) **cataloguing naturalization programs and projects over a 2-year period for monitoring purposes towards consideration of a future naturalization guideline/policy.**

Responding to questions from members of the Standing Committee, Richard Harvey, Manager of Policy and Planning, Parks and Recreation, and Penelope Kuhn, Program Standards Planner, noted the distinction between naturalized areas and unsightly properties, with the former being actively managed and monitored by the Municipality. Staff further noted that the properties would be monitored and managed for invasive species.

Councillor Hendsbee requested that a staff presentation be provided when this matter comes before Regional Council.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2 MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE – NONE

13. MOTIONS – NONE

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) - NONE

15. ADDED ITEMS - NONE

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. No members of the public came forward to address the Standing Committee.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – February 7, 2019

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

David Perusse
Legislative Assistant