

# Meeting Minutes

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**September 8, 2016 - 6:00 PM**

**Lakeside Community Centre**

Attending John Cascadden - Chair, Scott Guthrie - Vice Chair, Councillor Rankin, Councillor Adams, Tom Robertson, Peter Lund, Lindsay Gates, Murray Power, Frank Johnston, Rany Ibrahim, Andrew Giles

Regrets: Councillor Dalrymple, Bob Angus

Others: Ken Donnelly, Ken Meech - Mirror, Steve Copp - Mirror, Brian Dubblestynne - Mirror, Harold Johnston - Mirror, Dennis Harding

The Chair John Cascadden called the meeting to order.

## **1. Approval Of Minutes - May 12 - 2016**

*Moved by Councillor Rankin and seconded by Scott Guthrie that the minutes of May 12, 2016 be approved as circulated – Motion Carried*

## **2. Radon Presentation**

Dennis Harding made a presentation on radon gas, pointing out that radon gas can be an issue in homes in the BLT area. Radon gas is a leading cause of lung cancer and is found in granite formations and can be carried in water. Radon gas is released when granite is disturbed, as is often done in construction.

Mr. Harding shared his experience in analyzing radon in homes and installing mitigation systems. He explained that homes with unacceptable radon readings can be retrofitted with a pump placed in a pit under the concrete slab or basement, which creates negative pressure to suck the radon gas out of the home and exhaust it outside. These systems cost about \$1,500 installed.

Mirror representatives informed the committee that all buildings at the landfill have radon collection systems and monitoring equipment.

## **3. Business Arising From Minutes:**

There was none.

#### **4. Update from Mirror**

A. Ken Meech described the proposed program to review the waste management system at the landfill, including how much waste is coming in to the facility, the waste characteristics, the historic performance, cost, etc. The idea is to have a comprehensive review of the facility and measure the effectiveness and need for components such as the WSF and FEP. Mirror proposed a joint committee of Mirror representatives and CMC representatives.

It was pointed out that the review of the system was included in the CMC strategic plan.

Some members raised concerns that a finding that the FEP/WSF should be closed would be concerning given the CMC's and the local community's fight to keep them open.

Also, several members expressed concern that if the FEP/WSF were closed because of low organics in the waste stream, the facilities would not be available if waste input increased, particularly if ICI waste returned to the landfill.

After some discussion, there was comfort that the study had no pre-conceived outcomes, and it was an effort to get a good understanding of the waste stream and the performance of the components of the facility.

**The CMC appointed John Cascadden, Andrew Giles and Reg Rankin to represent CMC on the joint committee.**

B. A tour of the landfill facility was scheduled for 9:00 AM on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

C. Steve Copp updated the committee on the construction of cell 7A. Mirror expects NSE approval for the construction of cell 7A and hopes to begin construction right away. Although the construction is delayed, there is no risk of running out of space before the cell is ready.

Steve also pointed out that hooking the drainage for cell 7 into the piping to the sump in cell 6 will require Mirror to excavate old garbage, which will cause odours in the short term. They will try to mitigate odours but they expect there will be some. The project is expected to take 2 weeks. Mirror will notify the CMC before the work begins.

#### **5. Society AGM**

Ken Donnelly pointed out that there were some changes in the Board of the Halifax Waste-Resource Society due to the election of officers at the AGM. Jack Mitchell and Mike Becigneul stepped down, and Frank Johnston and Peter Lund were elected to the Board.

**Moved by Scott Guthrie and seconded by Rany Ibrahim that the Chair of the CMC send letters to Jack Mitchell and Mike Becigneul thanking them for their service on the CMC.**

## **6. Status of Strategic Plan**

A. Ken Donnelly updated the committee on the Strategic Plan implementation. It was noted that all of the items in the plan were well on their way to completion, except for the item to improve relationships with HRM. It was noted that this was largely due to the unavailability of the Manager of Solid Waste over the past few months.

It was suggested that the implementation of the Strategic Plan was good news, and it should be posted on the website to show the progress.

B. Ken Donnelly reported that he and John Cascadden met with representatives of Nova Scotia Environment to bring them up to speed on the strategic plan, and to establish better communications links between CMC and NSE. It was a productive meeting, and NSE expressed appreciation of CMC's intention to improve outreach to the local communities, stressing that community engagement was very important to them. They also were supportive of communicating more with CMC.

C. Ken updated the committee on legal advice about the agreement between the Society and HRM.

## **7. HRM Procurement Requirements**

There was discussion about correspondence received August 23<sup>rd</sup> from HRM's Manager of Procurement that directed CMC to requisition all services from the Manager of Solid Waste.

There are 2 concerns regarding procurement. One is that CMC feels it needs to have the ability to seek advice independently of HRM in order to deliver on its mandate of overseeing the operation of the Otter Lake Landfill on behalf of the community. CMC is concerned about HRM deciding who will provide advice or assistance to CMC, as this has been tried before by HRM. The CMC Chair wrote to HRM CAO John Traves requesting his attendance at the meeting to discuss the issue, however Mr. Traves did not respond to the request and did not attend the meeting.

The second issue is that HRM takes a very long time to pay its invoices, sometimes 90 or more days, when the standard is 30 days. This has been a chronic problem for several years, and attempts to address the issue with waste management staff have had little success. This has a negative impact on CMC suppliers who face long delays in getting paid for services, and often have to make multiple inquiries with several HRM departments to get invoices through the different stages of approval and payment.

**Moved by Lindsay Gates and seconded by Scott Guthrie that**

**1. Whereas CMC relies on assistance from contracted service providers to assist it in performing its mandate of providing oversight of the Otter Lake Landfill operations; and,**

**2. Whereas over the past 3 years these contracted service providers have often had to wait as much as 3 months or more to be paid by HRM; and,**

**3. Whereas these chronic delays by HRM in paying approved and submitted invoices are unacceptable and are harmful to CMC's ability to contract with these service providers and perform its mandate, as well as to CMC's reputation; and,**

**4. Whereas these chronic delays are harmful to the relationship between CMC and HRM, a relationship that CMC and HRM are trying to improve;**

**BE IT MOVED** That the Chair of CMC write a letter to the CAO, copied to the Mayor, requesting that whatever action is necessary be taken to ensure that there is no undue delay in reviewing, approving and processing invoices submitted by CMC, such that invoices will be paid within the net 30 days standard of conducting business.

**AND THAT** Councillors Reg Rankin and Steve Adams meet with the Mayor and ask for approval of a roster of suppliers to the CMC.

**8. Producer Responsibility**

Moved by Scott Guthrie, seconded by Murray Power to defer discussion of Producer Responsibility to the next meeting of CMC.

**9. Approval of Invoices**

**10. *Moved by Andrew Giles and seconded by Peter Lund that the invoices for Beyond Attitude, Masthead News and Merrick etc. be approved for payment. Motion Carried.***

- Merrick Jamieson etc. to July 31, 2016 - \$1,568.60
- Beyond Attitude Consulting - August 3, 2016 - \$5,612.01
- Masthead News - June 2, 2016 - \$418.60

**11. Adjournment**



*Meeting adjourned on Motion of Scott Guthrie*