

October 17, 2023

HALIFAX

Homelessness Strategy Update

Item 15.1.5

Homelessness crisis

- July 2023 Sleeping rough survey: 178 people, street navigators estimate it has risen to over 200 with 10+ people becoming homeless every week.
- By Name List: 1,014 as of October 10, 2023
- Sleeping rough number expected to double in 8 months

Winter shelter

- Currently no winter shelter confirmed.
- Need space for 80 – 100 people.
- Need to support those that can't or won't be able to go to the shelter.
- The option required to reduce overcrowding.

- Alternative: Support with supplies, equipment and other resources outside sheltering

New designated locations

- Grand Parade: 8 or fewer tents
- Victoria Park: 12 or fewer tents
- The berms on University Avenue: 6 or fewer tents
- Martins Park: 4 or fewer tents
- Beaufort Park: 4 or fewer tents
- Saunders Park: 8 or fewer tents (if required)

Pallet shelter villages

- 100 pallet shelters
- Villages with purposes
- External washrooms
- If over 10 they have a common space
- Power
- 10 weeks delivery



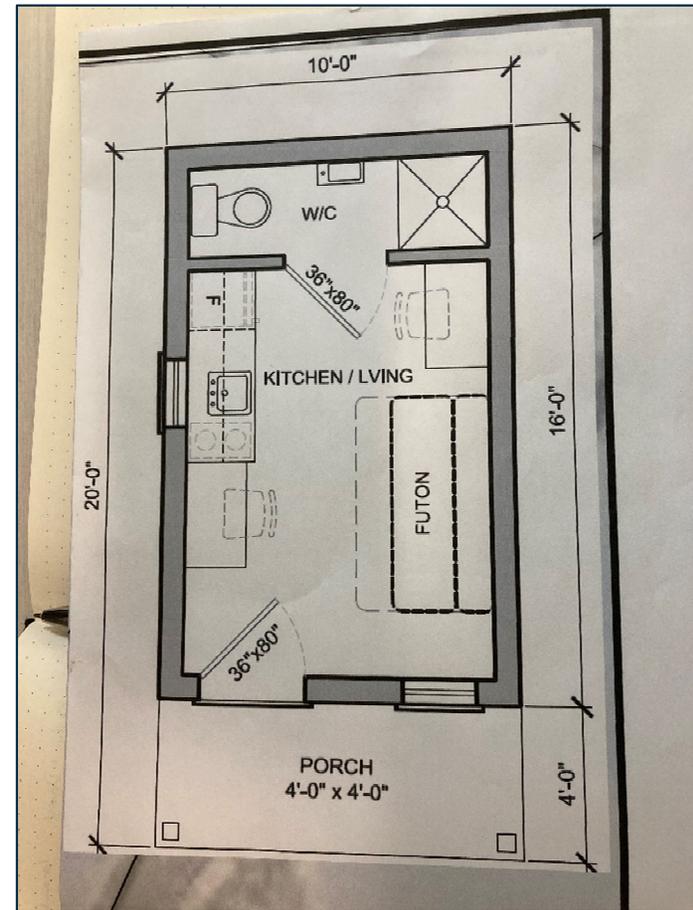
Pallet shelter villages



- Various surplus lands for affordable housing
- Parking lot J
- Side lot of the Sackville Sports Stadium
- Young Street lot of Halifax Forum
- Green Road Encampment Site

Tiny homes pilot

- Former Correctional Ball Field in Sackville
- 50 Units, 30 ready for summer 2024
- Not for profit will run it
- Transition plan for existing encampment



Shubie campground for trailers

- 12 trailers
- No water or showers
- Power
- Road plowed to park standards (Pr. 3)
- Run by campground operator



HRM Contributions

- Some locations
- Site preparation for RVs and Pallet Shelters
- General site maintenance including snow clearing, grounds maintenance, & garbage pick up
- Operational support include allocations and admissions
- Lived expertise consultation

Risks and implications

- No winter shelter
- Closure of a recreation facility space
- Lack of influence or coordination into new sheltering and housing options
- Environmental concerns
- Community support

Recommendation

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council endorse the approaches contained in this report.