

HALIFAX

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Item No. 14.1.3
Halifax Regional Council
January 16, 2018

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:

Original Signed by 

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: November 21, 2017

SUBJECT: **Appointment of Heritage Officers**

ORIGIN

As a requirement of the Nova Scotia *Heritage Property Act*, Regional Council must appoint a Heritage Officer when a Heritage Conservation District is established.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Heritage Property Act, R.S.N.S., c. 199

Heritage Conservation District Regulations, NS Reg 138/92

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Regional Council appoint Aaron Murnaghan as the Heritage Officer and Jacob Ritchie as an Alternate Heritage Officer pursuant to Sections 19G(1) and 19G(2) of the *Heritage Property Act*, and that these appointments be effective for the duration of their current conditions of employment with the Halifax Regional Municipality.

BACKGROUND

Section 19G of the *Heritage Property Act* of Nova Scotia requires a municipality to appoint a Heritage Officer when a Heritage Conservation District is established. The Heritage Officer is responsible for the administration of the conservation plans and bylaws associated with Heritage Conservation District(s), as well as the issuance of Certificates of Appropriateness. The Act also provides for the appointment of an alternate(s) who can act instead of the Officer during their absence.

With the adoption of the Barrington Street Heritage Conservation District in 2009, Regional Council appointed a Heritage Officer and an Alternate Heritage Officer. The Heritage Officer is responsible for the administration of the Barrington Street Heritage Conservation District Plan and By-law and the issuance of Certificates of Appropriateness for development within the District.

In 2015, Regional Council initiated two separate processes to establish two additional Heritage Conservation Districts in Schmitville and in the Old South Suburb (Barrington Street South). The Heritage Officer will also be responsible for the administration of the Plans and By-laws for these two new Heritage Conservation Districts and for the issuance of Certificates of Appropriateness once these Districts are established.

DISCUSSION

Maggie Holm, the currently appointed Heritage Officer, has assuming another position within Planning and Development and is no longer working on heritage files. Aaron Murnaghan is now the Principal Planner for the heritage properties program and is being recommended for appointment as the Heritage Officer. Kurt Pyle, Program Manager of Social and Economic Research, is the existing Alternate Heritage Officer and is temporarily managing the heritage division. Jacob Ritchie is the permanent manager of the heritage properties program and is recommended to be appointed as a second Alternate Heritage Officer to ensure business continuity for the program in the future.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications associated with this report.

RISK CONSIDERATION

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement is not applicable to this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental implications.

ALTERNATIVES

Council may choose not to appoint the new Heritage Officer and Alternate Heritage Officer, in which case Maggie Holm would remain as Heritage Officer. This is not recommended as Ms. Holm's current duties do not include responsibilities associated with the administration of heritage conservation districts.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

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.

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