

Sherry, Annie

HALIFAX REGIONAL
MUNICIPALITY

December 6, 2023

MUNICIPAL CLERK

From: Office, Clerks
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 2:36 PM
To: Office, Clerks; [REDACTED]
Cc: Sherry, Annie
Subject: RE: [External Email] Distribution of Follow-Up Letter to Halifax Reg
Attachments: Follow-Up Letter to Council.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello Treno Morton,

Your request to present to Regional Council was considered by Regional Council Agenda Review.

In this instance, Regional Council Agenda Review has referred the request to present to Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) Standing Committee Agenda Review for their consideration.

Annie Sherry is the Legislative Assistant for the CPED Standing Committee and will be in touch with you after CPED Agenda Review has considered your request.

Additionally, the Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer have offered to meet with you on this topic directly. To arrange this meeting please contact Kelly MacNamara (macnamk@Halifax.CA) from the Mayor's Office and Gerald Power (Gerald.W.Power@halifax.ca) from the CAO's Office directly to discuss scheduling options.

Your correspondence will also be circulated to Regional Council.

Best wishes,

Laura

LAURA LEWIS
SHE/HER
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CLERK | LEGAL & LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

HALIFAX

Municipal Clerks Office

Date Distributed: May 9, 2024

Committee members, Maggie
MacDonald, Jacqueline Hamilton

Meeting: CPED

Meeting Date: May 16, 2024

Item Number: 10.3.1



The Halifax Regional Municipality is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people. The municipality acknowledges the Peace and Friendship Treaties signed in this Territory and recognizes that we are all Treaty People.

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From: Treno Morton [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 9:41 AM
To: Office, Clerks <clerks@halifax.ca>
Subject: Re: [External Email] Distribution of Follow-Up Letter to Halifax Regional Council

Hi Laura,

Apologies for the delayed response.

Firstly, yes I would like for our first and second letters to be circulated as public correspondence, as I'm aware many members of council have yet to see our initial letter.

Secondly, myself and members of our community land trust would like to present to council to discuss our project and possible outcomes.

If you could please advise me on next steps, and how long approximately until we know when we'd be presenting. If you could please let me know, thanks.

Warm regards,

Treno Morton

On Nov 29, 2023, at 3:31 PM, Office, Clerks <clerks@halifax.ca> wrote:

Hello Treno Morton,

Apologies for our delay in responding to your email of November 22.

Can you provide our office with some clarification on if you are looking to have your email and attachment circulated as [public record correspondence](#) to Mayor, Council and relevant staff or are you requesting to make a [presentation to Regional Council](#).

If you wish to submit it as a request to present, your request be considered during the agenda review process.

Possible outcomes of your request include:

- placement on an agenda
- referral to a different meeting group (standing committee, community council, or other board/committee)
- referral to staff
- determination that only written submissions will be received on the topic
- if subject matter is outside the jurisdiction of the Halifax Regional Municipality, refusal of the request

Please note that if your request to present is approved, your request and any accompanying documentation (i.e. presentation slides, handouts etc.) will form part of the agenda and public record, including being posted on [Halifax.ca](https://www.halifax.ca). Further information regarding presentations is available on our website at <https://www.halifax.ca/city-hall/regional-council/presentations>

Meetings are audio and/or video recorded for the purpose of creating a record of the proceedings. If you do not wish to be recorded, please do not place a request to present; you can provide a written submission instead.

Finally, can you also advise, if the track changes left in the document are ok to leave in as part of circulation or if you'd like to submit a revised version without the comments included.

If we can assist further please let us know,

Laura

**LAURA LEWIS
SHE/HER**

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CLERK | LEGAL & LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

T. 902.490.4210

HALIFAX



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From: Treno Morton <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2023 6:19 PM
To: Office, Clerks <clerks@halifax.ca>
Subject: [External Email] Distribution of Follow-Up Letter to Halifax Regional Council

Hello Leslie,

I hope this message finds you well.

Attached below is a letter addressed to Halifax Regional Council on behalf of the African Nova Scotian (ANS) North End Halifax Community Land Trust (NEHCLT).

We would appreciate this being added to the agenda at the next council meeting. Thank you.

[This email has been received from an external person or system]

Warm regards,

Treno Morton
[REDACTED]

Treno Morton
The ANS North End Halifax Community Land Trust

November 20, 2023
Halifax Regional Council
1841 Argyle Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 3A5

Dear Halifax Regional Council,

I trust this letter finds you in good health. I am writing on behalf of the African Nova Scotian North End Halifax Community Land Trust (NEHCLT), and I would like to follow up on our previous letter dated June 24, 2023, which outlined our mission to promote equitable land ownership and community development within the Cogswell Redevelopment Project.

Despite the many important matters you face, our initiative stands as a beacon to address historical injustices and foster positive change for the African Nova Scotian (ANS) community in Halifax.

Our mission is to secure a land parcel within the Cogswell Redevelopment Project, addressing historical inequities. We seek collaboration with the Halifax Regional Council to explore funding possibilities within the Cogswell Redevelopment. Together, we can overcome barriers and work collaboratively to best align our goals with those of the redevelopment. Development like the Cogswell Interchange project generates investment but risks mass gentrification, further displacing our community. We believe acquiring land can contribute to the project's success, address historical inequities, and reduce the risk of displacement for our community members.

