

COCO Meeting Notes

November 24, 2019

Held at the Prospect Road Community Centre, hosted by Resource Opportunities Centre

Present:

HRM Recreation Centre, Lakeside – Peter Jollimore

Western Commons Advisory Committee & Resource Opportunities Centre – Shirley Jollimore

St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association (SMBSA) – Mike Lancaster

BLT Rails To Trails Association – Karen Jensen

The meeting was held despite terribly inclement weather, resulting in only 4 attendees.

- Discussion re conflict between Trails Day and the local school's spring fair; it might be possible to partner or involve the school in Trails Day events, link to what they're doing, cross-promote.
- Shirley indicated there is no update on the Western Commons work, no new budget funding is expected in 2020-21, and the committee meets again in January. At that time, they are hoping to review possible options for a less expensive water crossing option than has currently been proposed by consultants. The committee hopes there might be an option to continue the trail by coming in from Greenhead Road or Otter Lake, and HRM has contracted Cobequid Consulting to provide a recommendation on that option.
- Mike provided SMBSA update on land acquisitions and concerns over lack of priority being given to the Old Growth forest areas and the development that is pending there. Mike provided education on the value of those areas, and the scope of the loss to our environmental heritage if they are not preserved and protected.
- Karen reported that BLT Rails-to-Trails completed the repairs on the trail they had discussed at the September meeting, and will need to go back in post-Dorian to do some cleanup.
- Bob Angus provided an update via photo document (attached). Unfortunately this was received after the meeting. Questions can be directed to Bob.

Peter Jollimore offered to host the next meeting, Wednesday, March 25, 7 PM at the Lakeside Community Centre.

Community Consultation Committee – Update

Overview: Our committee is tasked with the planning & redesigning with the help of HRM planners, of both interior & exterior facilities of the old outdated Lakeside Recreation Centre. We have great news. Our committee recommended after almost 3 years of study and response from interested BLT residents, that we retain the same location for the future new Recreation Centre, in Lakeside. There is still a long way to go before a shovel breaks ground. A key factor in retaining this site was that Halifax Transit passes right by the main door. There is also room for expansion, if needed. The next stages will involve sitting down with various HRM departments to do our best to incorporate most of the suggestions residents wanted to have in the new Centre. Our next meeting will be on January 16th 2020 at the Rec Centre.

Submitted by Bob Angus, Member CCC

BLT Residents Association – Update

Overview: Our Residents Association has 8 Area Reps (Directors) in 11 of the BLT Subdivisions. We are looking for new Reps in the Lakeside, Governor Lake and Alderwood subdivisions. Contact Bob Angus, if interested.

On Monday November 25th 2019 a Board of Directors meeting was held at the Lakeside Recreation Centre. Only 2 Directors were unable to make the meeting. Iain Rankin- MLA, Councillor Richard Zurawski and Peter Jollymore were also in attendance. BLT is one of the fastest growing areas in HRM. In addition to new homes being built, two new major businesses are in the process of opening their doors. Sobeys Timberlea opens their doors November 28th and Timberlea Animal Hospital plans to open in May 2020. New businesses bring new challenges to such things as local transportation and we are in talks with Halifax Transit in the desire they will review their 5 year plan so as to include a bus service to the new Sobeys in a shorter period of time. HT currently offers Express bus services from Exit#5 & Exit#4 on the HWY #103, to and from Halifax. Perhaps some consideration will be given to make a new stop at Exit#3, allowing more residents to leave their car at home.

Traffic congestion on Timberlea Village Parkway remains an ongoing issue. Surveys versus Safety remain the main means of judging by HRM, whether to add traffic lights or not. Traffic lights at the new Sobeys might occur.

New pavement and curbs have been added to Forestglen Drive with sidewalks to follow next spring. New permanent cement bus pads and shelters will be replaced at the same time. We will be meeting with HRM this week to review changes needed at the Brentwood Drive & St Margarets Bay Road intersection & Crosswalk. A continuation & completion of the sidewalk might be in the plans.

As BLT is a growing area and there is only so much Capital Funds available for local projects, I will be asking our local BLTRA Area Reps to consult with their residents as to what improvements they'd like to occur within their subdivision over the next 5-10 years. They cannot be all done at once. A list of priorities might be a result.

A going away party on December 4th is being held at the Crossroads in SMB at the CEC to thank CONSTABLE SIAN HOUSTON of the RCMP Tantallon Detachment, who has accepted a transfer to Alberta. She worked with so many local Groups. This is also a Christmas Party for all SMB volunteers.

Submitted by Bob Angus Co Chair BLTRA

