

Re: Item No. 15.1.12

HALIFAX

**Beechville and Area Community Boundary
Project Supplemental Report
CA140**

Regional Council September 10, 2024

Initial Motion

July 16, 2019, Halifax Regional Council motion (Item No.15.7.2):

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT Halifax Regional Council request a staff report to consider modifications to the community boundaries of Beechville.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

Road to Economic Prosperity

Action Plan

Action #16: Review the naming, boundaries, and zoning of historic African Nova Scotian (ANS) communities, and zoning affecting ANS communities.

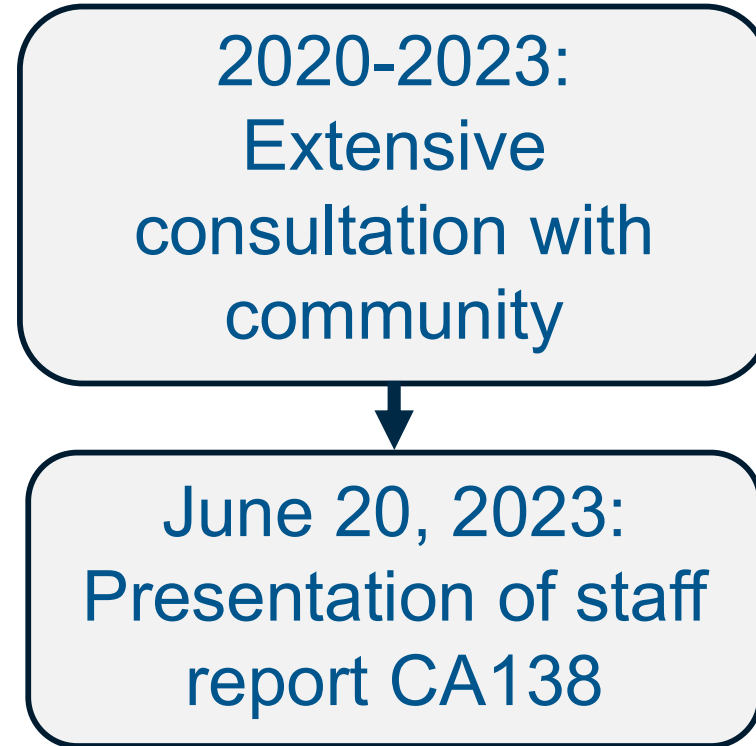
Outcome: Recognition and reestablishment of historic ANS community boundaries and increase in land base/mass for ANS communities.

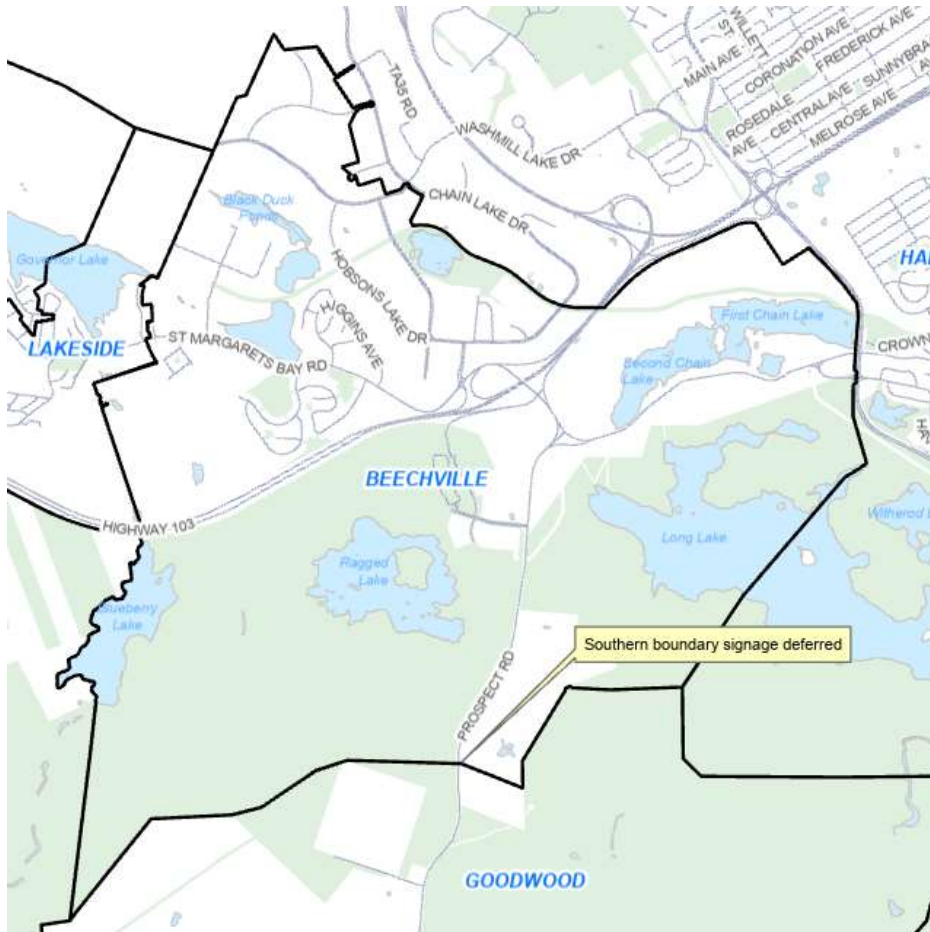
Beechville Community Benefit Action Plan

Action #1: Complete the Beechville community boundary review process.

