



**COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STANDING COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MINUTES  
December 14, 2023**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Patty Cuttell, Chair  
Councillor Trish Purdy, Vice Chair  
Councillor Sam Austin  
Councillor Lindell Smith  
Councillor Lisa Blackburn

**REGRETS:** Councillor Tim Outhit

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Deputy Mayor Cathy Deagle Gammon  
Councillor David Hendsbee  
Councillor Pam Lovelace

**STAFF:** Maggie MacDonald, Executive Director, Parks and Recreation  
Claire Gillivan, Solicitor  
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 at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca).*

*The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. The Standing Committee adjourned at 12:09 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.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 – November 16, 2023**

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Purdy

**THAT the minutes of November 16, 2023 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions: None

Deletions: None

As provided for in section 37 (1) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, Councillor Purdy requested that Item 11 – Public Participation be considered prior to Item 8.1 - Rural Recreation Strategy.

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

**THAT the agenda be approved as amended.**

**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 – November 16, 2023**

**8.1 Rural Recreation Strategy**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated October 11, 2023
- Staff presentation dated December 14, 2023

Diane Levandier, Area Manager, Recreation Programming gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Purdy

**THAT the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council:**

- 1. Approve the Rural Recreation Strategy (Attachment 1 of the staff report dated October 11, 2023);**

2. **Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to carry out the actions contained in the Rural Recreation Strategy as part of the multi-year budgeting and business planning process;**
3. **Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to return to Regional Council with a progress report within three years of the adoption of the Rural Recreation Strategy.**

Angela Green, Director, Recreation Programming, Maggie MacDonald, Executive Director, Parks & Recreation, and Nalini Naidoo, Director, Strategic Planning & Design responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

Councillor Blackburn proposed that part 3 of the motion be amended to strike, “within three years” and replace it with, “after one year.” As provided for in section 53 (2) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion now read:

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Purdy

**THAT the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council:**

1. **Approve the Rural Recreation Strategy (Attachment 1 of the staff report dated October 11, 2023);**
2. **Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to carry out the actions contained in the Rural Recreation Strategy as part of the multi-year budgeting and business planning process;**
3. **Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to return to Regional Council with a progress report after one year of the adoption of the Rural Recreation Strategy.**

MacDonald and Claire Gillivan, Solicitor responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee, noting that progress reports could return to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee before Regional Council, if the motion was amended to reflect that direction.

Councillor Austin proposed that part 3 of the motion be amended to add, “via Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee” immediately following, “return to Regional Council.” As provided for in section 53 (2) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion now read:

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Purdy

**THAT the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council:**

1. **Approve the Rural Recreation Strategy (Attachment 1 of the staff report dated October 11, 2023);**
2. **Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to carry out the actions contained in the Rural Recreation Strategy as part of the multi-year budgeting and business planning process;**
3. **Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to return to Regional Council via Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee with a progress report after one year of the adoption of the Rural Recreation Strategy.**

**MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED.**

**9. NOTICES OF TABLED MATTERS – NONE**

**10. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**10.1 Correspondence – None**

**10.2 Petitions – None**

**10.3 Presentation**

**10.3.1 Sheet Harbour Waterfront Marina Feasibility Study**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Presentation request dated December 5, 2023
- Presentation dated December 14, 2023
- Handout dated December 14, 2023

Peter Stein and Robert Mosher, Sheet Harbour Marina Association gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

Maggie MacDonald, Executive Director, Parks & Recreation responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

**11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Chris Buckley, West Dover** spoke about concerns with the ownership and maintenance of the West Dover ball field. Buckley stated that the land was previously owned and maintained by the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) but had been transferred over to the Province and requested that the nature of the land transfer be investigated to ensure that procedural fairness was implemented.

The Chair clarified that the West Dover ball field land was owned by the Province and had been leased to the HRM, and that the lease had expired.

**12. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD**

**13. REPORTS**

**13.1 STAFF**

**13.1.1 Sharing our Stories: HRM's Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated October 23, 2023
- Staff presentation dated December 14, 2023

Aaron Murnaghan, Principal Heritage Planner gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Austin

**THAT the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council:**

- 1. Endorse the direction contained in Sharing our Stories: HRM's Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan as provided in Attachment A of the staff report dated October 23, 2023 as a framework for amending the existing Regional Plan and Secondary Planning Strategies**

and developing new planning documents and other municipal policies and programs as may be necessary to implement the Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan direction;

2. **Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to include funding options for actions contained in Sharing our Stories: HRM's Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan for consideration in the 24/25 budget.**
3. **Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to provide progress reports every two years on the implementation of the Plan.**

Devon Parris, Diversity & Inclusion Advisor, Planning & Development responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee regarding the scope of land back initiatives outlined in the plan.

Claire Gillivan, Solicitor responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

**THAT Action 2.10 of the HRM's Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan be amended to add "African Nova Scotian Communities."**

Murnaghan noted that other action items pertaining to community benefit agreements and community planning with African Nova Scotian communities could better align with the intention of the proposed amendment. Murnaghan noted that staff could work with the Office of Diversity & Inclusion/ANSAIO to provide further information before the plan was brought to Regional Council.

As provided for in section 66 of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the motion was withdrawn with consent of the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee.

The question was called on the main motion:

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Austin

**THAT the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council:**

1. **Endorse the direction contained in Sharing our Stories: HRM's Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan as provided in Attachment A of the staff report dated October 23, 2023 as a framework for amending the existing Regional Plan and Secondary Planning Strategies and developing new planning documents and other municipal policies and programs as may be necessary to implement the Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan direction;**
2. **Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to include funding options for actions contained in Sharing our Stories: HRM's Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan for consideration in the 24/25 budget.**
3. **Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to provide progress reports every two years on the implementation of the Plan.**

Maggie MacDonald, Executive Director, Parks & Recreation responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**13.2 MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE – NONE**

**14. MOTIONS – NONE**

**15. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) – NONE**

**16. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

**17. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE**

**18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – January 18, 2024**

**19. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

Annie Sherry  
Legislative Assistant