



**WESTERN COMMON ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 22, 2017**

PRESENT: Tom Musial, Chair
Shirley Jollimore, Vice Chair
Dusan Soudek
Kelly Carlton
Beth McGee
Jane MacNeill
Wayne Shellnut
Councillor Steve Adams

STAFF: Gareth Evans, Recreation Planning Specialist
Sherrill Murphy, Deputy Clerk
Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant
Sharon Chase, Legislative Support

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

The agenda, reports, supporting documents, and information items circulated are online at halifax.ca.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m., and adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., in the Prospect Road Community Centre Art Room, 2141 Prospect Road, Hatchet Lake.

Community Announcements from Community Members

Vice Chair Shirley Jollimore noted events taking place at the Prospect Road Community Centre: teen dance November 24th, tree lighting December 6th and breakfast with Santa December 16, 2017.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 25, 2017 Special Meeting

To provide further clarification and weight to the motion for Case 21209, the Chair asked that the minutes be amended reflect the following wording:

THAT the Western Common Advisory Committee does not support replacing and enlarging the HRM Compost Facility at 61 Evergreen Place (Case 21209) for the following reasons:

1. Location

The area has a history of contamination difficulties and offensive smells. Such problems are not good for a sensitive environment, the local community, or a wilderness recreational park.

2. Zoning

Designating a sensitive wetland area 1-3 (General Industrial) would be inappropriate and would set a precedent for future heavy industrial use in the area.

3. Environmental Assessment

The WCAC may not have the necessary expertise to do a proper assessment of the data that has been provided for review. Such analysis is best done by Nova Scotia Environment, and NSE has not conducted an environmental assessment of the site of the proposed new facility.

4. Encroachment

The Western Common was set aside as designated Park land in 2002 in part so that it would not be used as a "land bank" from which to borrow land anytime a need might arise. Encroaching on designated Park land would contravene this principle and would set a precedent for future encroachment on Western Common lands.

5. Financial Incentive

The proposal to replace and expand the present facility does not acknowledge the contamination or smell issues that the present site has experienced, does not indicate what remediation (if any) would be carried out, and does not provide any safeguards that would prevent these issues from recurring on an even larger sale. No amount of financial incentive would provide adequate compensation in exchange for the possible perpetuation of these issues.

MOVED by Wayne Shellnutt seconded by Tom Musial

THAT the minutes of October 25, 2017 be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Shirley Jollimore seconded by Beth McGee

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Clarification on WCAC recommendation to Halifax and West Community Council re: Case 21209

This matter was addressed during the approval of the minutes, see page 2.

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS – NONE

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Update on Nichols Lake Trail

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff memorandum dated November 15, 2017

Gareth Evans, Recreation Planning Specialist shared that trail grade is being investigated to determine if it could meet barrier free standards. As accessibility standards change it is important to stay current and meet these standards. There are various surface and railings options to consider. Evans noted they would be attending a meeting next week to confirm the details and would follow up with the Committee. It was noted that a 5% grade would be disruptive to the natural setting, extremely costly and significantly delay the overall park development schedule.

Evans confirmed that the western branch of the North-East trail has not yet been started and they will follow up with staff on the grading from Oats Lake to the sports field. It was noted that work cannot continue after its snow.

The Committee asked for a financial status report at their next meeting to confirm where the budget stands and whether funds carry over. It was confirmed that not having barrier free trails does constitute a change to the Western Common Wilderness Common Master Plan.

9.1.2 Update on Campsites and Debris

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff memorandum dated November 15, 2017

Gareth Evans, Recreation Planning Specialist reported that there have been no clearances taken on by park staff in the last few months. An opportunity for camp sites exist where there is ATV access. Staff are aware of these sites and clear debris. The Committee noted that It is important that resources be allocated to keep on top of things. The Community has also been using 311 to report these sites.

