

HALIFAX

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Item No. 14.4.1
Halifax Regional Council
February 23, 2016

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council
Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY: Councillor Lorelei Nicoll, Chair of Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council

DATE: February 8, 2016

SUBJECT: Disbursement of Funds from the Musquodoboit Harbour Common Area Rate, cost centre C160

ORIGIN

Motion approved at the February 4, 2016 meeting of the Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Section 96 of the *Halifax Charter* states:

- (1) The Council may spend money in an area, or for the benefit of an area, for any purpose for which the Municipality may expend funds or borrow.
- (2) The Council may recover annually from the area the amount required or as much of that sum as the Council considers advisable to collect in any one fiscal year by an area rate of so much on the dollar on the assessed value of the taxable property or occupancy assessments in the area.

RECOMMENDATION

The Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council recommends Halifax Regional Council approve \$10,000 payable to the Musquodoboit Harbour and Area Chamber of Commerce and Civic Affairs (MHACCCA) as partial funding for completion of a Master Conceptual Plan by Ekistics Plan and Design for the Eastern Shore West Municipal Planning Area with funding to be provided from the Musquodoboit Harbour Common Area Rate, cost centre C160.

BACKGROUND/ DISCUSSION

This motion was received as an added item on January 29, 2016.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

\$9,961.49 was collected in 2015 for the Musquodoboit Harbour Common Area Rate. Combined with \$22,282.28 of unspent surplus from prior years, there is a total of \$32,243.77 in funds available from this area rate. If the recommendation in this report is approved, the balance remaining will be \$22,243.77. Therefore, there is no impact on the approved Operating Budget funded from the general tax rates, and no impact on the approved Capital Budget.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council is comprised of five duly elected members of Council. Meetings are held monthly and are open to the public, unless otherwise stated. Agendas and minutes are available on the web

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

ALTERNATIVES

None Identified.

ATTACHMENTS

Letter from the Musquodoboit Harbour and Area Chamber of Commerce and Civic Affairs (MHACCCA) requesting \$10,000 in funding from HRM for purpose outlined in this report.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.php> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

Report Prepared by: Cathy Collett, Legislative Assistant, 902.490.6517

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Report Approved by: Sneryll Murphy, Deputy Clerk, 902.490-4211

Working Together for a Better Tomorrow

January 27, 2016

Councillor Lorelei Nicoll, Chair
Harbour East – Marine Drive Community Council

Re: Request for Area Rate Funding

Dear Madam Chair:

The Musquodoboit Harbour Chamber of Commerce and Civic Affairs is seeking the support of the Harbour East – Marine Drive Community Council to access area rate funds in the amount of \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars) to be used as partial funding of a Master Conceptual Plan (MCP) proposed by Ekistics Plan and Design. The MCP put forward by Ekistics Plan and Design carries a cost of \$30,920 +HST for Phase I and an additional \$20,040 +HST for Phase II. This request comes on behalf of the communities served by the MHACCCA – Musquodoboit Harbour to West Ship Harbour (as per HRM Municipal Planning Strategy for Eastern Shore West) in consultation with and the full support of our municipal representative Councillor David Hendsbee. The Chamber is also seeking funding for this proposal from the Province of Nova Scotia via our MLA Kevin Murphy and federally through our MP Sean Fraser who has offered his support of our application to an ACOA funding stream. The Chamber is also including community and business raised funds in support of this project.

The Master Conceptual Plan, Phase I and Phase II, will be the visual and financial strategic plan that brings together over 10 years of HRM led and approved community visioning (2005-2007). This body of work was reaffirmed in 2014 via HRM's Check-in document. It has been adopted by the Chamber in 2013 as a key document in our mandate to revitalize Musquodoboit Harbour as HRM's sanctioned "rural growth centre", a centre that eastern rural communities rely on for critical core services as they live their daily lives.

At the very heart of this plan is community. The 2007 Visioning document explores all aspects of rural planning building on what currently exists and most importantly identifying what the citizenry sees as what should exist and what could exist if there is a plan for sustainable development. Musquodoboit Harbour already has a well defined sector of basic services (education, health care, HRM Library, RCMP, industrial park, core businesses) as well as being a desirable place to live (since 1996 our area has grown 12.9% based on Community Counts statistics). We have several key elements of recreation infrastructure that are well utilized (rink, HRM fitness centre, trails, beaches, ESDH) that would greatly benefit from a co-hesive plan to upgrade and integrate them more fully into a Master Conceptual Plan that supports all of our residents along the continuum.

Musquodoboit Harbour and surrounding communities enjoy a broad range of age groups – youth, seniors, families, retirees – all of whom are looking for a broad range of accessible, inclusive and varied recreational activities within a reasonable proximity to their homes. Through the Ekistics Plan and Design community consultation process, we will produce a Master Conceptual Plan that follows realistic best practices such as the recently released Province of Nova Scotia, Department of Health and

January 27, 2016
Councillor Lorelei Nicoll, Chair
Harbour East – Marine Drive Community Council
Page 2

Wellness: Shared Strategy for Advancing Recreation in Nova Scotia which has adopted A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015 Pathways to Wellbeing. A main focus of this strategy is the promotion of active transportation and recreation and the refurbishing of existing structures and spaces for multiple purposes such as recreation (e.g. Use of schools, churches, vacant land).

