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Southdale Future Growth Node Planning Process

Regional Watersheds Advisory Board

Thursday, March 10, 2022

Project Introduction

Initiated by: Halifax Regional Council

Landowners: A.J. Legrow Holdings Limited, represented by Clayton Developments & Zzap; 101 Research Drive: Portucana Holdings

Location: Southdale Future Growth Node (lands North of Mount Hope Ave, North-West of Highway 111 Exit 8, 101 Research Drive lands)

Proposal: Initiate Master Neighbourhood Planning; Municipal Plan Amendment and Development Agreement





Regional Plan Overview

- Regional Plan Designation
 - > 2006 Regional Plan, 2014 Update
 - Urban Settlement
 - Support for serviced development
- Regional Urban Local Growth Centres
 - Medium to high density residential uses, access to transit, and provision of mixed uses, preserve the wetland
 - Consider the Penhorn/Woodlawn (2009) and Woodside Community Vision Statement (2011) when preparing secondary municipal planning strategies
- Housing
 - > Council must consider ways to encourage housing affordability
 - May include things such as housing mix, reduced lot dimensions, or housing for specific vulnerable populations

Urban Settlement Urban Reserve Harbour



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Woodside Vision & Action Plan (2011)

- Vision: "Our community shines as a destination with a rich history tied to the diverse people who live, work and care about Woodside."
- Key assets such as ferry terminal & transit service, local schools, NSCC, hospital, industrial park
- FGN an opportunity to implement actions from this vision and leverage assets through comprehensive planning process



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Penhorn Vision & Action Plan (2009)

- Vision (excerpt): "The Penhorn/Woodlawn community is composed of several unique neighbourhoods connected by a shared history, lakes, parks, streets, local community institutions and commercial areas."
- Key assets such as residential neighbourhods, commercial services, transit service, lakes, wetland, trails that overlapped with the Woodside Visioning area
- FGN an opportunity to implement actions from this vision and leverage assets through comprehensive planning process





Policy & By-law Overview

Regional Centre Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy & Land Use By-law (Centre Plan)

o Designation (Community Plan)

➢ Future Growth Node (FGN)

o Zone (Land Use By-law)

Comprehensive Development District 1 (CDD-1)

Existing Uses

> Woodland, wetland, office building



Policy & By-law Overview



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Regional Centre Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy (Centre Plan)

Future Growth Nodes (FGN)

- Large sites which can accommodate growth
- *Master planning* to create policy for parks, trails, public streets, infrastructure, land uses, bonus zoning provisions etc.
- Development Agreements:
 - Specific location of parks, roads, trails, buildings, design of buildings & other details
 - Can allow development under specific zones & LUB provisions

Planning Process: Part 1 - We Are Here Slide 8

Regional Centre Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy (Centre Plan)

Master Planning Process

- Public feedback
- Detailed review of environmental features, site context, traffic statement, infrastructure and culture and heritage assessments
- Policies and high-level concept plan:
 - Overall site plan
 - Location of important connections (roads, trails)
 - Location and general scale of development (ex: low rise, mid-rise)

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- General land uses (ex: residential, commercial)
- Buffering, landscaping, stormwater, environment
- Considered by Regional Council

Planning Process: Part 2

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Regional Centre Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy (Centre Plan)

Development Agreement Process

- A development agreement enables construction of a project under local planning policy
- A binding legal contract between HRM and landowner
- Public feedback
- Specific details on parks, building design, land uses, number of units, lighting, materials, bonus zoning, phasing, roads and more
- Considered by Harbour East Marine Drive Community Council

Planning Process: Part 3

Permitting and Subdivision

- After planning policy and development agreements are approved
- Subdivision for streets and lots
 - Wetland cannot be altered unless provincial approval is granted
 - Street and infrastructure design must comply with municipal and Halifax Water standards (stormwater, roads, etc)
 - Subdivision involves HRM internal review, Province, other agencies
- Permit review for each building
 - Compliance with land use by-law, development agreement, building codes, etc.

Wetland + Environment

- Wetland alteration is the jurisdiction of the Province
- Alteration requires provincial review + approval
- HRM requires a minimum 20 metre buffer from wetlands and watercourses
- Paths, driveways, roads and infrastructure are permitted within the buffer
- Stormwater management practices may include innovative ways
 of capturing runoff
- Wetland may be transferred to municipality as part of development process

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Wetland + Environment

- Future Growth Node: policies require a land suitability assessment
- Halifact 2050: protect sensitive green spaces, create climateinformed stormwater management plans and reduce urban sprawl
- Green Network Plan: recognizes the importance of wetlands and buffers
- **Urban Forest Plan:** municipal street trees, retention through screening and buffering with existing vegetation + new tree planting for new development
- Subdivision By-law: requires parkland dedication



Planning Process

Project Initiated by Regional Council

HRM Internal Circulation & Review

Public Meeting & Questionnaire

Draft Policy and development agreement prepared

Public Input on drafts

Policy Recommendations to Regional Council + Public Hearing

Development Agreement to Community Council

14-day Appeal

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- Two proposals have been submitted
- Specific development proposals cannot be considered on the site until policies are approved by Regional Council
- The landowners submit studies for review and are engaged during the policy phase
- Proposals are shared with the public for feedback
- More engagement will take place on proposed policies at a later date

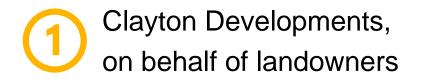
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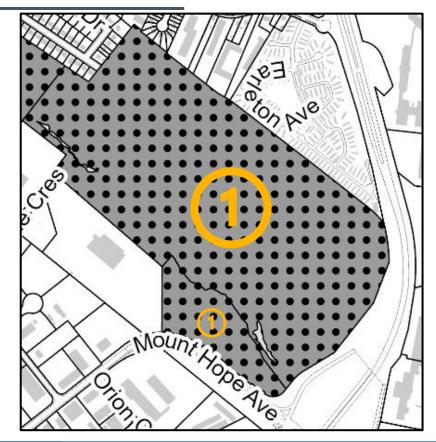
Clayton Developments, on behalf of landowners





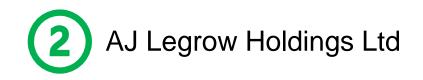
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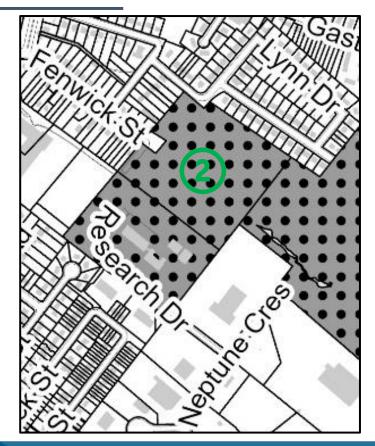






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Thank you

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