



**ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 21, 2018**

PRESENT: Councillor Tony Mancini, Chair
Councillor Richard Zurawski, Vice Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee
Councillors Steve Streach
Councillor Lisa Blackburn

REGRETS: Councillor Shawn Cleary

STAFF: Kelly Denty, Acting Director, Planning & Development
Joshua Judah, 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 1:00 p.m. and recessed at 2:21 p.m. The Standing Committee reconvened at 2:27 p.m. and adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 4, 2018

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Councillor Streach

THAT the minutes of October 4, 2018 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The Legislative Assistant noted that in accordance with section 24 of Administrative Order 1 Respective the Procedures of Council, members of the Standing Committee must agree via a majority vote to discuss Item 12.1.5, Single-use Item Reduction Strategy, as it was a late report.

MOVED by Councillor Streach, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee discuss item 12.1.5 Single-use Item Reduction Strategy, at the November 21, 2018 meeting, in accordance with section 24 of Administrative Order 1 Respective the Procedures of Council.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Streach, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

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 noted that the Municipal Clerk's Office received correspondence relating to item 12.1.5, as well as correspondence submitted by Dennis J. Gregor dated November 6, 2018, all of which was circulated to members of the Standing Committee.

Refer to the specific item number for a detailed list of correspondence.

10.2 Petitions - None

10.3 Presentations - None

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD - NONE

12. REPORTS

12.1 STAFF

12.1.1 Community Energy and Climate Action Plan – HRM Climate Strategy

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff presentation titled “Halifax’s Community Energy & Climate Action Plan”
- A staff memo dated October 26, 2018

Shannon Miedema, Manager, Energy & Environment, and Alex MacDonald, Climate Change Specialist, provided the Standing Committee with a presentation on the Community Energy and Climate Action Plan. Their presentation noted the growing impact of climate change on the Municipality and outlined strategies for the Municipality to work towards implementing a plan to better manage these issues going forward.

Councillor Zurawski requested that the staff report on the Community Energy and Climate Action Plan include indications of the environmental, social, and economic consequences of a failure to take the recommended steps to combat climate change.

Responding to questions from members of the Standing Committee regarding the Municipality’s performance in reaching it’s previously set target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2020, MacDonald noted that the Municipality has been able to reduce emissions by approximately thirty percent (30%) compared to 2008 levels. MacDonald added that the Municipality is in the process of installing additional emissions reducing retrofits on some Municipal facilities, which are expected to further assist in meeting the Municipality’s stated emission reduction goals. They noted that in 2022 the Municipality will know how it did in reaching its stated 2020 emissions reduction goals.

Chair requested that staff provide the Standing Committee with regular updates on the Municipality’s progress in emissions reduction.

The Chair thanked Miedema and MacDonald for the presentation.

12.1.2 Halifax Solar City – Program Update & Extension

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated September 27, 2018
- A staff presentation titled “Solar City Program”

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

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

- 1. Approve the continuation of the Solar City Program as a clean energy, community-based program; and**
- 2. Direct staff to provide annual reports on the Solar City Program to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.**

Shannon Miedema, Manager, Energy & Environment, and Kevin Boutilier, Solar City Officer, Energy & Environment, provided the Standing Committee with a presentation and update on the Halifax Solar City Program.

Responding to questions from members of the Standing Committee, Miedema and Boutilier noted that to date, the Solar City Program has resulting in an approximate reduction of 1200 tons annual in CO2 emissions. They further noted that these systems have been installed on approximately twenty-seven (27) Municipal facilities. The Municipality does not qualify for the Provincial solar energy rebate program, as it is currently only available for residential properties; however, there may be alternative rebate programs for which the Municipality qualifies. In terms of the requirements to qualify for the Municipality's program, all that is required is that the applicant be in good standing with the Municipality, and that their property is deemed suitable for solar energy systems. They further noted that the expected "tipping point," when the uptake of solar technology will take off in the Municipality, is when the cost of installing the system will be offset completely by the savings provided.

Councillor Hensbee requested that the Standing Committee be provided with the information of where these properties which have installed these systems are located geographically.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Chair thanked Miedema and Boutilier for the presentation.

12.1.3 Councillor Appointments to Boards/Committees

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Memo from the Municipal Clerk's Office titled "Councillor Appointments to Boards/Committees – ESSC"

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Zurawski

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

1. **Nominate one (1) member to the Executive Standing Committee for a term to November 2020;**
2. **Nominate one (1) member to the Halifax Regional Water Commission for a term to November 2020;**
3. **Nominate one (1) member to the National Zero Waste Council for a term to November 2019; and**
4. **Nominate the Chair or Designate from the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee membership to the Community Design Advisory Committee for a term to November 30, 2020.**

Members of the Standing Committee proceeded to make the following appointments based on their discussions:

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Zurawski

THAT the motion be amended to include the following nominations:

1. **Nominate Zurawski to the Executive Standing Committee for a term to November 2020;**
2. **Nominate Blackburn to the Halifax Regional Water Commission for a term to November 2020;**
3. **Nominate Zurawski to the National Zero Waste Council for a term to November 2019, and appoint Matthew Keliher as an alternative; and**
4. **Nominate Cleary from the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee membership to the Community Design Advisory Committee for a term to November 30, 2020.**

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.

