



**ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
December 15, 2021**

PRESENT: Councillor Tony Mancini, Chair
Councillor Kathryn Morse, Vice Chair
Councillor Cathy Deagle Gammon
Councillor Sam Austin
Deputy Mayor Pam Lovelace

REGRETS: Councillor Shawn Cleary

STAFF: Kelly Denty, Executive Director, Planning and Development
Joshua Judah, Senior Solicitor
Haruka Aoyama, 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.

**Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee
Minutes
December 15, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m. The Standing Committee adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. in Council Chambers, 1841 Argyle Street, City Hall, Halifax and acknowledged that the meeting took place in Mi'kma'ki, the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people, and that we are all treaty people.

1.1 Annual Election of Chair and Vice Chair

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

MOVED by Councillor Morse, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lovelace

THAT Councillor Mancini be nominated as the Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.

Councillor Mancini accepted the nomination.

The Legislative Assistant called three times for further nominations for the position of Chair, there were none.

Nominations for the position of Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee were closed.

MOVED by Councillor Morse, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lovelace

THAT Councillor Mancini be appointed as Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Austin

THAT Councillor Morse be nominated as Vice Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.

Councillor Morse accepted the nomination.

The Chair called three times for further nominations for the position of Vice Chair, there were none.

Nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee were closed.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

THAT Councillor Morse be appointed as Vice Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 2, 2021

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Morse

THAT the minutes of December 2, 2021 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions: None

Deletions: None

The Standing Committee agree to consider Item 17 – Public Participation before Item 10.3 Presentation.

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Deputy Mayor 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 one piece of correspondence was received and circulated to the Committee.

10.2 Petitions – None

10.3 Presentation

10.3.1 Climate Emergency Mode for Government – *Emma Norton, Climate Emergency Unit*

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Presentation dated December 15, 2021
- Presentation request from Emma Norton dated December 6, 2021

Emma Norton, Director of Communications and Atlantic Canada Organizer, Climate Emergency Unit, gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

12. REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS

12.1 STAFF

12.1.1 HalifACT – Acting on Climate Together: 2020-2021 Annual Report

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff recommendation report dated October 5, 2021
- Presentation dated December 15, 2021

Shannon Miedema provided a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the members of the Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

THAT Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee accept this report and forward to Halifax Regional Council for information.

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lovelace

THAT the motion be amended to further recommends that Regional Council schedule a Committee of the Whole to review the HalifACT Annual Progress Report and requests a briefing note outlining the business unit responsibilities for each HalifACT action.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.

The motion as amended now reads:

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

THAT Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee accept this report and recommend that Halifax Regional Council:

1. **Receive the HalifACT – Acting on Climate Together: 2020-2021 Annual Report as information; and**
2. **Schedule a Committee of the Whole to review the HalifACT Annual Progress Report and requests a briefing note outlining the business unit responsibilities for each HalifACT action.**

AMENDED MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13. MOTIONS – NONE

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) – NONE

15. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

16. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Céo Gaudet, a resident of Dartmouth area, spoke to HalifACT and its effectiveness, efficiency and equity: three pillars that guide policy analysis and development. Gaudet emphasized the efficiency is overlooked in HalifACT, and it is important to consider efficiency which can be measured by cost/tonne metric (Cost/Tonne = Cost of the policy/Tonnes of avoided GHGs). The important reason why we should care about efficiency is transparency and accountability to taxpayers. I deserve to know whether my

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investment in this program is delivering the maximum amount of GHG reductions for the money invested, taking into account effectiveness and equity considerations. Cost/Tonne estimates can also help determine the best time to implement the policy and programs of HalifACT. Gaudet concluded by saying that Cost/Tonne should be publicly reported and always be considered as it is an important part of decision making.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – *January 13, 2021*

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

Haruka Aoyama
Legislative Assistant