



**WESTERN COMMON ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 28, 2018**

PRESENT: Shirley Jollimore, Chair
Kelly Carlton, Vice Chair
Jane MacNeill
Beth McGee
Frank Johnston
Wayne Shellnut
Dusan Soudek

REGRETS: Tom Musial
Councillor Steve Adams

STAFF: Gareth Evans, Recreational Planning Specialist
Simon Ross-Siegel, 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 6:28 p.m., and the Committee adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair, Shirley Jollimore called the meeting to order at 6:28 p.m., in the Prospect Road Community Center Art Room, 2141 Prospect Road, Hatchet Lake.

2. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Vice Chair Kelly Carlton announced that the Prospect Recreation Association plans to form a steering committee for the creation of a community baseball association with the intention to consider options for the construction of a baseball park for community use. Several Community Members added to this announcement by discussing the fact that active recreation is part of the Western Common Wilderness Common Master Plan.

Chair Shirley Jollimore made several announcements:

- There would be a free turkey dinner with music on Saturday night at 5:00 p.m. provided by the New Horizons for Seniors Program;
- Spring registration would be beginning shortly for programs and activities provided by the Prospect Road Community Center;
- The Prospect Road Community Center local community newsletter would be issued and received by community members at the beginning of April by post, and would also be available online; and
- Nominations for community volunteer awards are currently open.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 24, 2018

MOVED by Kelly Carlton, seconded by Wayne Shellnut

THAT the minutes of January 24, 2018 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

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

The agenda was accepted as circulated.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

6. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

8.1 Correspondence

8.1.1 Correspondence from Peter Lund re: Ragged Lake Composting Facility: Review of Groundwater and Surface Water Quality

The Committee received and discussed Peter Lund's correspondence dated March 23, 2018 regarding a review of available groundwater and surface water analytical results contained in several summary reports to determine whether the groundwater and/or surface water have been impacted over the years beneath the Ragged Lake Composting Facility. Committee also discussed the background of the correspondence. Peter Lund attended a public meeting with members of Regional Council regarding the Ragged Lake Compost Facility. Having listened to several speakers at the meeting, Peter Lund was concerned that messaging delivered at council regarding whether or not there was impact on the water was not quite accurate. Peter Lund sent a copy of his correspondence to Chair Shirley Jollimore and also to Matt Keliher, Manager, Solid Waste, Solid Waste Resources, with the intention to ensure he had a copy of the report. Peter Lund did not ask the Committee for any follow up, but just sought to ensure the

Committee was aware he had sent correspondence to Matt Keliher, and sought to ensure that the report was forwarded to Regional Council.

Committee Members briefly discussed the details of the correspondence and Peter Lund's concern that there appeared to be gaps in the data regarding the potential impacts of leachate. Members also noted that Peter Lund expressed that while there does not appear to be adverse effects to date, there is a potential that future adverse effects may arise. Pursuant to such, Peter Lund concurred with the recommendation in the Stantec report that further testing be conducted.

MOVED by Frank Johnson, Seconded by Kelly Carlton

THAT the Western Common Advisory Committee recommends to Halifax and West Community Council request a staff report on further ecological testing being performed on the groundwater at the Ragged Lake Composting Facility site, in concurrence with the recommendation put forward in the Stantec report, as outlined in the correspondence from Peter Lund dated March 23, 2018.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

10. REPORTS

10.1 STAFF

10.1.1 Staff Memorandum – Update on Nichols Lake Trail

The following was before the Western Common Advisory Committee:

- A staff memorandum dated March 21, 2018

Gareth Evans, Recreational Planning Specialist shared that as of March 21, 2018, further grubbing and clearing work had been performed and surge work is continuing to be performed. To date, 95% of the capital budgeted \$94,007.00 has been spent, with the balance to be spent in 2018, and no capital budgeted for the construction of a parking lot for the Nichols Lake Trail has been spent.

Members inquired as to the design and capital requirement of the proposed footbridge outlined in the Western Common Wilderness Common Master Plan. Gareth Evans confirmed that several engineers working on the Nichols Lake Trail are scheduled to attend the Committee's May 23, 2018 meeting and would be able to speak to the proposed footbridge.

10.1.2 Review and map out signage locations for Western Common Wilderness Common Park

The following was before Western Common Advisory Committee:

- A printed list of potential signage locations surrounding the Western Common
- A printed Map of the boundaries of the Western Common Wilderness Common Park area

Gareth Evans, Recreational Planning Specialist shared a list of the signage locations surrounding the Western Common Wilderness Common Park.

Members discussed signage locations with the use of the printout maps, recalling that past Committee member Dusan Soudek had previously mapped these out and was likely most familiar with the locations. Gareth Evans advised that they would contact Dusan Soudek to confirm and map these locations prior to the next meeting.

10.1.3 Review and mapping of derelict campsites and debris locations

The following was before Western Common Advisory Committee:

- A printed list of potential signage locations surrounding the Western Common
- A printed Map of the boundaries of the Western Common Wilderness Common Park area

Gareth Evans, Recreational Planning Specialist shared a list of the signage locations surrounding the Western Common Wilderness Park. Evans estimated that there was currently fifteen acres of derelict campsites being used in the Park. Evans clarified that derelict campsites are cleared spaces that are ready to be used for camping and other uses. The use of the term derelict campsites does not refer to no-trace camping sites, for which there are insufficient resources to manage in any case. Gareth Evans planned to map and measure the derelict campsite locations they were aware of prior to the next meeting.

Members discussed if there was a risk of lawsuits relating to adverse possession or “squatting rights” associated with the Western Common Wilderness Common lands owned by the municipality. No action was requested regarding this discussion at this time.

10.1.4 Staff Presentation – Western Common Wilderness Common Master Plan Roads and Trails

The following was before the Western Common Advisory Committee:

- The Western Common Wilderness Common Master Plan Final Report, dated May 2010

Gareth Evans, Recreational Planning Specialist referenced the relevant pages in the Western Common Wilderness Common Master Plan Final Report, explaining that clarification has been sought at the Committee’s previous meeting on the width of barrier free mixed-use trails. Evans directed the Committee to the clearest description on page 75, where there are four listed uses of the term. Staff’s focus is on uses three and four, which are consistent with the Master Plan’s purpose and Committee’s effort to foster an environmentally sustainable trail as part of an environmentally sustainable wilderness preserve. Evans further spoke to page 60 of the Master Plan, wherein under the heading EC-10, it is expressly stated that the Master Plan intends walkways and trails of limited width are required to meet the goal of minimal invasiveness and least impact to the wilderness environment. For this reason, staff is not as of this time pursuing ten-foot-wide trails.

In response to comments made around cycling specific trails, it was noted that discussions will be held as part of future construction at a later time. Cycling specific trails are identified as type two “shared use non-motorized trails” under the listed trail types on page 75 of the Master Plan. Staff expects that cycling will occur on six-foot-wide trails when they are completed and the Park becomes accessible to visitors, and will consider options based on whether shared use remains respectful to other visitors at that time.

11. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

12. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Amy Hockin, Prospect Village, suggested that where certain advocacy groups may struggle to understand the priority of the wilderness preservation aspect of the Master Plan, it may help if the Committee could incorporate the use of the word “Wilderness” in its titles and documents. Members inquired on what steps were possible should they want to add the word *wilderness* to their name. that the Chair asked staff to provide information on the process to the Committee prior to the next meeting, and to include this on the agenda for discussion and possible recommendation at the next meeting.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, May 23, 2018 at 6:30 p.m., Prospect Road Community Center Art Room, 2141 Prospect Road, Hatchet Lake.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Simon Ross-Siegel
Legislative Support