

Request for North West Community Council Consideration

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agenda Item
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least 5 working days prior to the meeting) | <input type="checkbox"/> Added Item
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least one working day prior to meeting) | <input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor |
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Date of Meeting: May 16, 2022

Subject: Lucasville Community Association Lucasville-Sackville Black Baptist Cemetery Restoration Funding Request

Motion for North West Community Council to Consider:

That North West Community Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to provide \$50,000, or the maximum amount available up to \$50,000, from the Sackville Landfill Community Compensation Fund to the Lucasville Community Association to fund the restoration of the Lucasville-Sackville Black Baptist Cemetery project to help with restoration costs in replacing/repairing fencing, restoring headstones and clearing of debris and, that the funds be provided as soon as this request is received.

Reason:

Dating back to 1832, the original settlers and descendants of the Lucasville Community historically buried their loved ones in the back corner of the cemetery, when black Nova Scotians were not permitted to be laid to rest along side white Nova Scotians. In 2018 The Chronicle Herald (Saltwire) published an article indicating work being done by the Lucasville Community Association (LCA), along side Deacon Irma Oliver-Riley of the Lucasville United Baptist Church, in an effort to obtain heritage status for the cemetery. In July 2021, Provincial Heritage Property Designation was achieved. This designation enables the history of the cemetery and our ancestors to remain intact and ensures the legacies of the founding ancestors of Lucasville. The LCA is requesting funds in the amount of \$50,000 to help with restoration costs in replacing/repairing fencing, restoring headstones, clearing of debris, etc.

Outcome Sought:

\$50,000, or the maximum amount available up to \$50,000, from the Sackville Landfill Community Compensation Fund to be provided to the Lucasville Community Association for the Lucasville – Sackville Black Baptist Cemetery project.

Councillor Lisa Blackburn

District 14



596 Lucasville Road
Lucasville, NS B4B 1R9
Tel 902.877.6852

Chair: Debra Lucas

Secretary: Natalie Downey

Treasurer: Carol Oliver

May 3, 2022

VIA EMAIL: LISA.BLACKBURN@HALIFAX.CA/2 PAGES

Councillor Lisa Blackburn, District 14
Halifax City Hall
PO Box 1749
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

Dear Councillor Blackburn:

Re: Lucasville-Sackville Black Baptist Cemetery - Landfill Compensation Fund Support

I am writing this correspondence in support of a request for support in the form of funding for restoring the Lucasville-Sackville Black Baptist Cemetery on Old Sackville Road.

Dating back to 1832, the original settlers and descendants of the Lucasville Community historically buried their loved ones in the back corner of the cemetery, when black Nova Scotians were not permitted to be laid to rest along side white Nova Scotians.

In 2018 The Chronicle Herald (Saltwire) published an article indicating work being done by the Lucasville Community Association (LCA), along side Deacon Irma Oliver-Riley of the Lucasville United Baptist Church, in an effort to obtain heritage status for the cemetery (attached). In July 2021, Provincial Heritage Property Designation was achieved. This designation enables the history of the cemetery and our ancestors to remain intact and ensures the legacies of the founding ancestors of Lucasville.

The LCA is requesting funds in the amount of \$50,000 to help with restoration costs in replacing/repairing fencing, restanding/restoring headstones, clearing of debris, etc.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions, concerns or require additional information.

I thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Yours truly,

Debra Lucas
Chair

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Lucasville Community Association aims to clean up local cemetery

[Suzanne Rent](#) | Posted: Dec. 3, 2018, 11:06 a.m. | Updated: Dec. 3, 2018, 11:06 a.m. | 2 Min Read



Irma Oliver Riley (left) and Debra Lucas are working to get heritage status for the cemetery located at the back of Sackville United Baptist Church, where their ancestors have been buried since 1832. They are meeting with HRM and provincial officials on Tuesday, Dec. 4, at the Wallace Lucas Community Centre to talk about the project. - Suzanne Rent

The Lucasville Community Association is working to get heritage status for their ancestors' final resting place at the cemetery at the Sackville United Baptist Church on Old Sackville Road.

Debra Lucas, the association's vice chair, started working on the project when she took on the role.

"I'd like to have it done sooner than later," Lucas says. "This year coming, I'd like to have it done. It's been too long."

The cemetery dates back to 1832 when the church was built. A cemetery closer to the church is maintained, but the back cemetery where ancestors of Lucasville are buried is overgrown with brush and trees. Many of the headstones are overturned, damaged and hidden under leaves and fallen branches. The mounds of several graves marked with rocks at the head and the foot of each plot are quite visible as you walk through the cemetery.

Lucas says they'd like to get a grant to have the cemetery cleaned up and overgrowth removed, have the headstones repaired and a monument installed, have the cemetery fenced off and create a seating area for families to visit.

Dave Feverill learned about the cemetery in the early 1990s when he was asked by the church to do an inventory and cleanup of the graves in the front cemetery. Feverill, who served as the president of the former Sackville Heritage Society, and a team of summer students cleaned up the area and residents of Lucasville helped identify the graves.

Feverill wrote a book about the cemetery, *The Black Baptist Graveyard*, in 1994 that includes a map of about 80 graves at the site and lists some of those who are buried there, including members of the Lucas, Parsons, Oliver and Kelsey families. Feverill's book notes there could be more graves under an old cart road long ago used to service the graveyard.

"It is an old burial ground and there's so much history there," Feverill says. "I find you are who your parents and grandparents were. You have to have your background to find out who you are. It's important to have these places you can go to."

The HRM is hosting a meeting about the project on Tuesday, Dec. 4, at 11 a.m. at the Wallace Lucas Community Centre.

Lucas invited Irma Oliver Riley, deacon at the Lucasville United Baptist Church, who is researching that church's cemetery, to join in on learning more about the project and the cemetery.

For Lucas and Oliver Riley, the work on the cemetery is just a larger part of their families' histories, which they both have been extensively researching for years and want to save and share for younger generations.

"We want to get everything we possibly can," Oliver Riley says. "Maybe they won't be interested in it, but it will be there if they need it."