



**ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
February 2, 2017**

PRESENT: Councillor Tony Mancini, Chair
Councillor Richard Zurawski, Vice Chair
Councillor Steve Streach
Councillor Shawn Cleary
Councillor Bill Karsten
Councillor Lisa Blackburn

**OTHER COUNCIL
MEMBERS:** Councillor Lorelei Nicoll

STAFF: Ms. Jane Fraser, Acting Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Josh Judah, Senior Solicitor
Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant

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

*The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to Environment and Sustainability
Standing Committee are available online:*

<http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/SCenv/170202essc-Agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. and adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 7, 2016

Councillor Streach noted a misspelling in his name.

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Zurawski

THAT the minutes of December 7, 2016 be approved, as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

15.1 Options to Reduce Textiles in the Landfill – Councillor Zurawski

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Karsten,

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Two-third majority vote required.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS - NONE

6. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE

7. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE

8. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

9. NOTICES OF TABLED MATTERS – NONE

10. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS and DELEGATIONS

10.1 Correspondence

Correspondence was received with regard to item 13.1. This correspondence was circulated to the Committee.

10.2 Petitions - None

10.3 Presentations

10.3.1 Youth Climate Report Card – *Students from Kings University, Halifax West High School, and iMatter*

The following information was before the Committee:

- Correspondence from Lilian Barraclough, Campaign Organizer, Halifax City Lead, iMatter Youth dated November 24, 2016.
- Halifax Nova Scotia Climate Report Card with local endorsements and detail report.

Maggie Ivany, head of the Halifax West High School Environment Committee addressed the Committee and reviewed the local endorsements received with regard to the Halifax Youth Climate Report Card. This information is available on file and online.

Cameron Yetman, University of Kings College, reviewed the Halifax Youth Climate Report Card with the Committee and indicated they would like to work with Council to make a climate resolution. This information is available on file and online.

The presenters responded to questions from the Committee including how the data was collected. Cameron Yetman discussed next steps, noting that the report card is a standard baseline to work from, and that next steps would be to figure out a climate change action plan for Halifax, and to work on bringing up the grades by working toward these actions.

The Committee thanked the group for presenting.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

12. REPORTS

12.1 STAFF

12.1.1 Cogswell Redevelopment Area District Energy System

The following information was before the Committee:

- Staff recommendation report dated January 18, 2017.

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Councillor Karsten

THAT the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council:

- 1. Endorse pursuing the requirement that new development within the Cogswell redevelopment area connect to a district energy system if one exists;**
- 2. Seek amendments to the HRM Charter and other amendments as required to provide the authority to implement the Cogswell District Energy System; and**
- 3. Direct staff to develop the options and mechanisms to effectively implement the requirement for mandatory connection.**

Jamie Hannam and Jeff Knapp, Halifax Water, responded to questions from the Committee, advising that the motion limits pursuing a district energy system to the Cogswell redevelopment area. The Committee discussed the possibility of expanding the scope of the amendments sought to the HRM Charter and other required legislation to implement not only the Cogswell Area District Energy System, but to provide opportunity for HRM to implement other District Energy Systems.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Blackburn that the motion be amended as follows:

- 2. Seek amendments to the HRM Charter and other amendments as required to provide the general authority to implement District Energy Systems, including the Cogswell Redevelopment Area District Energy System; and**

Responding to further questions from the Committee, Mr. Hannam advised that the model being considered is that Halifax Water would create a regulatory entity to deliver the district energy system.

The amended motion was voted on at this time, as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Councillor Karsten

THAT the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council:

- 1. Endorse pursuing the requirement that new development within the Cogswell redevelopment area connect to a district energy system if one exists;**
- 2. Seek amendments to the HRM Charter and other amendments as required to provide the general authority to implement District Energy Systems, including the Cogswell Redevelopment Area District Energy System; and**
- 3. Direct staff to develop the options and mechanisms to effectively implement the requirement for mandatory connection.**

AMENDED MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.1.2 Councillor Appointment – National Zero Waste Council Management Board – Alternate Appointment

The following information was before the Committee:

- Staff recommendation report dated January 19, 2017

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Streach

THAT the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council appoint the Manager of Solid Waste as an alternate representative to the National Zero Waste Council Management Board.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2 COMMITTEES - NONE

12.3 MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE - NONE

13. MOTIONS

Councillor Zurawski took the Chair and Councillor Mancini took his seat with the Committee.

13.1 Councillor Mancini

The following information was before the Committee:

- Request for Consideration form from Councillor Mancini
- Correspondence from Cynthia Moore, Tim Pelzer, and Karen Mitchell.

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request a staff report to look at various options to reduce or eliminate the use of plastic shopping bags in the municipality. The report should include options such as:

- **A complete ban**
- **Partial ban, including alternatives such as paper bags.**
- **Impose a fee per bag use.**

Councillor Mancini spoke to the motion, noting concern with the number of plastic bags he sees as litter. He noted that other cities are enacting legislation to ban plastic bags, and would like information on whether this would be an appropriate initiative for Halifax. He noted that he has received many emails and messages on this matter, with the majority in favour. Some issues raised to him include concerns with imposing a fee per bag use to residents, and putting the responsibility for plastic shopping bag waste on retailers.

The Committee discussed the issue of litter relating to plastic shopping bags, and possible solutions to the problem, including initiatives undertaken in other cities and countries including Montreal and Denmark. It was noted that the retail sector would have to be engaged with regard to implementing any of the options mentioned in the motion.

Responding to an inquiry from the Committee, Matt Keliher, Manager, Solid Waste Resources, confirmed that plastic bags continue to be an issue at compost facilities.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Mancini returned to the Chair, and Councillor Zurawski returned to his seat with the Committee.

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

The Committee agreed to address the following matter in public. No In Camera session was held.

14.1 Personnel Matter

Citizen and Councillor appointments to boards and committees in keeping with the Public Appointment Policy adopted by Regional Council in August 2011, to be found at <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/documents/Citizenrecruitmentpolicy.pdf>

14.1.1 Regional Watersheds Advisory Board Appointment – *Private and Confidential Report*

The following information was before the Committee:

- A Private and Confidential staff report dated January 19, 2017

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee approve the nomination of water related professionals to the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board set out in the January 19, 2017 private and confidential staff report, for consideration by Regional Council, for a term to November 2018.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

15. ADDED ITEMS

15.1 Consideration of a Study to Reduce Textiles in the Landfill – Councillor Zurawski

The following information was before the Committee:

- A request for consideration form from Councillor Zurawski

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee request that staff commission a six-month study and issue a report to the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee two months upon completion of the study regarding the collection of textiles that end up in the landfill, and the savings to the Municipality annually from keeping the textiles out of the landfill.

Responding to questions from the Committee, Councillor Zurawski clarified that there could be substantial costs savings to the Municipality by prohibiting textiles from ending up in the landfill, and that a six month study would provide the Municipality with a comprehensive understanding of this particular issue within the landfill.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Matt Keliher, Manager, Solid Waste Resources, advised that part of 2017/18 Solid Waste Resources business plan identifies this as an area of investigation. He noted that an audit of items coming in to the landfill is done every six months, and approximately 8% of waste in the landfill are textiles, which amounts to 3,500 – 4,000 tonnes on an annual basis. Mr. Keliher also indicated that the study would include a jurisdictional scan of what is being done in other municipalities about textiles in landfills.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

16. NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NONE

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, March 2, 2017 - 1:00 p.m.

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

Jennifer Weagle
Legislative Assistant