

Heritage Advisory Committee

Request for financial assistance and amend an existing Heritage Agreement with St. Paul's Church, 1749 Argyle Street, Halifax

September 26th 2018

Location



HALIFAX

Background

- HRM is currently working through a multi-year project to conserve and improve the appearance of City Hall and Grand Parade.
- St. Paul's Church formally entered into a heritage agreement with HRM in 2017 to finance the restoration of the ironstone retaining walls and cast iron fencing which surround the church and date back to 1843. The walls are deteriorating and are in a full state of collapse in some areas.
- The walls are of structural importance as well as aesthetic, and support significant municipal infrastructure including sidewalks, although the walls themselves fall along the shared property line.
- Built in 1750, St. Paul's Church is the oldest building in Halifax, the oldest Anglican church in Canada, and is both a provincially and municipally registered heritage property as well as a national historic site.



St. Paul's Church on Grand Parade

Condition of the Wall

2012 Conservation Plan Report:

“walls around St. Paul’s Church require immediate intervention...Regardless of the source of the damage there are several sections of the wall that are in complete failure. Overall, there are sections along Argyle Street are in very poor condition with some sections of wall being braced up with metal rods, and large pieces of cast iron cap missing and gaps are appearing in the rail as it deteriorates. Therefore, it is recommended that immediate action is taken.”



2017 Approved Funding

- In November 2017 the Church received \$500,000 towards reconstruction of the walls, 50% cost shared with Parks Canada under the **National Cost-Sharing Program for Heritage Places**.
- Under this proposal, the municipality provided \$250,000 as well as tendering and coordinating the work. The federal government provided the remaining \$250,000. This funding resulted in the successful restoration of 75ft of wall by Schooner Excavation Ltd.
- The Heritage Agreement with the church included obligations to conserve the building, increase public access to the property, and waive the right to demolish or substantially alter the property under section 18 of the NS Heritage Property Act. The municipality was also granted a 'right of first refusal' to purchase the property if it should ever be offered for sale.

Before and After



HALIFAX

2018 Requested Funding

- HRM has been offered an additional \$75,000 by Parks Canada for expansion of the project in 2018. The combined, cost-shared amount of \$150,000 would go towards wall and fence restoration, design and archaeological services, project management costs and infrastructure work.
- The expanded scope of the project will include the restoration of an additional 25 feet of retaining wall.
- The Heritage Agreement approved in 2017 will be amended to reflect the expanded area of restoration.

Legislative Authority

The Heritage Property Act, R.S.N.S. 1989, c.199

Section 20

The Minister may enter into an agreement with the owner of a provincial heritage property, and the council may enter into an agreement with the owner of a municipal heritage property or property located in a heritage conservation district, whereby the owner grants to the Minister or the council a right or incurs an obligation respecting the use, preservation or protection of the heritage property or property located in a heritage conservation district.

Section 22

The Minister, subject to the approval of the Governor in Council, may provide financial assistance in respect of provincial heritage property and the Council may provide financial assistance in respect of municipal heritage property or property located in a heritage conservation district to any person to assist in the restoration or renovation of such property upon such terms and conditions as the Minister or the Council, as the case may be, deems fit.

Financial Implications

The planned restoration project cost of \$150,000 will be funded from the two following sources:

General Contingency Reserve (Q421)	\$75,000
National Cost-Sharing Program for Heritage Places	<u>\$75,000</u>
Total Funding for Wall & Fence Restoration	\$150,000

The HRM Costs associated with developing the Heritage Agreement and project management costs can be accommodated within the approved 2018/19 budget.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the **Heritage Advisory Committee** recommend that Regional Council:

1. Approve the provision of in-kind financial assistance of a value up to \$150,000, with a municipal cost of \$75,000 for the Parish of St. Paul's for the continued restoration of the perimeter ironstone wall and fence in accordance with the Heritage Agreement dated November 24th 2017, conditional on:
 - a) The execution of an amendment to the Heritage Agreement and its subsequent registration; and
 - b) the execution of a Contribution Agreement with the Government of Canada.

Authorize the CAO to negotiate, and the Mayor and Clerk to Execute, an amending agreement to the November 24th 2017 Heritage Agreement to include:

- a) The provision of in-kind financial assistance up to \$150,000;
- b) The identification of a new area to be restored; and
- c) The completion date of the new work, being no later than March 31st 2019.