



**COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
September 29, 2021**

PRESENT:

Councillor Sam Austin, Vice-Chair
Councillor Trish Purdy
Councillor Lindell Smith
Councillor Patty Cuttell
Councillor Pamela Lovelace

REGRETS:

Councillor Lisa Blackburn, Chair

STAFF:

Donna Boutilier, Solicitor
Denise Schofield, Director of Parks and Recreation
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 10:01 a.m. and adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 14, 2021

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Cuttell

THAT the special meeting minutes of July 14, 2021 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions: None

Deletions: None

As provided for in Section 37 (1) of Administrative Order One, Standing Committee requested that item 17 be considered prior to item 12.

MOVED by Councillor Cuttell, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

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 general correspondence from Christina Lovitt, John K. Sutherland, Howard Epstein and Peggy Cameron, and David Garrett. All correspondence was circulated to members of the Standing Committee.

10.2 Petitions – None

10.3 Presentations – None

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

12. REPORTS

12.1 STAFF

12.1.1 Potential Changes to By-Law N-200 Respecting Construction-Related Noise

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated July 16, 2021
- A staff presentation dated September 29, 2021

Anne Totten, Planner II, and Ben Sivak, Program Manager of Community Policy gave a presentation and answered questions for the Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council adopt By-law N-207, amending By-law N-200 Respecting Noise, as set out in Attachment B of the July 16, 2021 report.

Several Councillors discussed several issues pertaining to the proposed By-Law amendments and construction noise policies broadly.

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee defer consideration pending a supplemental report that:

- 1. Explores options to expand the notification area for exemptions; and**
- 2. Explores expanding or improving notification for blasting and construction-related noise that includes further communication to affected properties.**

Councillor Purdy proposed to amend the wording of the part 1 of the proposed motion to read “1. Explores options to expand the notification area and communication methods for exemptions.”, amending the proposed motion to add part 3 to the motion to read “3. Explores changes to weekday end-time hours (Monday to Friday) 9:00 p.m. for non-explosive rock-breaking” and amending the proposed motion to add part 4 to the motion to read “4. Explores options for time reductions for non-explosive rock breaking.” As provided for in section 53 (2) of Administrative Order One, Respecting the Procedures of the Council, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion as amended now read:

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee defer consideration pending a supplemental report that:

- 1. Explores options to expand the notification area and communication methods for exemptions;**
- 2. Explores expanding or improving notification for blasting and construction-related noise that includes further communication to affected properties;**
- 3. Explores changes to weekday end-time hours (Monday to Friday) 9:00 p.m. for non-explosive rock-breaking; and**
- 4. Explores options for time reductions for non-explosive rock breaking.**

Councillor Austin spoke to the Standing Committee about the motion. Councillor Austin resumed the Chair.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.1.2 Councillor Nomination to Heritage Advisory Committee

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated September 15, 2021

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Cuttell

THAT Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council appoint Councillor Hendsbee to the Heritage Advisory Committee for a term to November 2022 as outlined in the discussion section of the September 15, 2021 report.

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

13.1 Councillor Austin - Heritage Conservation Standards

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A Request for Consideration form

Councillor Austin stepped down from the Chair and Councillor Smith assumed the Chair.

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee request that the CAO review the municipality's use of the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada in evaluating alterations to heritage properties and properties within heritage conservation districts. The requested report should explore options to better adapt conservation standards to HRM's local heritage context.

Councillor Austin spoke to the Standing Committee about the motion.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Austin resumed the Chair.

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) – NONE

15. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

16. NOTICES OF MOTION

16.1 Councillor Cuttell

TAKE NOTICE that at a future meeting of Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee, I intend to move that Standing Committee request a staff report to define and provide rationale for urban, suburban, and rural settlement classifications; conduct an internal review of how these settlement classifications are used across HRM strategies and policies including planning, transit, sewer and water, and taxation; provide a jurisdictional review of how other municipalities define and apply settlement classifications; and provide a recommendation for a standard use of these terms within HRM.

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair noted that there were three registered public speakers and opened public participation.

Duncan Williams, President & CEO of the Construction Association of Nova Scotia, spoke to the Standing Committee regarding item 12.1.1 Potential Changes to By-Law N-200 Respecting Construction-Related Noise. The speaker expressed concern with the magnitude of the potential changes specifically measures related to addressing hours of operation for rock-breaking. The speaker stated that reduced hours for operation particularly with respect to rock breaking would have negative intent to nearby residents of elongating the overall period in which rock-breaking work is completed. The speaker also stated that the restrictions would reduce the construction of new housing, potentially exacerbating the housing affordability crisis.

Grant Feltmate, Executive Director of the Nova Scotia Road Builders Association, spoke to the Standing Committee regarding item 12.1.1 Potential Changes to By-Law N-200 Respecting Construction-Related Noise. The speaker stated that with the current strong need for construction, the Nova Scotia Road Builders Association does not support reducing hours. Major reductions in rock-breaking hours would draw out completion dates and create more noise for residents by elongating overall project completion timelines. The speaker stated that road construction employs a large seasonal workforce in rock-breaking and employees will experience reductions in wage hours impacting their income. The speaker expressed concern with the phrasing of several questions posed as part of municipal survey to residents regarding construction-noise.

Wendy McDonald, a resident of Clayton Park West, spoke to the Standing Committee regarding recreation facilities investment in District 12. The speaker noted a number of recreation facilities and projects and expressed concern with a lack of functional and accessible facilities for residents.

The Chair thanked all speakers and closed public participation.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – October 21, 2021

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Simon Ross-Siegel
Legislative Assistant