



**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES
November 28, 2023**

PRESENT: Mayor Mike Savage
Deputy Mayor Cathy Deagle Gammon
Councillors: David Hendsbee
Becky Kent
Trish Purdy
Sam Austin
Tony Mancini
Lindell Smith
Shawn Cleary
Kathryn Morse
Patty Cuttell
Pam Lovelace
Lisa Blackburn
Paul Russell
Tim Outhit

REGRETS: Councillors: Waye Mason
Iona Stoddard

STAFF: Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer
John Traves, K.C., CD, Executive Director of Legal & Legislative Services
/Municipal Solicitor/Chief Governance Officer
Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk
Dorothy Maponga, Legislative Assistant
Elizabeth Macdonald, 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 3:40 p.m., and recessed at 5:15 p.m. Council reconvened at 6:00 p.m., Council adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Savage 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.

SELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Mayor Savage thanked Deputy Mayor Sam Austin for serving Halifax Regional Municipality as Deputy Mayor over the past year.

MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Councillor Outhit

THAT Councillor Deagle Gammon be nominated as Deputy Mayor of the Halifax Regional Municipality.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Mayor Savage called three times for further nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor; there were none.

Nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor were closed.

Councillor Deagle Gammon was declared Deputy Mayor of the Halifax Regional Municipality.

2. SPECIAL COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Councillors noted special community announcements and acknowledgements.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 14, 2023

MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Councillor Cuttall

THAT the minutes of November 14, 2023 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

- Item 18.1 - Ratification from Committee of the Whole - Upper Tantallon Wildfire – Lessons Learned
- Item 18.2 - Ratification from Budget Committee - 2024/25 Strategic Priorities Plan Update

Deletions: None

As provided for in section 37 (1) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, Councillor Lovelace requested that Item 15.1.5 Westwood Hills Egress be considered prior to item 6.

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Kent

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Later in the meeting, as provided for in section 12 (5) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, Councillor Smith requested that Information Item 8 – Halifax Regional Municipality Employee Living Wage be brought forward at the next Regional Council Meeting.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Kent

THAT Halifax Regional Council approve recommendations in the following agenda items:

- **10.1 – First Reading Proposed By-Law S-452, an Amendment to By-Law S-400 Respecting Charges for Street Improvements - Supplementary Report;**
- **15.1.2 – Proposed Administrative Order SC-103, Respecting Closure of Almon Lane, Halifax; and**
- **15.2.1 – HRTG-2023-00871: Substantial Alternation to the municipally registered heritage property at 17 Banook Avenue, Dartmouth.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Mason, Stoddard, Russell

6. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

7. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

8. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE

9. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE

10. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – September 26, 2023

10.1 First Reading Proposed By-Law S-452, an Amendment to By-Law S-400 Respecting Charges for Street Improvements - Supplementary Report

10.1 Staff report dated August 14, 2023

The following was before Council:

- Staff report dated August 14, 2023
- Supplementary staff report dated October 6, 2023
- Extract from the September 26, 2023 Regional Council minutes

The following motion was approved as part of the Consent Agenda:

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Kent

THAT Halifax Regional Council give First Reading to the revised Amending By-law S-452, Amending By-law S-400, the Street Improvements By-law, as set out in Attachment 1 of the supplementary report dated October 6, 2023.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Mason, Stoddard, Russell

11. NOTICES OF TABLED MATTERS – NONE

12. PUBLIC HEARINGS – NONE

13. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

13.1 Correspondence

Correspondence was received and circulated for items: 15.1.5 and information item 8.

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

13.2 Petitions

13.2.1 Iain MacLean

Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk submitted a petition from Gaidheal McIntyre regarding the housing and homelessness crisis with approximately 259 signatures demanding that Mayor Savage and Premier Houston experience the housing crisis firsthand.

14. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

15. REPORTS

15.1 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

15.1.1 Proposed Amendments to Administrative Order 15, Respecting License, Permit and Processing Fees – Parking Permits

The following was before Council:

- Staff report dated October 10, 2023
- Extract from the November 14, 2023 Regional Council draft minutes

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT Halifax Regional Council adopt the amendments to Administrative Order 15, the License, Permits and Processing Fees Administrative Order, as set out in Attachment A to the staff report dated October 10, 2023.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Mason, Stoddard

15.1.2 Proposed Administrative Order SC-103, Respecting Closure of Almon Lane, Halifax

The following was before Council:

- Staff report dated October 6, 2023
- Extract from the November 14, 2023 Regional Council draft minutes

The following motion was approved as part of the Consent Agenda:

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Kent

THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to set a date for a public hearing to consider permanently closing Almon Lane (which is marked “Alley” and outlined in red in Attachment 1 to Staff Report dated October 6, 2023) as a street, with notice to be published in a newspaper at least fourteen days prior to the Council meeting and with notice to be sent to the Minister of Public Works before the hearing.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Mason, Stoddard, Russell

15.1.3 Diversity and Inclusion Guidelines for Staff Reports

The following was before Council:

- Staff report dated July 15, 2023
- Staff presentation dated November 27, 2023

Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director, Office of Diversity & Inclusion gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Suspend the rules of procedure under Schedule 6, the Executive Standing Committee Terms of Reference, of Administrative Order One, the Procedures of the Council Administrative Order;**
- 2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to adopt the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility Consultation and Consideration Checklist to inform project, program, and policy development at all stages of the work process as outlined in Attachment 1 of staff report dated July 15, 2023; and**
- 3. Approve the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility Guidelines for Council Reports and direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the use of these guidelines in all staff reports as outlined in Attachment 2 of staff report dated July 15, 2023.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Mason, Stoddard

15.1.4 PLPROJ 2023-01240: Comprehensive Neighbourhood Planning Process for the Young Street Lands Future Growth Node, Halifax

The following was before Council:

- Staff report dated November 9, 2023
- Extract from the October 17, 2023 Regional Council minutes

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer:

- 1. Initiate a process to consider amendments to the Regional Centre Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy and the Regional Centre Land Use By-law to support comprehensive development of the Young Street Lands Future Growth Node and surrounding lands, consistent with the review items identified in the Discussion Section of the staff report dated November 9, 2023; and**
- 2. Follow the Public Participation Program as set out in Attachment A of staff report dated November 9, 2023.**

Rhys Burnell, Planner II and Luc Ouellet, Principal Planner responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Mason, Stoddard

15.1.5 Westwood Hills Egress

The following was before Council:

- Staff report dated October 3, 2023
- Correspondence from Dustin O’Leary, Richard Howell, Paul Currie, Trudy Dyer, Shawn and Donna Beaulieu, Wolfgang and Wera Friedrich, Kristiana Strowbridge and James McKee-Mitchell, Scott Burke, Karen Gallant, Barb Conrad, Allen JR Fry, Carolyn Binder, Debbie Bull and Nick Horne

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to proceed with the planning, design, and stakeholder engagement required to develop an emergency-only connection to Highway 103 from the Westwood Hills subdivision.

Mike Connors, Manager, Strategic Transportation Planning Program and Peter Duncan, Director, Infrastructure Planning responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Purdy

THAT the motion be amended to include part 2, directing the Chief Administrative Officer to proceed with further investigation into the development of community connector roadways with landowners of adjacent communities including Highland Park and Upper Hammonds Plains and consider any necessary amendments to the Regional Plan and Regional Subdivision By-law to enable these specific neighbourhood egress routes.

Connors, Cathie O’Toole, Chief Administrative Officer and Kate Greene, Director Regional and Community Planning responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Mason, Stoddard

The motion as amended now read:

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to:

- 1. Proceed with the planning, design, and stakeholder engagement required to develop an emergency-only connection to Highway 103 from the Westwood Hills subdivision; and**
- 2. Proceed with further investigation into the development of community connector roadways with landowners of adjacent communities including Highland Park and Upper Hammonds Plains and consider any necessary amendments to the Regional Plan and Regional Subdivision By-law to enable these specific neighbourhood egress routes.**

MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Mason, Stoddard

Mayor Savage stepped down from the Chair and Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon assumed the Chair.

