



Executive Panel on Housing in HRM Minutes

March 9, 2023

Present:

Fred Crooks, Vicki Elliott-Lopez; Jarrod Baboushkin, Debbie Brown, Leanne Hachey, Paula Sibley-Fox, Christina Lovitt, Kathy Cox-Brown and Sacha Rutledge.

Regrets:

Kelly Denty and Peter Duncan

Agenda Items

1. Welcome & Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1 February 23, 2003, minutes approved.

Motion: Jarrod Baboushkin

Second: Vicki Elliott-Lopez

Carried: Chair, Fred Crooks

VOTE: Aye (3) Nay (0) Abstain (0)

2.2 Next steps - Minutes will be posted on the Executive Panel Website.

3. Ecology Action Centre (EAC)

3.1 Presentation

A presentation was provided by Maggy Burns, Executive Director of the ECO and Kortney Dunsby Sustainable Cities Coordinator Built Environment Team of ECO.

See *Attachment A*

3.2 Discussion

A discussion followed the presentation which included:

- Mutual desire to work together in a collaborative matter going forward.
- Emphasizing that special planning areas' public engagements and adherence to environmental requirements are still completed and required by HRM. HRM are the primary jurisdiction for land use planning in HRM.
- Clarifying that past (and future) recommendations for special planning area designation are guided by HRM input and based on criteria developed jointly with HRM.



4. Implementation Team – Updates

4.1 Progress Update - On track (Details provided in prior minutes)

5. Special Planning Areas

5.1 Progress Update (for Existing)

On track

5.2 Review of Assessment Criteria

Information on publishing (posting) the criteria will be circulated prior to the next meeting.

5.3 Review of Pending Developments

- Deferred discussion to next meeting.
- Information will be circulated prior to the next meeting.

6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

6.1 It was confirmed the minutes approved at the Feb 23, 2023, and terms of reference were posted on the Executive Panel's website.

6.2 It was agreed Jarrod Baboushkin would arrange for the following entities to be invited to one of the April or May Executive Panel meetings:

- Joint Regional Transportation Agency
- Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

6.3 It was also agreed Jarrod will connect with Kelly Denty to arrange a time for the HRM Regional Plan Progress presentation at a future Executive Panel meeting.

7. Adjournment

- Next Meeting April 6, 2023
- Meeting Adjourned 2:28 pm

Attachment 1

EAC Presentation to the Joint Municipal-Provincial Housing Task Force

Thursday March 9th, 2023



Who is EAC?



- Founded in 1971
- Community, Advocacy and Action
- Over 45 staff across 7 action teams
- 4,500 members and 250+ volunteers
- Funding of over \$3 million from over 40 funding agencies
- Strong reputation, profile and community reach

EAC's Vision, Mission & Values

Vision

A just and vibrant world of respect, belonging and ecological resilience.

Mission

The Ecology Action Centre acts as watchdog, convener, mobilizer and incubator. We engage community to create systemic change in the face of urgent, complex environmental issues.

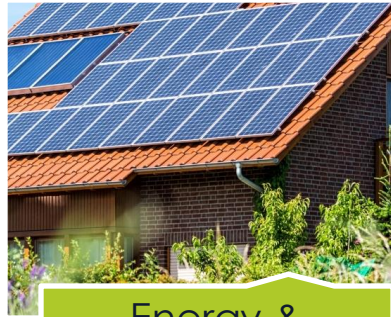
Values

We are creative, resilient, fierce and caring. We value relationships. We act with integrity.

What We Work On



Built Environment



Energy & Climate



Wilderness



Coastal & Water



Marine



Transportation



Food

Complete Communities

Committed to a more liveable and resilient HRM



- A range of affordable housing options
- Infrastructure for safe walking and cycling
- Access to reliable transit
- Proximity to commercial centres and recreational opportunities
- Brownfield over greenfield development

Protected Green Network

Conserving last 3 large wild areas near urban Halifax



The Purcell's Cove Backlands.

Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes

Sandy Lake

- Implementation of Halifax Green Network Plan
- Free public recreational opportunities that benefit physical health and wellbeing
- Preservation of unique and sensitive natural environments and habitats
- Climate adaptation
- Retaining lands for industrial uses like agriculture and forestry
- Directing growth into existing urban areas

Questions and Concerns

Transparency

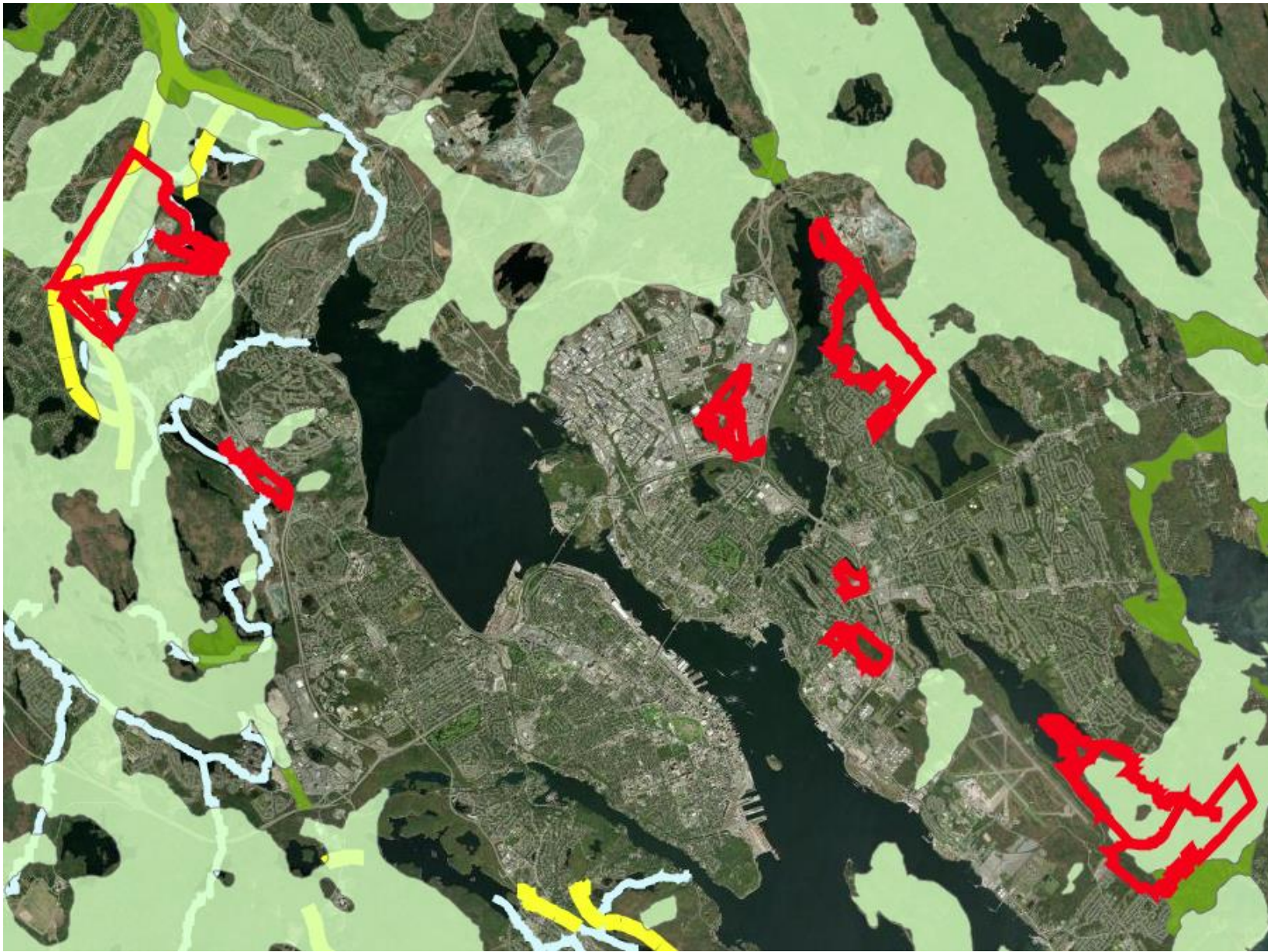
Opportunities for public input in future development?

Is the primary goal to reach 20,600 approved units? What progress has been made?

Criteria

What criteria was used to select the special planning areas?

Are considerations being made in favor of complete communities, and not only expedited housing?



Special Planning Areas

Overlap with natural areas that have been identified as important for conservation in the HGNP

Resource map:
<https://ecologyaction.ca/our-work/built-environment/complete-communities>

Summary

Communication

Create a channel for more open communication between decision-makers and key stakeholders

Sustainable growth

Promote the types of developments we hope to see – mix of housing, affordable, focus on transit, and alignment with existing priority plans

Protect Nature

Avoid sprawling developments contributing to worsening climate and biodiversity crises

Thank you!

Maggy Burns,
Executive Director

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