

Community Monitoring Committee  
Orientation Session-Media Room —Halifax City Hall  
December 4, 2012-5.00pm

**PENDING APPROVAL**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present:**

Jack Mitchell	Chair
Bob Angus	Vice Chair
Tom Robertson	Director
Lindsay Gates	Director
Andrew Giles	Director
Murray Power	Director
Mike Becignuel	Director
Elizabeth Salton	Director
Councillor Steve Adams	Director
Councillor Russell Walker	Director
Deputy Mayor Reg Rankin	Director
Ken Meech	Executive Director

**Also Attending:**

Mike Savage	Mayor, HRM
Josh Bragg	Special Assistant to the Mayor

**Regrets:**

Mary Lyn Saturley	Director
-------------------	----------

---

CMC held an orientation session for the benefit of Mayor Savage to provide an overview of the status and role of the committee, which is a partnership between the Halifax Waste Resource Society and the Halifax Regional Municipality.

**1) Call to Order & Approval of the Agenda**

The meeting was called to order by the chair, who asked for agreement on the agenda that had been tabled. There was consensus that the agenda be approved.

**2) History of CMC and Solid Waste Strategy**

The chair gave brief remarks on the history of the solid waste strategy and on the CMC structure. The Chair noted that the Mayor is a full member of the CMC as per the agreement. The chair also mentioned the relationship with HRM staff in the past 2 years has been less than satisfactory (comments attached). The chair thanked Mayor Savage for the opportunity to meet and discuss the issue. Deputy Mayor Rankin then provided a more

detailed description of the history of the Halifax Solid Waste Plan, which was adopted by HRM council in February, 1996, and remains a significant policy of HRM to this day. The deputy mayor stressed the independence of the CMC group and its function on behalf of the community and the HRM.

The executive director then provided a full description of the CMC, the origin, purpose and ongoing role on behalf of the community to act as a watchdog. Their key role is to focus on the Otter Lake landfill and facilities to ensure good stewardship on the environmental issues, consistency with the approved solid waste strategy and to make certain the facility does not represent a nuisance for the community.

In addition, the executive director tabled a legal opinion from the CMC's solicitor, John Merrick, noting that CMC is an arm's-length body and independent in its role and function. The mayor assured the committee he understood the importance and success of the solid waste system and would devote time to becoming familiar with the overall issue.

The chair provided the mayor with a communication from CMC seeking support from the mayor and council on two issues:

- a) an opportunity to meet with council for an overview of the solid waste strategy
- b) an opportunity to participate in the development of a community engagement/consultation process to communicate the findings and conclusions of the solid waste review.

During the presentation, it was reiterated that any change to the principles of the strategy requires a major examination of the solid waste system which is supported by a formal policy of council.

Furthermore, the references by staff to the high cost without the benefit of the review are not helpful or informative as only staff appears to have access to the information from the review.

Following the presentation, comments and questions, Mayor Savage left the meeting at 5:45 p.m., as he had another commitment.

### **3) Next Steps**

At this point the chair asked for more suggestions on next steps. Deputy Mayor Rankin suggested it may be useful to invite the environment and sustainability committee to the landfill for a tour and orientation of the solid waste strategy. This was supported by Councillor Adams and an agreement was reached for Deputy Mayor Rankin to proceed on this basis.

The executive director suggested that the committee prepare information for circulation to the immediate community near the landfill, advising of the solid waste review and the potential for change to the agreement reached in 1996. It was also suggested that CMC organize a public meeting in the community in January to provide the findings and

recommendations from the report to ensure the community is cognizant of the implications of proposed changes.

It was agreed that the Executive Director on behalf of CMC will approach Ken Donnelly, who facilitated the community stakeholders committee, to assist in developing a newsletter and to facilitate the public meeting.

It was also agreed that the executive director will pursue a meeting with Nova Scotia Environment to determine their position relative to potential changes to the strategy.

**4) Adjournment**

Having completed the business of the day, the meeting adjourned.