

P.O. Box 1749 Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 4.1 Halifax and West Community Council June 27, 2017

TO: Chair and Members of Halifax and West Community Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed

Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

DATE: June 22, 2017

SUBJECT: Public Participation Submission at May 30, 2017 Meeting

ORIGIN

Motion passed at the May 30, 2017Halifax and West Community Council.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, Sec.25 - Powers and duties of Community Council

RECOMMENDATION

That Halifax and West Community Council request a staff report on the submission by John Cascadden during public participation of the May 30, 2017 meeting.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

At the May 30, 2017 Halifax and West Community Council meeting, during public participation John Cascadden read and submitted a presentation with regard to bicycles and the barrier free trails within the Western Commons Regional Park. Following the presentation Community Council passed a motion to have the submission referred to staff, and request that staff attend the next meeting to verbally address the issues raised. The request was forwarded to staff; however, in consultation with the Municipal Clerk it was determined that having staff attend a meeting to address the matter verbally was not in order, and the recommended course of action is for Community Council to request a staff report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

RISK CONSIDERATION

N/A

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

N/A

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

Submission by John Cascadden at the May 30, 2017 meeting.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at

902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant 902.490.6520

Halifax and West Community Council (HWCC) May 30, 2017

At the Western Common Advisory Committee (WCAC) meeting, held on May 24th, 2017, a motion was defeated to upgrade the existing 6ft wide Barrier Free Trails to be 10ft wide so as to allow bicycle, pedestrian and wheelchair traffic to safely share the trail. I asked the question that in defeating the motion, that this would mean that bicycles would not be allowed on the trails within the Western Common Regional Park? The HRM staff member present indicated that this would not necessarily be true. Since the 10ft wide trail specification is the one detailed in the Western Common Wilderness Common Master Plan that specified the trail width for such a trail, I am confused as to what width is deemed appropriate for such a trail. No further official discussion concerning this topic occurred during the meeting.

Since the WCAC only meets once every two months, I thought it advisable to seek an answer from Regional Council via the HWCC to enable timely guidance be provided to the WCAC concerning this topic.

HRM has recognized that enabling enhanced usage of bicycles throughout HRM is a goal to be actively pursued wherever possible and has created multiple policies to achieve this goal.

Given that the Western Common Regional Park will eventually provide connectivity to multiple communities and be accessible from 6 trailheads:

- McDonald Lake Subdivision
- Prospect Road Community Centre: Hatchet Lake & Brookside
- Old Coach Road: Goodwood
- Ragged Lake
- Greenhead Road: Timberlea & Lakeside
- Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Protected Area: Tantallon & Peggy's Cove Rd

I request HWCC:

- 1. Put forward a motion at Regional Council to approve bicycles to be used on the Barrier Free Trails within the Western Commons Regional Park.
- 2. If/when the motion is passed, I request that a motion be put forward to have HRM staff create a report to determine the appropriate width for bicycles, pedestrian and wheelchair traffic to safely share such a trail, and that the Western Common Wilderness Common Master Plan be amended to incorporate the construction of this type of trail.

Submitted by John Cascadden