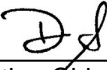




P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 11.1.2
Halifax Regional Council
November 17, 2020

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed by 
Denise Schofield, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: October 13, 2020

SUBJECT: Moosehead – Community Name Correction

ORIGIN

June 18, 2019 motion of Regional Council:

“MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee that Halifax Regional Council request a staff report to consider correction of the community name of Moosehead to Moose Head.”

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter (HRM Charter), Part XII, Street and Highways. S.323.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council maintain the current spelling of the community of Moosehead.

BACKGROUND

Since 1897, official place names have been authorized through a national committee known today as the Geographical Names Board of Canada (GNBC). The GNBC creates and promotes the use of geographical naming standards across Canada. Names are recorded in a national authoritative register known as the Canadian Geographical Names Database. Official place names are the ones that appear on government maps¹.

The community of Moosehead is located on the eastern shore of the Halifax Regional Municipality between the communities of Harrigan Cove and Moser River, a map of which is included within Attachment A. The GNBC has recognized the settlement of Moosehead since 1939 and HRM officially ratified the community name and its boundaries at their meeting on October 30, 2007.

Currently both the Halifax Regional Municipality and the GMBC spell the community as one word, Moosehead. There have been no other official spellings of the community recorded.

Over the years both spellings, Moosehead and Moose Head, have been used on official documents and maps and there is interest in the community to have the name changed to the two-word spelling.

DISCUSSION

Although there is no official requirement for the Municipality to spell their community names exactly the same way as the GNBC, the municipality recognizes that geographical naming is the responsibility of the GNBC and every effort is sought to have the spelling of municipal community names match those listed in the Canadian Geographical Names Database.

As per the policy in Admin Order 29, any community at risk of being affected by major changes in their boundaries shall be informed and consulted before, during and after the process. Staff have interpreted this policy to include any proposed changes in the spelling of the community name.

The Province of Nova Scotia accepts renaming applications for any geographic feature on behalf of the GNBC. Civic Addressing staff completed an application to rename the community name of Moosehead to Moose Head and submitted it to the province for review. The following are the steps required to have a geographic name changed. Each step must be completed and approved before the next step can be undertaken:

1. Review by the Nova Scotia representative on the Geographical Names Board of Canada (further research and field investigation may be completed).
2. Obtain community support (strong support is required – minimum of 75% of property owners within the community must be in favour of the proposal).
3. Approval of local Municipal Council.
4. MLA support.
5. Submission of Council minutes and letter of support from the MLA, which are reviewed by the GNBC.

Civic Addressing staff received confirmation from the Province that the initial review was approved as there was evidence that the community name has been spelled both as Moosehead and Moose Head.

The Province and the Municipality agreed to a joint consultation project and on June 19, 2020 forty-nine letters (Attachment A) were sent to all the property owners in Moosehead. The letter invited each property owner to complete an online survey (Attachment A) managed by the Province or to submit their feedback directly to HRM Civic Addressing. Property owners had until August 28, 2020 to provide their feedback. The letter stated that non-response to the letter would be considered support for the name change from

¹ <https://geonova.novascotia.ca/place-names>

Moosehead to Moose Head.

During the feedback period, 30 (61%) of the 49 property owners responded to the letters. The results of the feedback are as follows:

	# of Property Owners	
In Support of the Name Change	6	12%
Not in Support of the Name Change	24	49%
Unresponsive	19	39%
TOTAL	49	

As the letter indicated that a non-response would be counted as agreeing with the proposed spelling change to Moose Head, the total property owners in favour is 25 (51%). As the Province requires strong community support (at least 75% in favour) the process will not proceed past this step in their process. Therefore, it is recommended that the community name Moosehead be retained.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The recommendation of this report does not have any financial implications. Any modification to the spelling of the community name Moosehead would require changes to existing signs. There are two 3'x 6' community signs that would require replacement, at a total cost of approximately \$1,000.00. Current Planning have funds to cover this expense in their approved budget for signage, C420-GL6910.