Action #12: Continue to work with the Beechville Community Development Association on all of the plan actions.

Initial Report Timeline

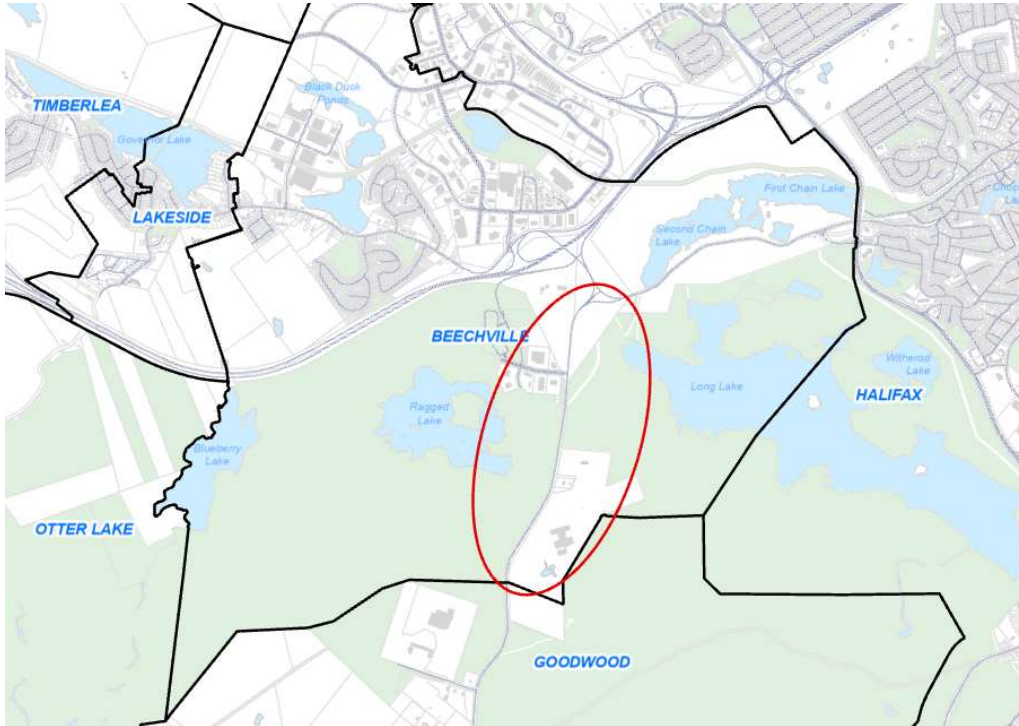




Approved boundary and deferred signage location.

5. THAT Halifax Regional Council defer the installation of signage for the southern border of the Beechville Community pending receipt of a supplemental staff report that considers modifications to the Beechville/Goodwood boundary at Prospect Road including additional community consultation with Beechville and Goodwood.

Area of Interest for Supplemental Report



Approximate study area

From approximately the current Beechville/Goodwood boundary at Prospect Road to the intersection of St Margarets Bay Rd.

Community Engagement

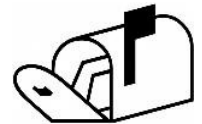
- BCDA elected not to be re-consulted, other than 1 in-person feedback session.
- Shape Your City used to obtain feedback from Goodwood
- In-person feedback session completed with PROBE (Prospect Region Organization for a Better Environment).

