



**ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
December 5, 2019**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Shawn Cleary, Chair  
Councillor David Hendsbee, Vice Chair  
Councillor Tony Mancini  
Councillor Steve Streach  
Councillor Richard Zurawski  
Deputy Mayor Lisa Blackburn

**STAFF:** Kelly Denty, Director, Planning & Development  
Joshua Judah Q.C., Solicitor  
Meg MacDougall, Solicitor  
Simon Ross-Siegel, 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](http://halifax.ca).*

*The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m. and adjourned at 2:20 p.m.*

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m., in Council Chamber, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

### **1.1 Annual Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

The Chair turned over the meeting to the Legislative Assistant.

The Legislative Assistant called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Deputy Mayor Blackburn

**THAT Councillor Cleary be nominated for the position of Chair of Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Legislative Assistant called three times for any further nominations. There being none, it was:

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee, **that nominations for the position of Chair be closed.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Legislative Assistant declared Councillor Cleary Chair of Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee at 1:05 p.m.

Councillor Cleary then assumed the Chair. The Chair called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Deputy Mayor Blackburn

**THAT Councillor Hendsbee be nominated for the position of Vice Chair of Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Chair called three times for any further nominations. There being none, it was:

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Zurawski, **that nominations for the position of Vice Chair be closed.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Chair declared Councillor Hendsbee the Vice Chair of Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.

## **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 7, 2019**

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Zurawski

**THAT the minutes of November 7, 2019 be approved as presented.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions: 15.1 2019 Solar City Update

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Councillor Mancini

**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 & DELEGATIONS**

**10.1 Correspondence**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Correspondence from Stephen Hickman and Shalom Mandaville

The Legislative Assistant noted that the Municipal Clerk's Office received correspondence from several individuals, which was circulated to members of the Standing Committee.

For a detailed list of the correspondence received, refer to the specific item.

**10.2 Petitions – None**

**10.3 Presentations**

**10.3.1 Nova Scotia Turtle Patrollers Operations Update – Paul Turbitt, Nova Scotia Association of Turtle Patrollers**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A presentation request dated October 23, 2019
- A presentation on the Nova Scotia Turtle Patrollers Operations for 2019

Paul Turbitt, President of the Nova Scotia Association of Turtle Patrollers, provided the Standing Committee with a presentation providing an annual update on the activities of the Nova Scotia Turtle Patrollers. Paul Turbitt discussed the organization's work, the nesting sites for snapping turtles and how to proactively protect and preserve nesting sites in areas adjacent to construction and bank stabilization work. Reflecting the organization's previous requests to the Standing Committee, Paul Turbitt asked the

Standing Committee to support the Nova Scotia Association of Turtle Patrollers by directing staff to update the red book and to employ one-inch of clear aggregate during bank stabilization work.

In response to questions from the Standing Committee, Kelly Denty, Director, Planning & Development, noted that staff is currently updating the red book and staff will forward information and comments from the presenter and the Standing Committee to staff engaged in this work.

The Chair thanked Paul Turbitt for the presentation.

## **11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE**

## **12. REPORTS**

### **12.1 STAFF**

#### **12.1.1 Approval of 2020 Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee Meeting Schedule**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated November 20, 2019

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Zurawski

**THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee approve the 2020 meeting schedule.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

### **12.2 MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE – NONE**

### **12.3 BOARDS AND COMMITTEES – NONE**

## **13. MOTIONS**

### **13.1 Councillor Zurawski – Feasibility of Implementing a Hydrogen Economy**

Vice Chair, Councillor Hendsbee took the Chair for Councillor Cleary.

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Councillor Streach

**THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request a staff report on the feasibility of initiating programs to implement a Hydrogen Economy in the municipality. This report should consider and include consultations with researchers and engineers at Dalhousie University, hydrogen fuel cell companies such as Ballard Power, examinations of actions taken in other municipalities and jurisdictions in Canada and internationally, potential adoption of systems to allow fuel cell buses and ferries, and hydrogen as an alternative to fossil fuels for home and business, heat and cooling, and electricity generation.**

Councillor Zurawski spoke to the Standing Committee about the motion. The Councillor noted that while electrification is an important component of an overall climate strategy, parallel technologies will also likely play a role and it should be important to ensure staff remains informed as technologies evolve to produce clean hydrogen.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) – NONE**

## **15. ADDED ITEMS**

### **15.1 2019 Solar City Update**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated October 28, 2019

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Deputy Mayor Blackburn

**THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee accept the annual report for the Solar City Program and forward the report to the Audit and Finance Standing Committee to approve the budget recommendation.**

Councillor Cleary spoke to the Standing Committee about the motion and noted that it will expand the program without added costs to the municipality.

In response to questions from Councillors regarding off-grid systems, Kevin Boutilier, Solar City Program Officer, stated that the program has been used to finance at least one off-grid system for which it was determined to be cost comparable to the installation of wired power service during assessment.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

### **16. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE**

### **17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Chair invited members to address the Standing Committee on relevant topics.

**Shalom Mandaville**, a representative from the Solid Water Conversation Society of Metro Halifax, spoke to the Standing Committee about issues related to lake water quality and ecological conservation. The speaker stated that they regretted that they missed an opportunity to attend and speak during public participation at the previous meeting of the Standing Committee in which Councillors received a presentation from the Sandy Lake Conservation Association. The speaker noted that the Solid Water Conversation Society of Metro Halifax previously provided a written submission to North West Community Council in November of 2013 regarding water quality studies in Sandy Lake. Tracing data beginning in the 1970s, the society outlined concerns regarding the decreasing quality of Sandy Lake's lake water. The speaker stated that a presenter for the Sandy Lake Conservation Association characterized Sandy Lake as oligotrophic, meaning lake water characterized by low nutrient values, which limits the lake's ability to support animal life and consequently quite clear in nature. However, the speaker cited a Stantec report which characterized the lake as mesotrophic lake, meaning lake water characterized by medium-level nutrients and usually clear water with submerged aquatic plants. The speaker stated that this means that Sandy Lake has become enriched, and further requested that the Standing Committee support the Association's recommendations for the preservation of Sandy Lake as part of a conservation area. The speaker also raised concerns regarding weed removal in several lakes and stated that if weeds are removed the municipality may experience a corresponding rise in algae blooms.

The Chair called three (3) times for any member of the public wishing to come forward to address the Standing Committee. There being none, Public Participation was closed.

### **18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – January 9, 2019**

### **19. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Simon Ross-Siegel  
Legislative Assistant