Our request to the Harbour East – Marine Drive Community Council is to access assistance from the Musquodoboit Harbour Area Rate. We believe this request is supported by the over-arching theme of Musquodoboit Harbour itself as an accessible well planned walking community that ties together the existing recreational amenities for the communities living within the Musquodoboit Harbour to West Ship Harbour communities and the future number of tourists will grow exponentially as the Bay of Island projects unfolds. The ACOA Strategic Tourism Expansion Project (STEP) Working group has recently expanded their territory to include Musquodoboit Harbour to Sherbrooke naming Musquodoboit Harbour as the “gateway to the Eastern Shore”. MHACCCA Director Karen Mitchell has recently been appointed to the STEP Working Group.

This Plan is crucial to our communities taking control of their future and building upon the solid work started by HRM planners in 2005 when they named Musquodoboit Harbour as a “hub centre” and later on as a “rural growth centre”. The Musquodoboit Harbour Chamber of Commerce and Civic Affairs, along with our municipal Councillor David Hendsbee respectfully request access to this funding and in return we will produce a well rounded financially-costed plan that is shovel-ready to access opportunities that will bring to life the communities vision . ***It all starts with the Ekistics Plan. Our Chamber in partnership with HRM will become agents for change and have the ability to fully engage in the revitalization of our communities.***

Attached please find a copy of the Ekistics proposal as well as links to the other documents cited in this request for funding. The Chamber looks forward to the opportunity to present this request to you at an upcoming meeting of the Harbour East – Marine Drive Community Council and to engage with you in meaningful dialogue about our exciting plans.

Respectfully submitted by,

Original Signed

 Margo Hudson, Chair
Musquodoboit Harbour Chamber of Commerce and Civic Affairs

cc: Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant, Municipal Clerk's Office
Attachments: Ekistics Master Conceptual Plan pdf
link: see attached page

Recently released from Dept of Health and Wellness: Shared Strategy for Advancing Recreation in Nova Scotia http://www.novascotia.ca/dhw/pasr/documents/15-41323_recreation_report_web.pdf

The recreation sector in Nova Scotia has adopted A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015 – Pathways to Wellbeing as their guiding framework and will focus this strategy on the directions and priorities most relevant to our provincial context.

http://lin.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/Framework%20For%20Recreation%20In%20Canada_EN.pdf See page 26-28

Goal 4 Supportive Environments:

Walking, biking, wheeling and skating are modes of active transportation and active recreation. Good walking environments and well-designed multipurpose trails encourage walking, cycling and wheeling and enable recreational experiences during daily commutes to work, school or other places in the community. Ideally, all parts of a well-maintained walking environment are integrated and connected to make it easy for pedestrians to move through the community to a variety of destinations.

Priorities

4.1 Provide recreation facilities and outdoor spaces in under-resourced communities (including on-reserve and in remote and rural areas), based on community and/or regional needs and resources.

4.2 Work with partners to increase the use of existing structures and spaces for multiple purposes, including recreation (e.g. use of schools, churches, vacant land and lots).

4.3 Enable communities to renew recreational infrastructure as required and to meet the need for green spaces by:

- securing dedicated government funding at all levels, as well as partnerships with the private and notfor-profit sectors for the necessary development, renewal and rehabilitation of facilities and outdoor spaces
- developing assessment tools and evidence-based guidelines for investing and reinvesting in aging recreation infrastructure
- developing and adopting innovative renewal strategies that will endure over time, use less energy and provide affordable access for all.

4.4 Lead and support community efforts and planning processes for active transportation and public transit. Participate in the planning and design of communities to encourage the placement of workplaces, schools, shops libraries, parks, and sport and recreation facilities in close proximity so that active modes of transportation are easier to use. Encourage development and maintenance of active transportation routes that connect people to the places they want to go.

4.5 Enhance mental and social wellbeing by creating supportive social environments in the settings where people live, learn, work and play. This requires strengthened partnerships with schools, social service groups, the arts community, law enforcement, transportation and urban planners, community organizations and the private sector.

4.6 Develop and implement targeted recreation education campaigns that increase knowledge about how recreation contributes to enjoyment and quality of life, and help people acquire the skills and attitudes they need to plan for making recreation a part of their lives

4.7 Develop a common understanding of community wellbeing through the development and use of standardized assessment tools and indices that will help assess and measure their status on community wellbeing

4.8 Adopt a strategic approach to community building that features alignment and collaboration with other community initiatives (e.g. Age-Friendly Communities, Healthy Cities/Communities, Community Food Centres).