15.1.6 2023-01495: Amendments to the Regional Centre Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law to Implement the Halifax Grain Elevator Land Use Risk Assessment Study Recommendations

The following was before Council:

- Staff report October 24, 2023
- Extract from the November 14, 2023 Regional Council Draft Minutes
- Staff presentation dated November 28, 2023

Ross Grant, Planner III gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

John Traves, K.C., CD, Executive Director of Legal & Legislative Services /Municipal Solicitor/Chief Governance Officer responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to:

- 1. Initiate a process to amend the Regional Centre Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy and Regional Centre Land Use By-law to implement the land use and built form guidelines recommendations of the Halifax Grain Elevator Land Use Risk Assessment Study, consistent with the review items outlined in the Discussion section of staff report dated October 24, 2023;**
- 2. Consider discharging existing development agreements as necessary to implement the recommendations of the Halifax Grain Elevator Land Use Risk Assessment Study; and**
- 3. Follow the public participation program as outlined in the Community Engagement section of staff report dated October 24, 2023.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Mayor Savage, Councillors Stoddard, Mason, Cleary

15.2 HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

15.2.1 HRTG-2023-00871: Substantial Alteration to the municipally registered heritage property at 17 Banook Avenue, Dartmouth

The following was before Council:

- Heritage Advisory Committee report dated November 15, 2023 with attached staff report dated October 17, 2023

The following motion was approved as part of the Consent Agenda:

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Kent

THAT Halifax Regional Council approve the proposed substantial alteration to the municipally registered heritage property at 17 Banook Avenue, Dartmouth as set out in the staff report dated October 17, 2023.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Mason, Stoddard, Russell

15.3 MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

15.3.1 Councillor Morse - Addressing Castle Hill Pickleball Court Noise

The following was before Council:

- Request for Consideration form from Councillor Morse

MOVED by Councillor Morse, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to provide a staff report and recommendations with respect to the Castle Hill pickleball courts and reducing noise levels for neighbouring residents.

Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (12 in favour, 1 against)

In favour: Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon, Councillors Austin, Hendsbee, Kent, Purdy, Mancini, Smith, Morse, Cuttell, Lovelace, Blackburn, Outhit

Against: Councillor Russell

Not present: Mayor Savage, Councillors Mason, Cleary, Stoddard

Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon stepped down from the Chair and Councillor Austin assumed the Chair.

16. MOTIONS

16.1 Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon

The following was before Council:

- Extract from the November 14, 2023 Regional Council Draft Minutes

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to provide a staff report to identify funding required to increase access to the Recreation Inclusion Support program for consideration in the 2024/25 budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Mayor Savage, Councillors Mason, Cleary, Stoddard

Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon resumed the Chair.

17. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

17.1 PROPERTY MATTER - Private and Confidential Report

This matter was dealt with in public as follows:

The following was before Council:

- Private and confidential report dated September 5, 2023.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Outhit

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

1. **Adopt the recommendations as outlined in the private and confidential report dated September 5, 2023; and**
2. **Direct that the private and confidential report dated September 5, 2023 be maintained private and confidential.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Mason, Stoddard

Private and Confidential Information Items

1. Private and Confidential In Camera (In Private) Information Report - re: Property Matter

18. ADDED ITEMS

18.1 Ratification from Committee of the Whole - Upper Tantallon Wildfire – Lessons Learned

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to provide a staff report and recommendations for a Municipal Disaster Readiness Evacuation Program to identify gaps in process and knowledge, use of communications tools such as Evacuation Route signage, 10-minute evacuation practice plans, and any other resource needed to expediate safe evacuation in high-risk communities.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Mayor Savage, Councillors Stoddard, Mason, Cleary

18.2 Ratification from Budget Committee - 2024/25 Strategic Priorities Plan Update

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Cuttell

THAT Halifax Regional Council approve amendments to the 2021-25 Strategic Priorities Plan as outlined in the discussion section of the staff report dated November 16, 2023 and direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to develop the 2024-25 business plans and budgets consistent with this plan.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (12 in favour, 1 against)

