



**COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 16, 2020**

PRESENT: Councillor Lindell Smith, Chair
Councillor Paul Russell, Vice Chair
Councillor Steve Streach
Councillor Sam Austin
Councillor Waye Mason
Councillor Tim Outhit

GUEST: Councillor Hendsbee

STAFF: Donna Boutlier, Solicitor
Liam MacSween, A/Deputy Clerk
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.

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. The Standing Committee adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Smith, Chair called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. in Council Chamber, 3rd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 11, 2019

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Austin

THAT the minutes of December 11, 2019 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions: None

MOVED by Councillor Streach, seconded by Councillor Russell

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 noted that the Standing Committee had received correspondence for Item 12.1.1 from Michelle Chamniss, Executive Director of the Sackville Business Association, Graziella Grbac, Executive Director of the Village on Main Community Improvement District Association, Bruce Holland, Executive Director of the Spryfield Business Commission, and Patricia Cuttell Busby, Executive Director of the North End Business Association. Copies of all correspondence were circulated to members of the Standing Committee.

10.2 Petitions – None

10.3 Presentation – None

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

12. REPORTS

12.1 STAFF

12.1.1 A Streetscaping Program Framework for the Regional Centre

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated November 7, 2019
- A staff presentation
- Correspondence from Michelle Champriss, Executive Director of the Sackville Business Association, Graziella Grbac, Executive Director of the Village on Main Community Improvement District Association, Bruce Holland, Executive Director of the Spryfield Business Commission, and Patricia Cuttell Busby, Executive Director of the North End Business Association.

Hanita Koblents, Principal Planner, provided a presentation on the Streetscaping Program Framework for the Regional Centre.

Responding to questions from members of the Standing Committee, Hanita Koblents noted that staff did not find any information regarding pole-free zones in Dartmouth. The 1977 pole-free zone was expanded notionally in 2004 or 2005 to the boundaries of the capital district, but staff is unaware of any projects undertaken within this expanded zone.

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Russell

THAT the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to:

- 1. Prepare a Streetscaping Administrative Order for Council's consideration based on the framework described in the discussion section of the November 7, 2019 staff report.**
- 2. Advance opportunities for Regional Centre streetscaping (including, but not limited to those generally described in attachment 3 of the November 7, 2019 staff report) for consideration in future capital budgets.**
- 3. Continue working with representatives of Nova Scotia Power and Bell Aliant to achieve funding agreements with regulatory approval, for undergrounding projects including areas beyond the existing "pole free zone".**
- 4. Explore options for a by-law to recoup all or some of the municipal portion of the capital cost to bury overhead line and return to Regional Council with a recommendation.**

The Standing Committee discussed an interest in amending the motion to advance opportunities for streetscaping projects outside of the regional centre.

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT Part 2 of the motion be amended to read "Advance opportunities for streetscaping (including, but not limited to those generally described in attachment 3 of the November 7, 2019 staff report) for consideration in future capital budgets."

In response to questions from Councillors, staff noted that the staff report responds to a specific Council request regarding streetscaping projects in the regional centre, but does not preclude other streetscaping initiatives.

Several Councillors stated that while they are supportive of streetscaping initiatives outside of the regional centre, they could not support the amendment due to concern that funding mechanism detailed would be inappropriate for these projects. Areas in the regional centre collect disproportionately higher taxes and require a different approach to streetscaping projects. Several Councillors added that further differences should also be recognized between rural and suburban streetscaping projects, all of which would benefit from specifically tailored funding mechanisms.

With the agreement of the mover and seconder, the **MOTION WAS WITHDRAWN** to allow for a new amendment to be put forward.

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT Part 2 of the motion be amended to read “Advance opportunities for Regional Centre streetscaping (including, but not limited to those generally described in attachment 3 of the November 7, 2019 staff report) for consideration in future capital budgets, and to ensure the administrative order acknowledges that other streetscaping can occur outside of the Regional Centre on a case-by-case basis.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.

Regarding questions relating to parking revenues as a possible funding source for streetscaping, Victoria Horne, Manager of Parking, stated that staff’s rationale for not doing so presently is that staff currently does not have the parking technology necessary to project clear revenue projections. When staff has this technology, staff plans to explore and advise whether parking revenue can form a part of the revenue which can be given back to Business Improvement Districts for streetscaping projects.

The motion now reads:

THAT the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to:

- 1. Prepare a Streetscaping Administrative Order for Council’s consideration based on the framework described in the discussion section of the November 7, 2019 staff report.**
- 2. Advance opportunities for Regional Centre streetscaping (including, but not limited to those generally described in attachment 3 of the November 7, 2019 staff report) for consideration in future capital budgets, and to ensure the administrative order acknowledges that other streetscaping can occur outside of the Regional Centre on a case-by-case basis.**
- 3. Continue working with representatives of Nova Scotia Power and Bell Aliant to achieve funding agreements with regulatory approval, for undergrounding projects including areas beyond the existing “pole free zone”.**
- 4. Explore options for a by-law to recoup all or some of the municipal portion of the capital cost to bury overhead line and return to Regional Council with a recommendation.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Council discussed an interest in exploring options and opportunities for a long-term program for complete streets and streetscaping for the suburban commercial main streets in the urban service area outside the Regional Centre.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Streach

THAT the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee:

- 1. Request a staff report regarding options and opportunities for a long-term program for complete streets and streetscaping for the suburban commercial main streets in the urban service area outside the Regional Centre which updates the rationale and priorities for projects, and establishes stable long-term funding; and**
- 2. That staff review the letters received and consult with from the suburban Business Improvement Districts in development of the program.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.1.2 Lake Banook Water Sport Park and the 2022 Canoe Sprint World Championships

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated November 7, 2019

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to plan for the parkland improvements as outlined in the November 13, 2019 staff report in support of the 2022 ICF Canoe Sprint World Championships (Canoe '22) and general public parkland use; and**
- 2. Assess the need for a new Master Plan for Lake Banook, that would include all stakeholders, after Canoe '22.**

Several Councillors asked whether the staff had received a formal request for a grant from the Atlantic Division of CanoeKayak Canada for assistance with a funding shortfall relating to repairing or replacing a judges' tower. Richard Harvey, Manager of Policy and Planning, confirmed that a letter was received largely after the staff report was completed, and this is acknowledged in a footnote to the report. However, staff stated they are aware of the submission and a separate staff report is being prepared to address this issue.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2 MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE – NONE

12.3 COMMUNITY DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE – NONE

12.4 HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – NONE

13. MOTIONS – NONE

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

14.1 Approval of In Camera Minutes – December 11, 2019

This matter was dealt with in public. The following motion was ratified in public session:

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Russell

THAT the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee approve the In Camera (In Private) minutes of December 11, 2019 as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

15. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

16. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Councillor Smith called three times for members of the public to address the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee. There were none present.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – February 20, 2020 – Council Chamber, 3rd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Simon Ross-Siegel
Legislative Assistant