

## Sheet Harbour Public Forum January 26/2005

40 Residents (*Councillors Streach and Hendsbee in Attendance*)

### Questions & Comments:

- What direct effect do you see this Regional Plan having on Sheet Harbour?
- In your presentation, there was an emphasis on eco-tourism and other services we had identified in a previous meeting, but nothing you have said is concrete in terms of what we can expect to change or improve.
- Will we get cell phone towers, piped water and piped septic? Will these initiatives happen in this community soon? Or, will it be down the road in 25 years, or never?
- You talk about the possibility of shared wells. What happens when the well water dries up or it becomes contaminated?
- Our water smells like rotten eggs, especially at the senior's home.
- HRM did a study in 1993 that showed there will be no development in Sheet Harbour unless there was water/sewer provided. What has changed to make this happen? Nothing?
- We will walk away tonight knowing there will be no water, no sewer or no sidewalks in the next 25 years.
- I get the feeling it is the same old thing here in Sheet Harbour, we are being left out.
- When will you be back to do a community plan for Sheet Harbour?
- Sheet Harbour will continue to be choked off if it continues to be a part of the HRM.
- You are not getting the true picture here, my business (the Harbourview Motel) cannot grow because it does not have water. The doors must close for 3 weeks every summer because the water runs out every summer. \$4,000 was spent on a water purifier. Do you think I am annoyed? You bet I'm annoyed!
- If 10% of the wells in Sheet Harbour pass the health board regulations, you will be lucky!
- People are putting raw sewage in the harbour and I'm being charged for having a treatment system, anything wrong with this picture?
- Our young people are moving out of here, there is nothing for them to do here.

- There might be 2 people in the seniors complex who drink the water provided. It is not fit for drinking. It rusts everything and there is no convenience for the seniors at all.
- We face major obstacles, people in urban areas do not.
- To what level of detail does your planning go, with reference to time tables and pre-conditions? What criteria has to be fulfilled to get services out here?
- Who triggers the study to determine the needs of this community? (Water, sewer, sidewalks).
- Is it sewer we really need? Or is it just water? Think about it!
- We did a survey throughout the community that focused on water, sewer and sidewalks, and almost everyone identified the need for sidewalks, for the safety of pedestrians and also the drivers. Snowploughs are very dangerous when people are walking on the streets. We put our lives in our hands when we walk these roads.
- This area is a perfect retirement community. We need a golf course and a curling rink to attract more people.
- I would like to know what it means for Sheet harbour to be a District Centre. We need to explore the services that are provided in this proposed Centre. We need to look at opportunities for Sheet Harbour that can not be accomplished in Halifax Harbour. I would like to see support for an application to go to the Federal Government to see if we can get funding for communication towers and other services. **(Steve Streach)**
- The majority of my 'big ticket' purchases are in Metro, not Sheet Harbour.
- We need to make sure our rural communities are viable and can sustain themselves.
- Our population in Sheet Harbour has dwindled, our school population is depleting. We will not have the population to attract new businesses or to keep people in this community.
- I would like some information on the Economic Development Strategy. Do you not think the Halifax Chamber of Commerce boasts only Halifax and not the whole of HRM?
- There is nothing in the books for internet out here in the next 5 years. I've been hearing it over and over that Sheet Harbour doesn't have the population or tax base to support it.
- How do we keep the people here so they don't have to take rapid transit into Halifax for employment or to go to university?

- What kind of businesses do we want to attract that will create jobs (and not just lower level jobs)? Can we get some guidance from HRM on this matter?
- A fast ferry from Sheet Harbour to Metro would solve our transportation problem.
- The Eastern Shore needs a highway that is fit to drive on. We have lost businesses and we are losing buses down here because they refuse to drive on these roads.
- Are there any plans for how performance measures would be accomplished? I wouldn't mind paying higher tax dollars if I could actually get something for it. I want to see people in Sheet Harbour putting their tax money into the system and then getting it all back in the community. What are we getting back now? We still don't have decent water.
- Our rural fire departments are being subsidized by the urban areas and we wouldn't have gotten this level of fire service without it. This is an example where we get more back than we put in.
- Someone needs to do some PR work on how our tax dollars do get back into this community. People do not know or necessarily understand.
- We have heard over and over tonight that residents in Sheet Harbour have a lot to complain about. But it is time for residents of this area to get strong, vocal, and get business people and teachers out to these meetings.
- HRM needs to get involved with different sectors in our community such as the legion and school.
- There are things we can do as a community to fight for Sheet Harbour, but we need better business representation, and more informal communication with interest groups.
- I thought I was going to hear tonight what the Regional Plan has been working on over the last few years, and not just hear the complaints of this community. I want to hear about the overview of this plan and your 25 year vision.
- When I was reading through the guide to the Regional Plan, I noticed something. You should change the wording you use from; "HRM initiatives 'will' help", not 'may' help.
- I really don't want you to get the cart before the horse. Please don't put down new sidewalks and then tear it up when you finally put in a sewer system.
- We have a good group of seniors in this community, but self serve gas stations aren't very convenient for seniors or disabled people.

- I just thought of something as I was listening to all these complaints tonight. You know, very few people in this room here tonight, will have a stake in the future of this community for the next 25 years. Why wasn't the high school asked to send student representatives to this meeting?
- The students of this community have lost all confidence of a future in Sheet Harbour.
- Our teachers commute from Metro. They do not live here.
- Could you, as planners, plan for triggers based only on basic human rights (i.e. the right to have safe drinking water, the right to have economic growth).
- This community needs to be united and positive about the future.
- We are becoming a retirement community, but we need to change our attitudes and not be so protective of change.
- Were high density pictures of Halifax (The Regional Centre) chosen on purpose?
- Are you going to offer any guidance on how our communities should grow in the next 25 years?
- Are lands going to be expropriated for the 5 proposed regional parks?