In favour: Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon, Councillors Austin, Hendsbee, Kent, Mancini, Smith, Morse, Cuttell, Lovelace, Blackburn, Outhit, Russell

Against: Councillor Purdy

Not present: Mayor Savage, Councillors Stoddard, Mason, Cleary

19. NOTICES OF MOTION

19.1 Councillor Outhit

TAKE NOTICE that, at a future meeting of Halifax Regional Council, I intend to move that Council consider adopting, by policy, a Public Participation Program, the purpose of which is to consider amendments to the Regional Subdivision By-law to add development bonds as a security option for subdivisions with new infrastructure and revise how inspection fees are collected for the installation of primary and secondary services associated with subdivision.

19.2 Councillor Austin on behalf of Councillor Mason

TAKE NOTICE that, at a future meeting of Halifax Regional Council, I intend to propose First Reading of By-Law C-1102, amending By-law C-1100, Respecting Campaign Financing, the purpose of which is to restrict contributions to individuals ordinarily resident in Nova Scotia, adjust maximum campaign contribution and expenditure limits considering inflation rise, reduce the contribution limit to a candidate's own campaign, remove the term "spouse" from the By-law, and address other housekeeping amendments.

19.3 Councillor Cuttell

TAKE NOTICE that, at a future meeting of Halifax Regional Council, I intend to propose First Reading of By-Law N-208, amending By-Law N-200, the Noise By-Law, the purpose of which is to extend construction hours for concrete related construction activities, and other housekeeping amendments.

19.4 Councillor Mancini on behalf of Councillor Mason

TAKE NOTICE that, at a future meeting of Halifax Regional Council, I intend to move amendments to Administrative Order 2014-007-ADM Respecting Grants to Professional Arts Organizations, the purpose of which is to allow up to three (3) years of sustainable operating funding for Professional Arts Organizations subject to annual budgetary approval by Regional Council.

19.5 Councillor Smith on behalf of Councillor Mason

TAKE NOTICE that, at a future meeting of Halifax Regional Council, I intend to move that Council consider adopting, by policy, a Public Participation Program, the purpose of which is to consider amendments to the Regional Centre Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy, and the Regional Centre Land Use By-law to enable development in the Cogswell District.

19.6 Councillor Cleary

TAKE NOTICE that, at a future meeting of Halifax Regional Council, I intend to move a motion to direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to provide a staff report on amending section 6 of By-law M-400, Respecting Marketing Levy, which would allow short-term rental (STR) operators with one STR unit to report and remit the collected marketing levy on a quarterly or semi-annual basis.

19.7 Councillor Cleary

TAKE NOTICE that, at a future meeting of Halifax Regional Council, I intend to move a motion to direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to provide a staff report on amending By-law N-300 Respecting Nuisances and Smoking to add a clause that exterior lighting shall not be directed towards abutting lots or streets.

19.8 Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon

TAKE NOTICE that, at a future meeting of Halifax Regional Council, I propose to introduce Administrative Order 2023-003-ADM , Respecting the Municipal Registry of Volunteer Emergency Services Providers, pursuant to Section 306 of the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, the purpose of which is to implement a municipal registry of nonprofit emergency services providers in accordance with accepted

standards of practice and to expand the type of discretionary municipal assistance afforded registered organizations party to a formal service agreement with Halifax Regional Municipality.

19.9 Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon

TAKE NOTICE that, at a future meeting of Halifax Regional Council, I intend to propose amendments to Administrative Order 18, Respecting Revenue Collections Policy, the purpose of which is to revise current tax sale fees and other housekeeping amendments.

19.10 Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon

TAKE NOTICE that, at a future meeting of Halifax Regional Council, I intend to move a motion to direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to provide a staff report to expand the Access-A-Bus service area to include the community surrounding all park and ride locations for door-to-door service; as well as a review of the half hour window for pick up notifications, and funding and tax implications for the 2025-2026 budget year.

20. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Iain MacLean
Municipal Clerk