RISK CONSIDERATION

There are no significant risks associated with the recommendations contained within this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The community engagement process is consistent with the intent of the HRM Community Engagement Strategy. As per Policy 13 of Admin Order 29 the level of community engagement was notification and consultation with affected property owners. As per the standard consultation process all property owners in the community of Moosehead (49) were consulted by mail.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

No environmental implications were identified.

ALTERNATIVES

Regional Council may choose to change the spelling of the community of Moosehead to Moose Head. This alternative is not recommended as the GNBC would not approve this spelling change and the Municipal spelling and the GNBC spelling would no longer be the same.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Moosehead Letter

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Gayle Maclean, Civic Addressing Coordinator 902.719.9102

ATTACHMENT A – MOOSEHEAD LETTER

June 19, 2020

«Owner1 »
«Address1 »
«City»
«Postal_Code»

Dear Sir or Madam,

RE: Community of Moosehead

Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) is working in cooperation with the Province of Nova Scotia to gather feedback on a recent application to change the spelling of the community Moosehead to Moose Head.

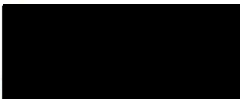
An application has been submitted proposing that the original historical spelling of the community was Moose Head. Deed analysis has provided evidence that the spelling was originally Moose Head. HRM and the Province are inviting residents in the community to provide their input regarding the proposed spelling change. Please note that the change in spelling to the community name will also lead to spelling changes for any geographic features and/or roads named after the Moosehead community.

The preferred method of feedback is an online survey you can complete at this website address:
<https://surveys.gov.ns.ca/Moosehead>

However, if you would prefer to give your feedback by email, phone or mail, please use the attached survey. We welcome all responses and feedback, to demonstrate if there is community support for this change. If you support the change, but do not have feedback to provide, your non-response will be considered support for the change. We will be collecting feedback up to **August 28, 2020**.

Please feel free to contact me anytime during office hours (weekdays 8:30-4:30 by telephone at 902.490.4105 or you can email me at macleag@halifax.ca or by mail to Civic Addressing at PO Box 1749, Halifax NS B3J 3A5.

Sincerely,



Gayle MacLean
Civic Addressing Coordinator
Tel 902.490.4105
Email macleag@halifax.ca

COMMUNITY NAME SPELLING CHANGE SURVEY

The Nova Scotia Geographic Names Program would like your input regarding the spelling of the community name Moosehead.

Eligibility

Please complete the following survey if the following criteria apply to you:

- Are you 18 years of age or older?
 Yes
 No
- What is your civic address? (i.e. 160 Willow Street, Amherst, Cumberland)

- Provide Full Name: _____
- Provide Valid Email Address: _____
- Provide Telephone Number: _____

