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Item No. 13.2.1
Halifax and West Community Council
June 27, 2017

TO: Chair and Members of the Halifax and West Community Council

SUBMITTED BY: **Original signed**

Tom Musial, Chair of Western Common Advisory Committee

DATE: May 29, 2017

SUBJECT: Removal of all Derelict, Dangerous, and/or Unsightly Campsites within the
Western Common Regional Park

ORIGIN

Motion from the May 24, 2017 Western Common Advisory Committee meeting.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Section 5(a) of the Terms of Reference of the Western Common Advisory Committee states:

The Municipality's management of the Western Common will be guided by the following objectives:
(a) protection of valuable ecological and cultural assets;

Section 6(b) of the Terms of Reference of the Western Common Advisory Committee states:

The Committee shall monitor the phased development of the Western Common and advise Council, through the Halifax and West Community Council, on the community perspective of the implementation of the Master Plan as follows:

(b) the Committee shall advise Council on environmental sustainability in the Park, including:

- (i) public access and wilderness recreation programming;*
- (ii) impact of land uses, within and adjacent to the Western Common, on the Park;*
- (iii) ecological diversity and connectivity;*
- (iv) cultural landscapes; and*
- (v) park operational matters.*

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Halifax and West Community Council recommend that Halifax Regional Council request staff to remove all derelict, dangerous, and/or unsightly campsites within the Western Common Regional Park.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

The Western Common Advisory Committee raised concerns at its January 25, 2017 meeting about illegal, derelict and unsightly campsites along Otter Lake and Old St. Margaret's Bay Road (Old Halifax Road) within the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area. Members were told that Parks and Recreation staff are aware of these campsites, but are limited in accessing them and are cautiously approaching campsite users. RCMP has been notified of the issues of illegal campsites and responds accordingly to enforce the by-law. HRM Parks and Recreation staff will continue to work with the RCMP as needed relating to illegal and derelict campsites in the Wilderness Common to ensure safety of park users.

The Committee discussed how signage might be used to inform the public about areas where campsites are not permitted and the consequences of building such campsites. They also discussed how community groups could identify existing sites and communicate this information to municipal park staff. Members agreed to draft a motion for consideration at their next meeting.

The Committee passed a motion at their May 23, 2017 meeting recommending that Halifax and West Community Council recommend that Halifax Regional Council request staff to remove all derelict, dangerous, and/or unsightly campsites within the Western Common Regional Park.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications will need to be identified by staff in a future report.

RISK CONSIDERATION

Risk considerations will need to be identified by staff in a future report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Western Common Advisory Committee is an advisory committee to the Halifax and West Community Council and is comprised of eight members of the public and one appointed member of Halifax and West Common Council. The meetings are open to the public and the agendas and minutes are posted online in advance of the meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The environmental implications will need to be identified by staff in a future report.

ALTERNATIVES

The committee did not provide alternatives.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

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.

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