The Committee noted that there are community group stewardship programs that have been effective in other areas and suggested that one could be formed for the Western Commons. There are many such groups working in Provincial Parks. It would be important to understand the mechanism required for these groups to operate on HRM lands. Although it is not within the Committee's mandate a recommendation could be made to Halifax West Community Council. The Committee recommended having these sites mapped and if possible to identify repeat offenders. Gareth Evans will report back to the Committee on

the number of sites visited and what has been done. The Committee thanked Dusan Soudek for their documentation and clean-up of these sites.

9.1.3 Update on Signage at entry points to the Wilderness Common

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff memorandum dated November 15, 2017

Gareth Evans, Recreation Planning Specialist confirmed that there are three key points which will be incorporated on the signage: designated parkland, leave no trace messaging and for emergency call this number. The design of these signs follows the standard template for park information and will be produced by corporate communications. The Committee would like to see a sample of the standard park signs.

Dusan Soudek reviewed the chosen sign locations and their rationale. A map has been produced and will be shared with the Committee. Starting from the northernmost tip of the Western Common and going clockwise, they are as follows:

- Start of Otter Lake Drive
- Start of Otter Lake Brook – Prospect River Canoe Route, i.e. start of first portage along the route, from Otter Lake Drive to unnamed “stump pond.”
- Access to Otter Lake, off Otter Lake Drive.
- Greenhead Road (at Hwy. 103)
- Northernmost tip of Blueberry Lake, at Hwy. 103.
- Unpaved sometimes-gated access road to Ragged Lake, off Prospect Road (Hwy. 333).
- Pipeline Road (three locations; off Prospect Road, about 1 km to the SW, and just before Big Indian Lake).
- Old St. Margaret’s Bay Road (a.k.a. “Coach Road”), parking lot off Prospect Rd.
- Start of unofficial trail at Sunrise Park Cemetery.
- Prospect Road Community Centre, start of Nichols Lake Trail.
- Start of unofficial trail to Nichols Lake from end of McDonald Lake Drive.
- McDonald lake – Nichols Lake Portage, downstream end.
- Old St. Margaret’s Bay Road, where it leaves the Common’s western boundary.
- Nine Mile River, where it flows out of the Common. Different location on E and W shoreline.
- Nine Mile River, where it flows into the Common. Different location on E and W shoreline.

9.1.4 Update on WCAC Membership

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff memorandum dated November 8, 2017

Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant, reviewed the Committee’s composition and current membership terms as outlined in the staff memorandum dated November 8, 2017.

Halifax and West Community Council considered applications and made recommendations to Halifax Regional Council at their November 15, 2017 meeting. It is anticipated that Halifax Regional Council will ratify these appointments some time in December, 2017.

Member who reapplied will be notified by the Clerk’s Office if they were reappointed.

9.2 COMMITTEE

9.2.1 Discuss annual report to Halifax and West Community Council

Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant asked for the Committee’s feedback and recommendations to be included in the Committee’s annual report. This report falls under the Committee’s Terms of Reference

which states: *The Committee shall, with the assistance of staff, submit a written report to the Halifax and West Community Council in accordance with section 6 of their Terms of Reference at least once annually.*

The report compiles and summarizes the Committee's work in 2017 and the Committee's goals, ideas and feedback for the Western Common Wilderness Common Master Plan moving forward.

Staff anticipated having their report on the work undertaken for Nicols Lake Trail in 2017 for the Committee's March, 2018 meeting. Staff's report will be included with the Committee's annual report to the Halifax & West Community Council for information.

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION-NONE

Beth McGee acknowledged that this would be their final meeting and thanked the Committee, noting that they had enjoyed the opportunity to work with this group.

The Committee thanked Beth and Dusan for their contributions.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Wednesday, January 24, 2018 at 6:30 p.m., Prospect Road Community Centre Art Room, 2141 Prospect Road, Hatchet Lake

Approval of 2018 Meeting Schedule and Election of Chair and Vice Chair will be done at the January Meeting.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

INFORMATION ITEMS – NONE

Sharon Chase
Legislative Support