



**REGIONAL WATERSHEDS ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
May 9, 2019**

PRESENT: Emma Bocking, Vice Chair
Rose Featherstone
Carol Cameron
Melissa Lee
Andrew Sullivan
Laura McCallum

REGRETS: Linda Campbell, Chair

STAFF: Ben Sivak, Major Projects Planner, Planning and Development
Meaghan Dalton, Planner I, Planning and Development
Kasia Tota, Principal Planner, Planning and Development
Mark Inness, Planner II, Planning and Development
Ross Grant, Planner I, Planning and Development
Sharon Chase, Legislative Support

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

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Committee are available online at Halifax.ca

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m., and recessed at 5:22 p.m. The Board reconvened at 5:27 p.m. and adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair the Board agreed to begin the meeting with member Carol Cameron acting as Chair.

Carol Cameron, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. in the HEMDCC Meeting Space, Main Floor Alderney Gate, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

2. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS- NONE

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by Rose Featherstone, seconded by Melissa Lee

THAT the minutes of April 18, 2019 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Laura McCallum, seconded by Melissa Lee

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

The Board asked for clarification around the scheduling of the presentation and discussion on the Pollution Source Control Study. There had been some consideration to holding a special meeting. The minutes noted that this topic would be on the June 13 agenda. The Legislative Assistant will confirm when the study will be considered and follow-up with Board members.

6. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS- NONE

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – April 18, 2019

7.1 Case 21402: Sackville Rivers Floodplain - Meaghan Dalton, Planner I, Planning & Development and Ben Sivak, Major Projects Planner, Planning & Development - Development Approvals

The following was before the Board:

- Council Initiation Report
- Sackville Rivers Floodplain Study- Phase II (2017)
- Map showing existing and updated floodplains
- Sackville Floodplains Project Webpage
- Statement of Provincial Interest Regarding Flood Risk Areas

The Committee had gathered no further comment to provide for staff. They re-iterated the importance of floodplain management and see this project as an improvement and step forward. They thanked staff for making themselves available.

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS- NONE

9. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

Vice Chair Emma Bocking entered the meeting at this time and assumed the Chair, Carol Cameron took their seat.

10. REPORTS

10.1 STAFF

10.1.1 Regional Centre Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law (Package A)

The following was before the Board:

- A staff recommendation report dated April 3, 2019

Ross Grant, Planner I, Mark Inness, Planner II and Kasia Tota, Principal Planner gave an overview of Package A, with a focus on coastal elevations and watercourse setbacks, and sustainability. The proposed by-laws along with the adoption path and timeline were shared. Staff were looking for feedback and recommendation to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee from the Board. A copy of the presentation is on file.

The Board discussed Package A with staff responding to questions.

Staff confirmed that the existing setbacks for water bodies would be used for any development in the Penhorn Future Growth Node and that a development agreement was needed for this space providing an opportunity to incorporate new initiatives around watershed areas.

It was further noted that both wind impact and shadow impact assessments have defined protocols and performance standards. Environmental regulations for watershed protection are covered in the Regional Plan by land use by-laws for: Coastal area elevation requirements (CGVD2013 3.2 metres), watercourse buffers and wetland protection (20 metres). An example of open space weather protection was shared with the Board.

Staff clarified that the issues of stormwater runoff and snow/salting concerns are considered by Halifax Water and not a part of the land use by-laws, although design requirements for landscaped spaces and parking lots can have an impact on these issues. The question of erosion sediment control plans on construction sites was raised with staff noting that there are other by-laws in place that apply to this as well as it being addressed in the permitting stage. There have been 20 sites identified as high risk for flooding due to rising ocean levels and extreme weather events which will result in the establishment of a Flood Plain Zone which will be looked at in detail in Package B at a later date.

Further, environment and watershed related polices are addressed under Sustainability E1-E7, which are in alignment with the Green Network Plan, and Urban Lakes and Watercourses Policy 9.5. Sustainability addresses: landscaping, porous surfaces, built environment and building design, urban agriculture, supporting biodiversity, mixed uses and complete community frameworks. Policy 9.5 uses enabling language demonstrating a commitment to low impact development technologies and stewardship through water quality monitoring, pilot projects and partnerships. Future Growth Nodes Policy 3.30 covers how neighbourhood planning and development agreements will be used for these sites with specific attention to sustainable design, stormwater management and opportunities to identify, preserve and re-habilitate significant environmental features.

MOVED by Laura McCallum, seconded by Rose Featherstone

THAT the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board recommend that Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that the Regional Council:

1. Give First Reading and schedule a public hearing to consider the Regional Centre Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy, and the Regional Centre Land Use By-law, as contained in Attachments A and B of the staff report dated April 3, 2019.
2. Give First Reading and schedule a public hearing to consider the proposed amendments to the Regional Municipal Planning Strategy and the Regional Subdivision By-law, as contained in Attachments C and D.
3. Adopt the Regional Centre Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy, and the Regional Centre Land Use By-law, as contained in Attachments A and B.
4. Adopt the proposed amendments to the Regional Municipal Planning Strategy and the Regional Subdivision By-law, as contained in Attachments C and D.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11. ADDED ITEMS- NONE

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – June 13, 2019 HEMDCC Meeting Space, Main Floor Alderney Gate, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Sharon Chase
Legislative Support