We understand that the disposition of public land must be strategic and aligned with broader community interests. In response, we are diligently working on strategic and profitable initiatives that can be implemented on the acquired land. These initiatives will not only benefit the community but also contribute to the overall success of the Cogswell Redevelopment Project. Additionally, we are focusing on financial literacy programs tailored to the ANS community. Breaking cycles of the past, these programs aim to economically empower our community members and foster sustainable growth.

Our community land trust aims to address the urgent need for deeply affordable housing, responding to our housing crisis. Specifically, we aim to provide housing solutions for ANS residents in North End Halifax, prioritizing those in Uniacke Square and neighbouring ANS communities containing scattered Africville Residents who are facing insecure housing situations due to the escalating cost of living. In our community, limited housing stock is available, and the existing priority to newcomers and refugees, while rightfully deserved given their circumstances, has left long-standing residents with very few options.

It's important to note that our community itself functions as a housing project, but the limited housing stock and the city's prioritization, coupled with subpar living standards in public housing—ranging from issues like rodents and mold to units not being updated since the 90s—underscore the urgent need for

alternatives like a self-governed housing cooperative. This initiative strives to offer a valuable option to address these challenges and remedy the lack of deeply affordable housing within our community. Our goal is to create a living environment that respects the dignity and well-being of all residents, fostering a sense of community and providing a sustainable solution to the housing crisis.

Additional Points to Consider

Economic Impact: The NEHCLT within the Cogswell Redevelopment offers more than housing. It is an economic catalyst. Models like the Toronto Community Housing Corporation have not only addressed housing needs but stimulated local economies, creating jobs and attracting tourists. The potential for increased tourism in Halifax as a result of this initiative can increase the project's economic impact, drawing attention to our unique cultural heritage.

Social Cohesion: NEHCLT is a builder of social cohesion. By fostering community ownership and stewardship, it aligns seamlessly with HRM's commitment to diversity and inclusion. It creates a thriving, interconnected community that strengthens social bonds and promotes inclusivity. Halifax has the opportunity to foster a harmonious society that embraces diversity, and supporting NEHCLT is a pivotal step towards achieving this shared goal.

Long-Term Sustainability: The community land trust model is a proven vehicle for ensuring the long-term sustainability of urban development, as exemplified by the success of similar initiatives in Ottawa. In Ottawa, the Centretown Citizens Ottawa Corporation (CCOC) serves as a noteworthy illustration. By empowering residents and fostering community control over the land, CCOC has successfully managed properties for decades, creating a stable and resilient foundation for the community. Halifax now stands at a pivotal moment to make a strategic investment similar to Ottawa, promising enduring benefits for current and future residents.

Cultural Preservation: The cultural significance of this initiative is pivotal. The project aligns with Halifax's broader goal of preserving and celebrating its rich cultural history, especially that of the African Nova Scotian community. This land trust becomes a living testament to the city's commitment to cultural preservation. Supporting NEHCLT demonstrates Halifax's dedication to recognizing and honouring the diverse cultural heritage that continues to evolve, enriches the city's fabric.

Community Engagement: The extensive community engagement efforts that we have taken underline the grassroots nature of this initiative. This project empowers the community, and community-driven initiatives often yield the most positive and impactful outcomes. Halifax has the opportunity to actively engage with its residents, listening to their needs and aspirations. By supporting NEHCLT, the municipality demonstrates a commitment to a collaborative approach to community development.

National Recognition: By supporting this groundbreaking project, Halifax has the opportunity to gain national recognition as a leader in inclusive urban development. It positions the municipality as forward-thinking and progressive, aligning with the ethos of diverse and equitable community development. National recognition not only enhances Halifax's reputation but also attracts attention and potential resources, further benefiting the region's growth and prosperity.

Mitigating Displacement: NEHCLT directly addresses the issue of displacement. By providing affordable housing options and ensuring community members can remain in the area, it becomes a proactive solution to a pressing problem, showcasing a commitment to socially responsible development. Supporting NEHCLT is an opportunity for Halifax to take a leadership role in mitigating displacement, setting an example for other regions facing similar challenges.

Collaborative Vision: We express a commitment to working collaboratively with Council to understand and align with the needs of the Cogswell Redevelopment efforts. It is important to clarify that this is not a long-term partnership; NEHCLT is an ANS-led CLT, and we aim for self-governance and independent decision-making, a right denied to us for decades. We seek collaboration to navigate the initial stages and ensure our initiative complements the broader redevelopment goals. We intend to be an independent, self-sufficient entity that contributes to the prosperity of our community.

We kindly request a response by December 6, 2023, allowing ample time for consideration. Thank you for your attention. We look forward to working together towards a more equitable and inclusive Halifax.

Treno Morton, on behalf of
The African Nova Scotian North End Halifax Community Land Trust



The following is a list of organizations that have formally joined as members of the African Nova Scotian North End Halifax Community Land Trust, with the exception of some African Nova Scotian-led organizations and initiatives:

- Africville Heritage Trust
- Africville Genealogy Society
- Black Business Initiative (BBI)
- Cornwallis Street Baptist Church
- Delmore Buddy Daye Learning Institute (DBDLI)
- Down the Marsh Community Land Trust
- Halifax Community Investment Fund
- Inspiring Communities
- The ANS Road to Economic Prosperity
- TRIBE
- Upper Hammonds Plains Community Land Trust