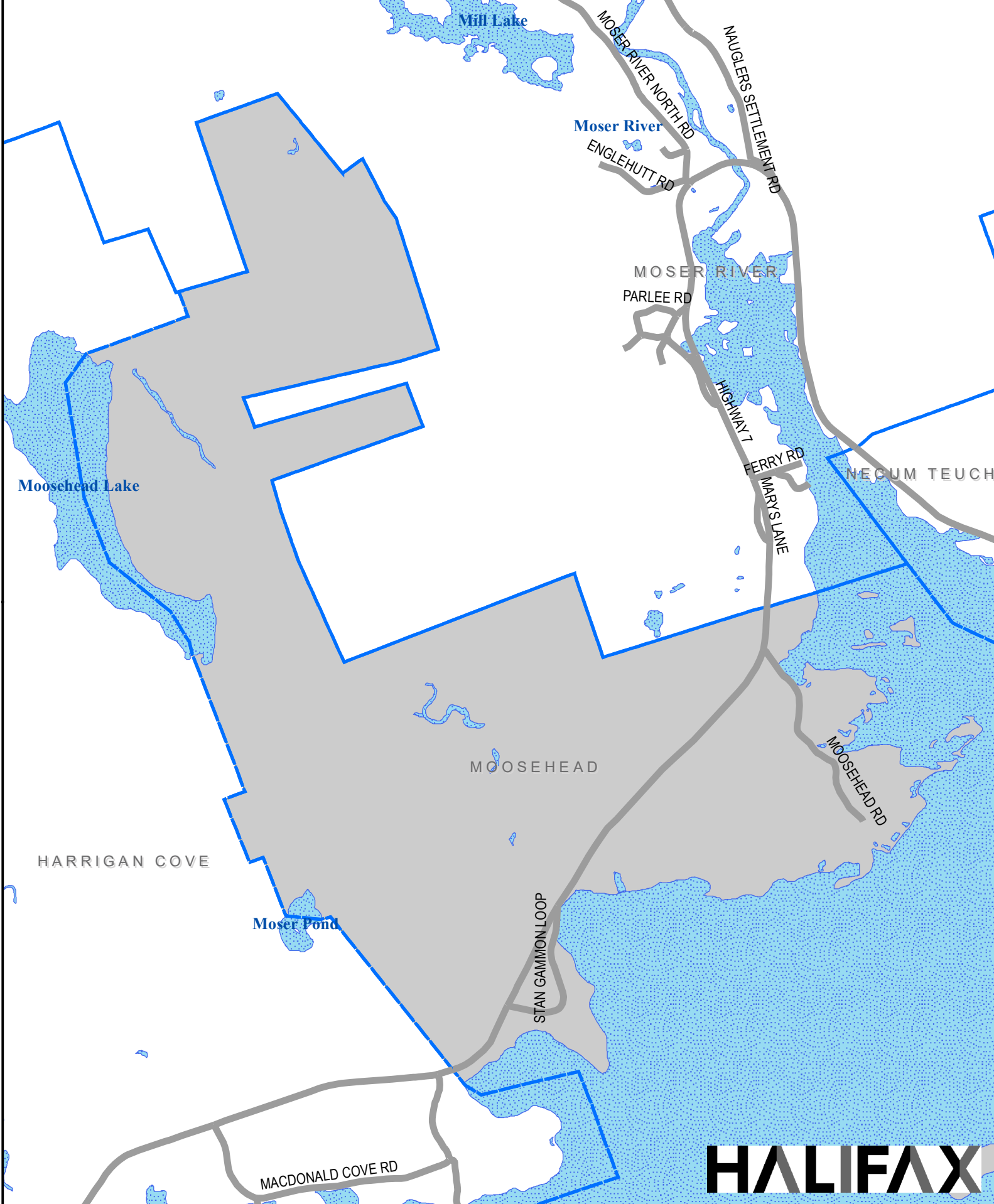
Proposed official name: Moose Head (please review the attached map)

- Do you support officially changing the spelling of Moosehead to Moose Head?
 Yes
 No
- As there are other geographic features named after the community, if the community name spelling changes, they will change as well. Do you support officially changing the following?
-Moosehead Lake to Moose Head Lake Yes No
-Moosehead Brook to Moose Head Brook Yes No
-Moosehead Cove to Moose Head Cove Yes No
- If no, why? Do you have any other comments or information you would like to provide? (please use reverse side for comments)

Disclaimer of Participation

Participating in this survey/petition and providing feedback helps the Province of NS manage the Geographic Names Program. The personal information that you provide will only be used to help determine if the name change request listed in this survey is supported or not supported by residents in the area of the name change, which is integral to geographic naming decisions. Your name, address and support for or against the change may be shared at Municipal Council for the purpose of accepting any name change that has community support. If you do not feel comfortable with how the Province plans on using the survey or the feedback that you provide, you are not obligated to take the survey and can withdraw your response at any time. Providing personal information in answers that do not specifically ask for it is discouraged.





HALIFAX

Moosehead

This map was compiled by the staff of the Civic Addressing Program. HRM Civic Addressing takes responsibility only for civic address information portrayed in the map. Other information is the responsibility of the province of Nova Scotia and HRM takes no responsibility for its accuracy or currency

