

Notes from COCO Meeting of July 19, 2007

Representatives from a number of community groups as well as residents from the Chebucto Peninsula and Councillors Reg Rankin and Gary Meade attended the July 19 COCO Meeting held at the White's Lake Legion and hosted by the Resources Opportunity Centre at Terence Bay.

Catherine Klefenz of the Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Rails to Trail reported that there is a problem with usage on the BLT Trail as the province will not give jurisdiction to HRM who is withholding maintenance monies for upkeep of the trail because of ATV use on the Trail. The matter is under discussion.

St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association continues its collaboration for the care of Micou's Island with several partners including the province and HRM. Monies for the restoration of the house located on the island will be coming from the Greenspace and Recreation fund. Discussions have been planned by SMBSA with the developer of the new development on Hwy 3 at Hammonds Plain Road. The developer hopes to utilise building plans with innovative designs as the first of three phases of the development will soon get underway. The development will have both commercial and townhouse sections. The new Credit Union at that site hopes to be open in January 2008.

The new St. Margaret's Bay Chamber of Commerce now has 130 members with 1,000 workers in the community. There is a strong promotion in the various villages along the Bay to encourage residents to shop locally. There is considerable concern that Highway 3 will become another Bayer's Lake Business Park development. The Chamber is sponsoring an Expo on August 25 from noon until 4 p.m. at the St. Margaret's Centre. Non-profit groups have been invited to have a table. The Chamber members have encouraged and supported the non profit groups to attend.

Lisa Mullin of PROBE gave a short history of the re-formation of PROBE a year ago. Their group is fairly quiet at the moment.

CPAWS-Graham Smith gave an update on the help given by Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society to the Kimberley Lloyd development on the south side of Brookside Road. Special help around the structuring of protected covenants and relief from the need to provide access routes was given to the builder whose land is surrounded by the Terence Bay Wilderness Area. There are 25 homes slated to be built this year with a plan for 130 homes in total. There will be a good buffer area between the development and the Wilderness Area.

Brookside Homeowners' Association President Norwood Whynot outlined some changes in their association including restructuring and a larger Board.

WRWEO member Bill Matheson indicated that there had been no recent Board Meetings.

Western Commons Wilderness Advisory Committee-Bill Matheson is the Chair of this committee. He outlined the role of the committee which is operating in an advisory capacity to the HRM management around planning for the wilderness portion of the Western Commons. Two meetings of the committee have been held to date with the next meeting slated for July 30. The potential uses for the wilderness area have not been well defined; the

wilderness area is to be an area for active recreation. There is a mix of residential and commercial areas within the Western Commons .At this time there is not a website.

Resources Opportunity Centre-Barbara Allen host of the meeting also Chairs the Prospect Community Centre Committee. The ROC has a community portal which is receiving 4,000 hits a week. The ROC has applied for funding for Share a Drive and hopes to be successful in their application to Ecology Action Centre for the above funds which will be used for advertising. The ROC has also applied for a grant for carpool locations at abandoned gas stations along the Prospect Road side of Highway 333.

Beth McGee, Chair of the Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust gave an update on the Chebucto Peninsula Stewardship Charter and outlined how groups interested in endorsing the Charter could sign on to the Charter .The monitoring work ongoing on the Wooden's River and the work slated to be undertaken on the Prospect River systems was described. The Trust hopes to have the Lichens brochure ready for publication this Fall.

Guest Speakers Maureen Ryan and Kelley Denty of HRM planning gave us some updates about the HRM regional planning process including aspects of functional planning and open space planning. Plans are underway for an Urban Forest Master Plan, including inventory taking of forest canopy, noting of forest structure. They spoke about the connectivity project to be undertaken with DNR in which critical habitats for mainland moose will be identified. This project will be used as a model for how HRM does business in other areas. They also spoke about Long Term Objectives for Sustainability .There have been three communities that have been involved in community visioning, Bedford, Fall River and Musquodoboit Harbour. Lessons learned were also shared.

Then there was opportunity to talk about and raise questions about several areas of concern in HRM Planning. Concerns about water quality in different areas of the Chebucto Peninsula were identified.

The recent amendment to the HRM plan had a number of persons raising concern about process issues such as insufficient notice to those several thousand persons who had participated in the consultation process throughout the devising of the plan adopted in June 2006. With the amendment to the Parkland allocation at the June 16 public hearing it was noted that there is projected to be a loss of \$200,000 to \$300,000 annually. Councillor Reg Rankin was thanked for his stalwart efforts to have this amendment voted down. The vote was 12 in favour and 10 opposed. The Review Process of the Plan was outlined with the first annual review slated to take place in August 2007 and a report available in September 2007. Persons with concerns about the amendment process are invited to send their written comments to the Regional Plan Advisory Committee, C/O of the Municipal Clerks' office PO Box 1749, Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

The next COCO Meeting will be held on September 20 at the Lakeside Community Centre. Canoe Kayak NS will be the hosting group.