



**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
October 11, 2022**

PRESENT: Mayor Mike Savage
Deputy Mayor Pam Lovelace
Councillors: David Hendsbee
Becky Kent
Trish Purdy
Tony Mancini
Waye Mason
Lindell Smith
Shawn Cleary
Kathryn Morse
Patty Cuttell
Iona Stoddard
Lisa Blackburn
Paul Russell
Tim Outhit

REGRETS: Councillors: Cathy Deagle Gammon
Sam Austin

STAFF: Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer
John Traves, Municipal Solicitor
Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk
Annie Sherry, 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.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. and recessed at 7:45 p.m. Council reconvened in at 7:49 p.m. and adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Savage called the meeting to order at 6:02 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 THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Additions: None

Deletions: None

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Deagle Gammon, Austin

3. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

4. PUBLIC HEARING

4.1 Case 22257: Regional Plan Review: Phase 3

The following was before Council:

- Staff recommendation report dated July 5, 2022 with revised Attachment A
- Extracts from the July 12 and August 9, 2022 Regional Council minutes
- Correspondence from Marcelo Lima, Katherine Kitching, Marjorie Willison (Spryfield Community Association), Peter Renowden, Andrew Stout, Jennifer Escott, Dr. Mather Carscallen (Purcell's Cove Backlands Coalition), Richmond Campbell (Woodens River Watershed Environmental Organization), Wendy Harfouche, Dale Smith (Friends of Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Society)
- Staff presentation dated October 11, 2022

First Reading was given on August 9, 2022.

Leah Perrin, Principal Planner, Regional Policy gave a presentation on Case 22257: Regional Plan Review: Phase 3 and responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

The hearing opened at 6:15 p.m.

Mayor Savage reviewed the rules of procedure for public hearings and called for anyone wishing to speak on the matter.

Kortney Dunsby, Halifax spoke on behalf of Our HRM Alliance in support of the proposed amendments within Phase 3, to the positive work of HRM planning staff, the importance of these amendments guiding future work of HRM, and noted that Our HRM Alliance would be open to stronger language for Policy G-14A. Dunsby responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council regarding the recommendation for stronger language for Policy G-14A and suggested using, "demonstrate consideration," rather than, "consideration."

Russell MacKinnon, Halifax spoke to two procedural issues in sections 91 and 94 of Attachment D,

noting that removing the requirement for hard copy permanent records of concept plans for as-of-right subdivision developments will erode accountability and transparency in the development process, and the belief that using an engineer's concept plan rather than a surveyor's concept plan would be contrary to the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter and Municipal Government Act. MacKinnon responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

Iain Renouf, Bedford spoke to concerns with the amount of R-1 zoning, housing costs and availability in the HRM, and suggested changes to zoning by-laws including upzoning on the peninsula to allow for multiple dwelling homes, infill housing, and simplifying procedure.

Frank Johnston, Prospect spoke on behalf of the Prospect Road Organization for a Better Environment (PROBE) and noted that they were pleased to see the scope of discretion broadened in the proposed amendments, but would like to see Halifax Exhibition Park and Ragged Lake Industrial Park developed as one comprehensive unit to maintain the transportation link to the community. Johnston responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

Richmond Campbell, Halifax spoke on behalf of the Woodens River Watershed Environment Organization and highlighted the need to protect the Purcell's Cove Backlands by designating them as Open Lands with Protected Status to protect against development, and encouraged Regional Council to pass the amendment to Policy G-14A and consider stronger wording within it.

Ron Walker, Eastern Passage spoke to their support for corrections to C-2 zone regarding working water frontage and responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

Martha Leary, Armdale spoke on behalf of the Backlands Coaliton to the importance of protecting the biodiversity of the Backlands and provided an image for display to Regional Council, that 95 bird species use the Backlands for migrating or year-round residence, and shared their support for not extending water and wastewater service further into Purcell's Cove Road.

