



"for the use of the inhabitants of the town of Halifax as Common forever" (1763-2021)

May 5, 2021,

Mayor Mike Savage and HRM Councilors
PO Box 1749, Halifax, NS
B3J 3A5

Your Worship and HRM Councillors:

Re: Halifax Common Legislation

We are writing to ask HRM Council to adopt a resolution requesting the Province to amend the HRM Charter to incorporate specific sections setting out governance and rules for the Halifax Common. There are several reasons for this:

- It is an anomaly that there are HRM Charter provisions that govern the Dartmouth Common but none equivalent that govern the Halifax Common.
- HRM is in the position of needing to seek legislation from the Province in order to authorize any construction on the Halifax Common.
- The first set of policies for the Halifax Common was adopted by the former City of Halifax in 1994 and needs updating; a process is underway but seems to be stalled. This illustrates some measure of neglect of what is a central physical feature of the Halifax Peninsula.

- Overall, the land-use dynamics of the Halifax Peninsula have evolved significantly since 1994, with the Common being regularly subject to pressures that undermine its integrity.
- Only 20% of the 240 acre Common remains as public open space. The Centre Plan will add 15-30,000 new residents in the urban core but no new public open space. Unless we give the Common greater protection with better governance and regulations it will continue to shrink in spite of greater need.

Based on the provisions of the HRM Charter that deal with the Dartmouth Common, we have drafted an outline of possible content for a Bill to set out governance and some rules for the Halifax Common. The outline is attached.

We would like to formally request a meeting to discuss this proposal with you and any members of Council or staff.

We look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes,

Friends of Halifax Common Board of Directors,

Original Signed

Peggy Cameron,

Original Signed

Howard Epstein,

Original Signed

Bev Miller,

Original Signed

David Garrett,

Original Signed

Alan Ruffman

Original Signed

Judith Fingard

Cc: Halifax area MLAs
Enclosure

Attachment : HRM Charter Proposal

*follow s.66 of the HRM Charter

*alter s.66(1) to include all of the original Crown Grant

*omit s.66(5) [Dartmouth specific]

*add that HRM shall seek to bring back into ownership of the municipality and portions of it not now owned

*add that until a new Master Plan has been adopted as policy for land use, the 1994 Master Plan shall apply