

From: [Abraham Zebian](#)
To: Johnston Marg
Cc: [Rupert Jannasch](#); councillor.mclean@westhants.cda; [Chrystal Remme](#); [Paul Wheadon](#); [Debbie Francis](#); [Bob Morton](#); [Kayla Leary-Pinch](#); councillor.pmorton@hantswest.ca; [John Smith](#); [Bonnie Smith](#); Tim Carr, Guido Furlani, Jane Davis, KJ Conyer-Steede, Markus Kehoe, Paul Beazley; [Deanna Snair](#)
Subject: Re: Planning Committee Restructuring Amendment
Date: February 6, 2025 2:01:30 PM

On Feb 6, 2025, at 1:52 PM, Marg Johnston wrote:

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I am a resident of Hantsport and I watch the Committee of the Whole meetings, Council meetings, and the Planning and Heritage Committee meetings. I consistently search out the agendas for each of these meetings so I am aware of what is going to be discussed.

I reviewed the agenda for the Council Meeting of January 28, 2025. I read through all the documents and I insert here what was indicated for the Planning Committee composition.

3. COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

3.1. The PAC/HAC will be established under the following terms:

The Committee will consist of ten (10) members as follows:

- Three (3) resident members from the former Municipality of West Hants area (excluding Hantsport) who are not Council members or Municipal Employees, two (2) resident members from the community of Hantsport who are not Council members or Municipal Employees, two (2) resident members from the community of Windsor who are not Council members or Municipal Employees and three (3) members of Council.

West Hants Regional Municipality

Meeting and Committee Procedural Policy, RCOGE-003.00

During the Council meeting, I was surprised that the Mayor launched a further amendment that I consider to be a significant change to the intention and purpose of the Committee, without prior notice. It did not give the public an opportunity to reach out to their respective Councillor.

Having watched the Planning Committee meetings, I marvelled at the knowledge, enthusiasm and engagement of the citizen members.

In my opinion, there was no valid reason to recommend this amendment. The Committee was thorough and knowledgeable, so I'm left to question if there is another reason?

I also have concerns about this major shift being brought forward to a fairly new Council who were sworn in on November 5, 2024.

I truly believe that having the Committee structure with 7 citizens appointed was a valuable asset for the residents/tax payers of West Hants. They brought forward and provided information to be considered that otherwise may not have been provided.

In closing, I would like to thank and commend the Councillors who did not vote in favour of the amendment; namely, Jim Ivey, Scott McLean, Chrystal Remme, and Kayla Leary-Pinch.

Margaret Johnston
Hantsport