Kathleen Hall, Halifax spoke to their support for stronger wording in Policy G-14A, noted forthcoming considerations to the public path to Williams Lake and Shaw Wilderness trailhead through Phase 4, and that the land in between Backlands should be maintained as private and wild to protect biodiversity.

Joseph Kirby, Dartmouth spoke to support for legalizing mobile homes on R-1 zones and suggested legalizing apartment and condo buildings on R-1 and R-2 zones.

Bruce Holland, Halifax spoke on behalf of Prospect Road Organization for a Better Environment (PROBE) to concerns with development on the Prospect Road and suggested creating a ring road to relieve traffic pressures.

Allan Ruffman Ferguson's Cove spoke to concerns with the public hearing process with respect to time limits, suggested that Regional Council could lead discussions at the federal level about not allowing capital gains on raw land to be excused for 50% of their value, their support for protecting the Purcell's Cove Backlands while protecting animal crossing on Herring Cove Road, and that clearcutting of the land behind Kent Building Supplies near Susie's Lake was in contradiction to the recommendations from Peter Jacobs' Metropolitan Area Planning Committee report.

Mayor Savage called three times for any other members of the public wishing to speak on the matter, there were none present.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the hearing be closed.

The hearing closed at 7:03 p.m.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Not present: Councillors Deagle Gammon, Austin

MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT Halifax Regional Council adopt the proposed amendments to the Regional Municipal Plan Strategy (Regional Plan), Secondary Municipal Planning Strategies (SMPs), Land Use By-laws (LUBs), and the Regional Subdivision By-law (RSBL) as set out in Attachments A revised, B, C and D of the staff report dated July 5, 2022.

Leah Perrin, Principal Planner, Regional Policy responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council regarding the scope of Phase 3, the timeline and scope of Phase 4, and noted that Phase 4 will include many of the regulatory aspects of the Regional Plan Review. Perrin responded to questions regarding Policy G14-A and noted that additional language is being included in Regional Plan Phase 4 providing further consideration of implementing priority plans. Further, the priority plans are currently used during plan amendment applications, and staff reports for planning applications will address how the priority plans were considered.

John Traves, Municipal Solicitor, responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council regarding the process for bringing forward amendments during public hearings and the impact of a request for a supplemental report on the motion before Regional Council.

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council regarding considerations for the development of the Caldwell Road Connector.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT section 22 of revised Attachment A of the staff report dated July 5, 2022, amending Policy G-19 be amended by deleting the text “S-14, S-15, S-16 and S-17” and adding the text “S-14A, S-14B, S-15A, S-15B, S-16A, and S-17A” after the text “Notwithstanding Policies” and before the text “of this Plan”.

Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk, and Leah Perrin, Principal Planner, Regional Policy responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Deagle Gammon, Austin

The motion as amended now read:

MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT Halifax Regional Council adopt the proposed amendments to the Regional Municipal Plan Strategy (Regional Plan), Secondary Municipal Planning Strategies (SMPs), Land Use By-laws (LUBs), and the Regional Subdivision By-law (RSBL) as set out in revised Attachment A as amended, and Attachments B, C, and D of the staff report dated July 5, 2022.

MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Deagle Gammon, Austin

5. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
5.1 2023 IIHF World Junior Championship

The following was before Council:

- Private and confidential handout dated April 1, 2022
- Correspondence from Beth Wilson, Kathrin Winkler

Denise Schofield, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Citizen Services gave an overview of the Halifax Regional Municipality's plans to host the 2023 International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) World Junior Championship and responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council regarding negotiations on funding agreements and clarified that Hockey Canada assumes the cost for loss of ticket sales.

Mayor Savage responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council regarding joint actions taken with the Mayor of Moncton to call for accountability of Hockey Canada leadership, and logistics of co-hosting the Championship with the city of Moncton.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Kent

THAT Halifax Regional Council declassify and release the private and confidential report dated April 1, 2022 following an access and privacy review.

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council regarding the process for the declassification of private and confidential reports.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Deagle Gammon, Austin

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Iain MacLean
Municipal Clerk