The amended motion before the Standing Committee was as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, Seconded by Councillor Zurawski

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

- 1. Nominate Zurawski to the Executive Standing Committee for a term to November 2020;**
- 2. Nominate Blackburn to the Halifax Regional Water Commission for a term to November 2020;**
- 3. Nominate Zurawski to the National Zero Waste Council for a term to November 2019, and appoint Matthew Keliher as an alternative; and**
- 4. Nominate Cleary from the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee membership to the Community Design Advisory Committee for a term to November 30, 2020.**

AMENDED MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.1.4 Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee 2019 Meeting Schedule

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated November 7, 2018

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee approve the 2019 meeting schedule as outlined in Attachment 1 of the staff report dated November 7, 2018.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.1.5 Single-use Item Reduction Strategy

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated November 7, 2018
- Correspondence submitted by Hui Zhou

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Zurawski

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

- 1. Collaborate with the industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) sector to develop a voluntary waste reduction strategy for the consumption of single-use items focusing on plastic carry out bags, utensils, cups, containers, straws and other waste items that may be identified through this collaboration, subject to approval of the necessary program funding as part of the 19/20/21 budget.**
- 2. Initiate an education campaign for residents and the ICI sector focused on the reduction of single-use plastics.**
- 3. Consult with industry, internal stakeholders, the public and the Regulatory Modernization Advisory Committee on the development of a regulatory framework required to prohibit the distribution of single-use plastics in the Halifax Regional Municipality, should the initial voluntary approach fail to achieve acceptable results by December 31, 2019.**
- 4. Review and update the 2009 HRM Corporate Guidelines for Greening Meetings and Catering Requirements.**

Deputy Mayor Mancini noted that while the staff report was received late by members of the Standing Committee, and many have not yet had an adequate opportunity to consider the report. As such, the intention of including it on the agenda was for the purposes of providing the Standing Committee with an

additional opportunity to discuss the matter, with the vote on the item being deferred to the December 6, 2018 meeting of the Standing Committee.

Several members of the Standing Committee noted that as they have not had a sufficient opportunity to read through the report, they would prefer deferring the discussion on the matter until the December 6, 2018 meeting as well.

MOVED by Councillor Streach, seconded by Councillor Zurawski

THAT consideration of Item 12.1.5 Single-use Item Reduction Strategy, be deferred to the December 6, 2018 meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2 MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE – NONE

13. MOTIONS – NONE

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

The Standing Committee may rise and go into a private In Camera session, in accordance with Section 19 of the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, for the purpose of dealing with the following:

14.1 In Camera (In Private) Minutes – April 5 and October 4, 2018

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

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Streach

THAT the In Camera (In Private) minutes of April 5, 2018, and October 4, 2018, be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

15. ADDED ITEMS - NONE

16. NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Standing Committee adjourned at 2:21 p.m. and reconvened at 2:27 p.m.

The Chair invited members of the public wishing to address the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee to come forward.

Shalom Mandaville, Halifax, Soil & Water Conservation Society of Metro Halifax, spoke to the Standing Committee about water quality monitoring in lakes located within the Municipality. Citing their correspondence dated October 4, 2018, which was circulated to the Standing Committee, they spoke about lake monitoring, cyanobacterial toxins, tracking water phosphorus levels, and noted the positive impact an individual can have in protecting and improving water quality and the health of lakes located within the Municipality.

Mark Butler, Policy Director, Ecology Action Centre, thanked the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee as well as HRM staff for their work progressing environmental issues within the Municipality. Butler spoke to the Standing Committee about the issues associated with single-use plastic. They noted that the Ecology Action Centre currently has a petition with over 2500 signatures, which has been submitted to the Province calling for the Provincial Government to act on plastic reduction. Speaking

**Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee Minutes
November 21, 2018**

to the Single-use Item Reduction Strategy staff report, Butler noted that their position is that the voluntary action recommended in the report is insufficient to adequately address the problem of single-use plastic waste. They further noted that they are pleased to see further discussion on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). They indicated that they intend to come back to speak to the Standing Committee on the matter at their December 6, 2018 meeting when the staff report will be discussed.

Alan Collins, Dartmouth, member of the Canadian Association of Retired Person's Environment Committee, noted that they have a Change.org petition requesting a ban on single-use plastics in grocery stores. They further noted that they intend on submitting the petition and speaking further on the matter at the December 6, 2018 meeting of the Standing Committee.

Councillor Mancini called three (3) times for any further members of the public wanting to address the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee. There were no additional speakers.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – December 6, 2018

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

David Perusse
Legislative Assistant