



**WESTERN COMMON ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
April 28, 2021**

PRESENT: Michael Lamplugh, Chair
Darrell Cooling, Vice Chair
Councillor Patty Cuttell
Angela Murphy
Hammad Mohiy Ud Din
Graham Read

REGRETS: Jane Macneill
Sumaiya Khan

STAFF: Gareth Evans, Recreation Planning Specialist
Liam Power, Legislative Assistant

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 6:34 p.m., and the Committee adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

1.1 COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS – NONE

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 24, 2021

The Chair noted discussion around item 9.1.3 Western Common Wilderness Common Overview should be expanded.

The committee agreed to approve the minutes as presented but asked the Legislative Assistant to provide more detail in the minutes respecting their discussion of item 9.1.3.

MOVED by Darrel Cooling, seconded by Councillor Patty Cuttell

THAT the minutes of February 24, 2021 be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

Additions:

8.1.3 Staff update on the Motion to Recommend Review of the Terms of Reference

As set out in Section 10 (1) and (2) of the Administrative Order One, all members of the Committee had consented to the additional matter.

Moved by Hammad Mohiy Ud Din, seconded by Angela Murphy

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence – NONE

6.2 Petitions – NONE

7. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

8. REPORTS

8.1 STAFF

8.1.1 Staff Updates on the Western Common

Gareth Evans, Recreation Planning Specialist with Program Support Services, gave an update outlining that the next steps for the committee was to decide on trail types.

8.1.2 Discussion regarding Western Common trail type

Gareth Evans, Recreation Planning Specialist with Program Support Services, advised it's up to the committee to discuss options or to recommend a staff report on the matter. They continued, explaining a staff report would be necessary as the Western Common Wilderness Common Masterplan is an Administrative Order and so would require approval by Regional Council.

Liam Power, Legislative Assistant with the Municipal Clerk's Office, explained the recommendation motion was within the scope of the committee but will go to Halifax Regional Council.

Evans explained the conversation has been ongoing since the masterplan and committee's inception. Staff detailed that to maintain accessibility of the park would require disruption to the natural setting, but the top priority of the masterplan was always preservation and conservation of the natural setting.

Evans answered questions from the committee and noted staff require a report that considers the implementation of natural back-country trails in the Western Common.

The committee noted there could be logistical and environmental challenges that impact the construction of a trail with sub 5% grade, a trail accessible for All Ages and Abilities (AAA).

The committee also expressed interest in opening some portion of the park soon.

MOVED by Darrell Cooling, seconded by Hammad Mohiy Ud Din

THAT the Western Common Advisory Committee recommends that Regional Council request a staff report and amendments to the Western Common Wilderness Common Master to consider the implementation of natural surface backcountry trails within interior areas of the Western Wilderness Common.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

After review by the Deputy Municipal Clerk, the motion was amended to the following so as not to be out of order.

MOVED by Darrell Cooling, seconded by Hammad Mohiy Ud Din

THAT the Western Common Advisory Committee recommends Halifax and West Community Council recommends that Regional Council request a staff report and amendments to the Western Common Wilderness Common Master Plan to consider the implementation of natural surface backcountry trails within interior areas of the Western Wilderness Common.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8.1.3 Staff update on the Motion to Recommend Review of the Terms of Reference

Liam Power, Legislative Assistant with the Municipal Clerk's Office, came forward and updated the committee that the motion to amend the Terms of Reference was passed at Regional Council.

Power answered questions from the committee, explaining that adding a seat for a special interest group allows that special interest group to select their own member.

9. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – August 25, 2021

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Liam Power
Legislative Assistant