



**MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF WEST HANTS
Special Hantsport Area Advisory Committee (HAAC)
January 31, 2019, 11:00 a.m.
Hantsport Office**

- PRESENT:** Councillor Robbie Zwicker, Chair
Jane Davis, Vice Chair
Bill Preston, Resident Member
Philip Zamora, Resident Member
Donald Hussey, Resident Member
Greg Pace, Resident Member
- STAFF:** Madelyn LeMay, Director of Planning & Development
Saira Shah, Planner
Sara Poirier, Planner
Velma Macumber, Planning Admin Assistant
- GUESTS:** Warden Abraham Zebian
- PUBLIC:** Nine members of the public were present

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Zwicker called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The following items were added under Hantsport Aboiteau:

- Update Chair
- Health & Safety
- Replacement of Aboiteau
- Nova Scotia Emergency Measures Act
- Other Options

Moved and Seconded that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried.

HANTSPORT ABOITEAU (CHAIR ZWICKER)

Update from Chair

Chair Zwicker stated that based on discussion with a source at Minas Energy a concrete structure will be put in. As of today, the NSTIR is taking core samples of the soil near the bridge.

Ms. Davis inquired if the Committee could obtain copies of the temporary and permanent designs for the aboiteau. Chair Zwicker stated he would ask.

Ms. Davis asked if the Committee could give input on the designs. Mr. Preston asked if there was anyone on the Committee who was qualified to read the designs. Chair Zwicker stated the designs would be just for informational purposes.

A member of the public, Albert Tracey, suggested that the design would be similar to the concrete structure that is going to be installed in Windsor with a fish ladder.

Discussion was held about the design of the concrete structure.

Health & Safety

Mr. Zamora reported that a hazard has come to light as a result of the January 20, 2019 accident where two persons nearly drowned after their vehicle lost control and entered a pond with high tidal waters adjacent to the Hantsport Connector road.

It was noted that the pond usually has minimal water this time of year, but due to the failure of the aboiteau, the water levels have increased. The suggestion was made that through NSTIR's highway program guard rails or other safety measures such as barricades be installed.

Moved and Seconded that Hantsport Area Advisory Committee recommends to the Planning Advisory Committee that a plan of action be implemented immediately (in accordance with NS Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal Highway Maintenance Standards) with respect to public health and safety. A hazard now exists for vehicles and occupants travelling along Exit 8 Hantsport Connector road and NS Highway 1 entrance (causeway) and bridge to Hantsport due to the low elevation compared to current high tide along both sides as a result of the failure of the Hantsport aboiteau.

Motion carried.

Warden Zebian suggested that due to the importance of this matter, that Chair Zwicker bring it to the February 12th Council meeting instead of the Planning Advisory Committee.

Replacement of Aboiteau

Mr. Hussey stated he had concerns about the adequacy of the proposed replacement aboiteau and would like it to be a robust permanent structure and replaced immediately.

Members of the public and the Committee discussed possible solutions with respect to the temporary and permanent replacement of the aboiteau.

Moved and Seconded that Hantsport Area Advisory Committee recommends to the Planning Advisory Committee to recommend to Council that the proposed replacement aboiteau be a robust structure that is capable of positively controlling sea water entering the Halfway River estuary under tidal conditions.

Motion carried.

Nova Scotia Emergency Management Act

Mr. Hussey recommended that a state of emergency be declared. He asked how a "state of emergency" was defined and noted that it has been 13 months since the failure of the aboiteau, and no new information has come forward.

Ms. Davis advised that she had heard from discussion at the Hantsport Aboiteau Protest on January 4, 2019 that it had been declared an emergency. She suggested finding out who declared it, why it was not declared before, and what impact on funding the declaration would make. Chair Zwicker cautioned the Committee on how they go about obtaining information.

Moved and Seconded that Hantsport Area Advisory Committee recommends to the Planning Advisory Committee that Council confirm that a State of Emergency was declared in accordance with the Nova Scotia Emergency Management Act and if not, that this be done.

Motion carried.

Other Options

Mr. Pace suggested that instead of repairing the aboiteau the Halfway River be allowed to be free flowing. He described a scenario of allowing the river to flow free which created many economic spin offs that he felt would be beneficial to the community of Hantsport.

Discussion was held with respect to the bank erosion occurring at the Riverview Cemetery.

Mr. Preston commented that the Aboiteau Action Committee has had its petition signed and will be discussing its next steps.

NEXT MEETING

The next HAAC meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved and Seconded that the meeting adjourn.

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Chair