



**ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
April 5, 2018**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Councillor Lorelei Nicoll

REGRETS: Councillor Steve Streach

STAFF: Kelly Denty, Acting Director, Planning & Development
Ben Fairbanks, Solicitor
David Perusse, Legislative Assistant

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

The agenda, reports, supporting documents, information items circulated, and video (if available) are online at halifax.ca.

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m., and the Standing Committee moved into an In Camera (In Private) session at 2:33 p.m. The Standing Committee reconvened to public session at 2:40 p.m. and adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 1, 2018

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the minutes of February 1, 2018 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.

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 & DELEGATIONS

10.1 Correspondence

The Legislative Assistant indicated that the Municipal Clerk's Office received correspondence dated February 7, 2018, from Derek Estabrook, Vice President, Heritage Gas, and correspondence dated February 7, 2018, from Brian Palmer; both of which were circulated to members of the Standing Committee.

10.2 Petitions - None

10.3 Presentations

10.3.1 EfficiencyOne and the Value of the Energy Efficiency Industry in Nova Scotia – Stephen MacDonald, CEO, EfficiencyOne

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Correspondence dated November 9, 2017, submitted by Stephen MacDonald
- A presentation titled "Power of Energy Efficiency"

Stephen MacDonald, CEO, EfficiencyOne, provided the Standing Committee with a presentation on the work of EfficiencyOne and the economic, environmental, and social benefits of the energy efficiency industry in Nova Scotia.

The Chair thanked Stephen MacDonald for the presentation.

10.3.2 Effects of Ocean Plastic on Sea Turtles – Kathleen Martin, Executive Director, Canadian Sea Turtle Network

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Correspondence dated January 25, 2018, submitted by Kathleen Martin
- A presentation dated April 5, 2018

Kathleen Martin, Executive Director, Canadian Sea Turtle Network, provided the Standing Committee with a presentation on the negative effects of plastic waste on marine life, specifically focusing on the impact on Leatherback Sea Turtles off the coast of Nova Scotia. Martin encouraged the Municipality to take the lead on addressing the issue of plastic waste.

Responding to questions from members of the Standing Committee, Martin noted that the Canadian Sea Turtle Network currently provides educational outreach programs to youth, which focuses on educating about the harms of plastic waste to marine life and the environment.

The Chair thanked Kathleen Martin for the presentation.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD - NONE

12. REPORTS

12.1 STAFF

12.1.1 Subscription Only Flyer Delivery in HRM

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 16, 2017

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Karsten

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

- 1. Direct staff to draft a by-law to regulate flyer delivery, including delivery standards and a requirement to not deliver flyers to properties that have a ‘No Flyers’ sign posted. It is further recommended that a mandatory ‘opt-in’ only delivery option not be part of a by-law; and**
- 2. Direct staff to work with the flyer distributors and publishers to implement and evaluate a pilot project of flyer boxes to replace end of driveway delivery in rural areas.**

Councillor Karsten emphasized that the motion before the Standing Committee is not to implement an “opt-in” program. Rather, it strengthens the current “opt-out” program for flyer delivery by requiring that distributors abide by industry standards.

Responding to questions of clarification from members of the Standing Committee, Matthew Keliher, Manager, Solid Waste, noted the following:

- The recommendation outlined in the staff report dated January 16, 2017, reflects a difficult balance that allows for the private sector to use flyers as marketing tools, while adhering to the environmental interests of the public.
- There are legal restrictions on the Municipality’s ability to implement an “opt-in” program, which primarily centre on protected freedom of expression rights.

- Keliher outlined the current national standards for flyer delivery, noting that HRM Solid Waste Resources is currently looking into a pilot project for rural areas where flyers are placed in community mailboxes, rather than at the foot of a driveway.

Councillor Cleary questioned whether an updated legal review is needed, citing the recent emergence of “anti-spamming” legislation in Canada and noting that excessive unwanted flyers can be considered “driveway spam.”

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Zurawski joined the meeting at 2:17 p.m.

12.1.2 Review of Regional Watersheds Advisory Board’s Terms of Reference and Mandate

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A recommendation report from the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board dated March 16, 2018

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that staff be directed to review the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board’s Terms of Reference and mandate and take into consideration the suggestions made by the Board, as outlined in the discussion section of the report from the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board, dated March 15, 2018.

Responding to questions of clarification from members of the Standing Committee, Shannon Miedema, Manager, Energy & Environment, noted that the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board acts strictly in an advisory role to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee with respect to water related matters. The requested changes would allow the Board to self-initiate work without the direction of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.

Councillor Cleary and Councillor Zurawski both expressed concerns regarding the request to remove the doctoral training requirement for academic appointments to the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board. They both noted that they would not be in favour of such a change.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2 BOARDS AND COMMITTEES - NONE

12.3 MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE - NONE

13. MOTIONS

Councillor Zurawski took the Chair at 2:29 p.m.

13.1 Councillor Mancini

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A request for the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee’s Consideration form.

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request a staff report on a strategy for the safe disposal of light bulbs containing mercury and consideration of banning them from landfills.

Councillor Mancini noted that the Federal Government has recently passed a bill to reduce the amount of mercury that goes into landfills, and that HRM should take the lead on this issue by being the first Municipality to take steps to do the same.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Mancini took the Chair at 2:31 p.m.

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

14.1 Approval of In Camera (In Private) Minutes – February 1, 2018

The following item was dealt with by the Standing Committee in public session.

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee approve the February 1, 2018 In Camera (In Private) minutes as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

14.2 Personnel Matter

A matter pertaining to an identifiable individual or group.

The Committee recessed to an In Camera (In Private) session at 2:33 p.m. and reconvened in public session at 2:40 p.m.

14.2.1 Regional Watersheds Advisory Board Appointment – Private and Confidential Report
Citizen and Councillor appointments to boards and committees in keeping with the Public Appointment Policy adopted by Regional Council on August 2011, to be found at: <https://www.halifax.ca/city-hall/boards-committees-commissions/volunteer-boards-committees/public-appointment-policy>

The following item was addressed by the Sustainability Standing Committee In Camera (In Private), and the following motion was ratified in public session:

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

- 1. Proceed to appoint up to two academia seats to the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board for a term to November 30, 2019 as outlined in Attachment 1 of this report.**
- 2. It is further recommended that the citizen appointments be released to the public following ratification and notification of the successful candidates.**
- 3. It is further recommended that this report not be released to the public.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

15. ADDED ITEMS - NONE

16. NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NONE

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – May 3, 2018

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

David Perusse
Legislative Assistant