Notifications
Mailed



174

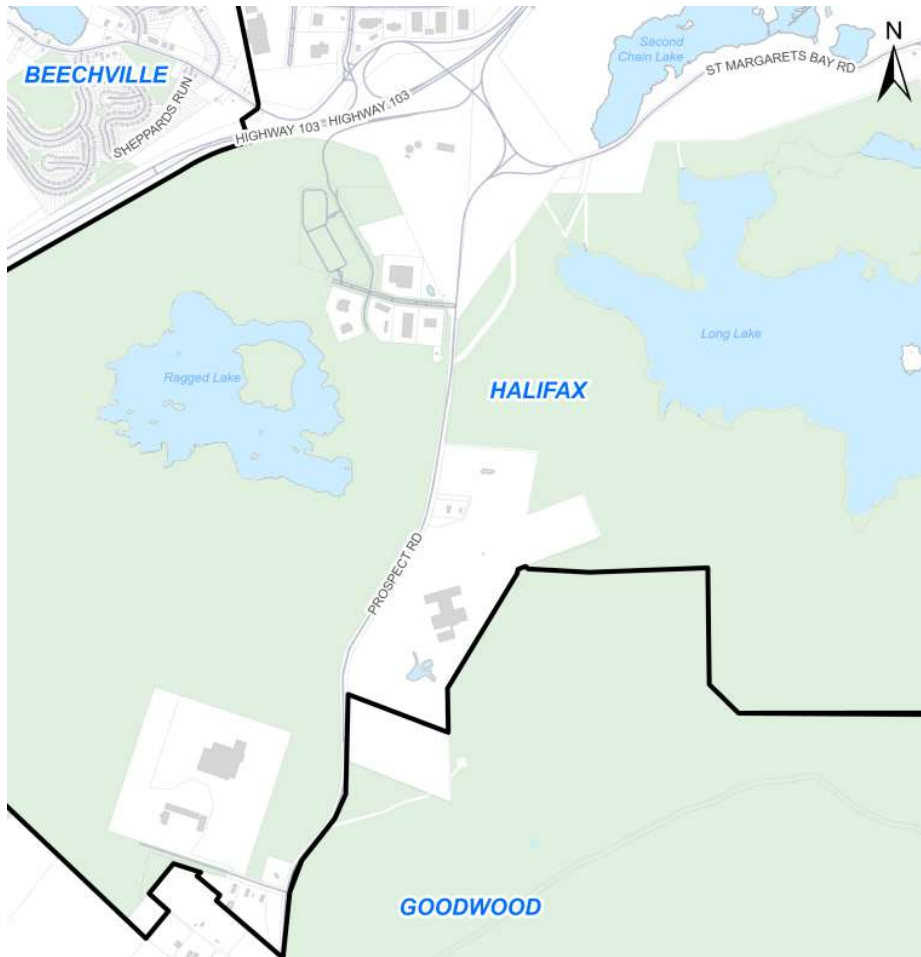
Survey
Responses
Received



116

Feedback from Goodwood

- Majority of survey respondents were not in favor of the Beechville boundary at Prospect Rd.
- Majority of survey respondents requested that Goodwood extend to Prospect Rd at St Margarets Bay Rd.
 - This would involve an expansion of the Goodwood boundary into the previous community of Halifax (now Beechville).



Previous Boundaries

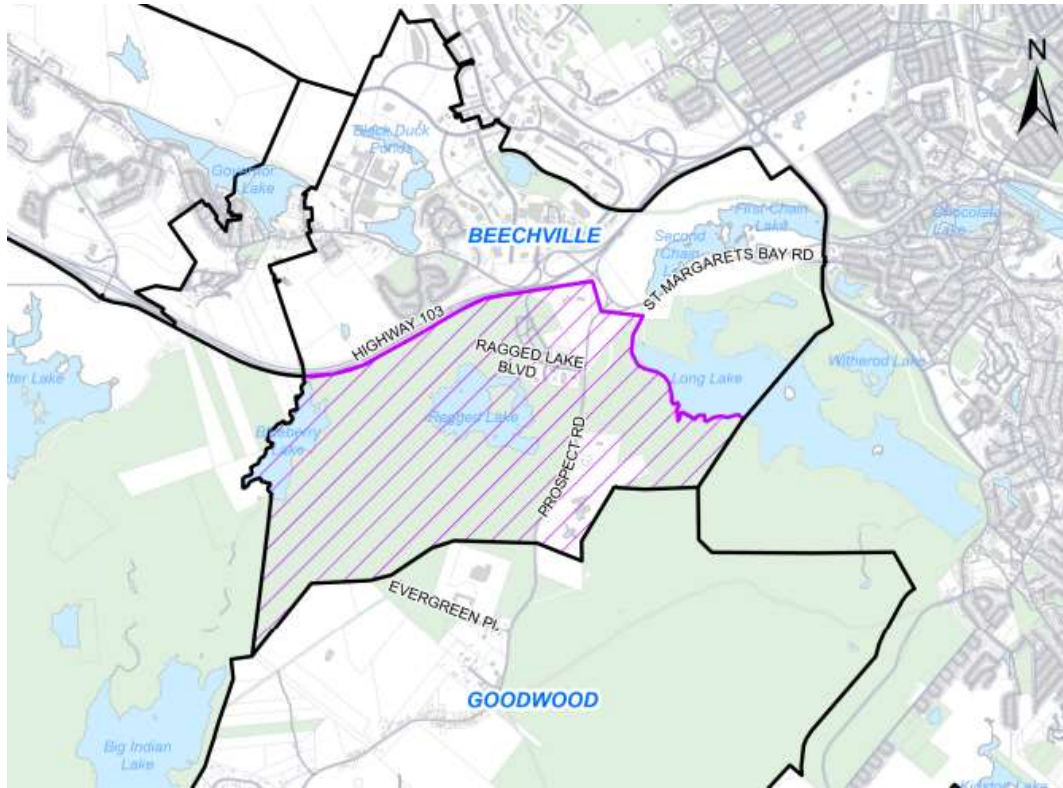
Previous community boundaries near study area prior to amendments approved on June 20, 2023.

Feedback from Goodwood




Common themes of feedback:

- History of Goodwood families along Prospect Rd.
- Present-day stewardship of the land and mentions of daily use.
- Desire to have community boundary align with electoral boundary.

The Goodwood feedback is presented as Alternative 1 and is depicted in Map 2 of the report.



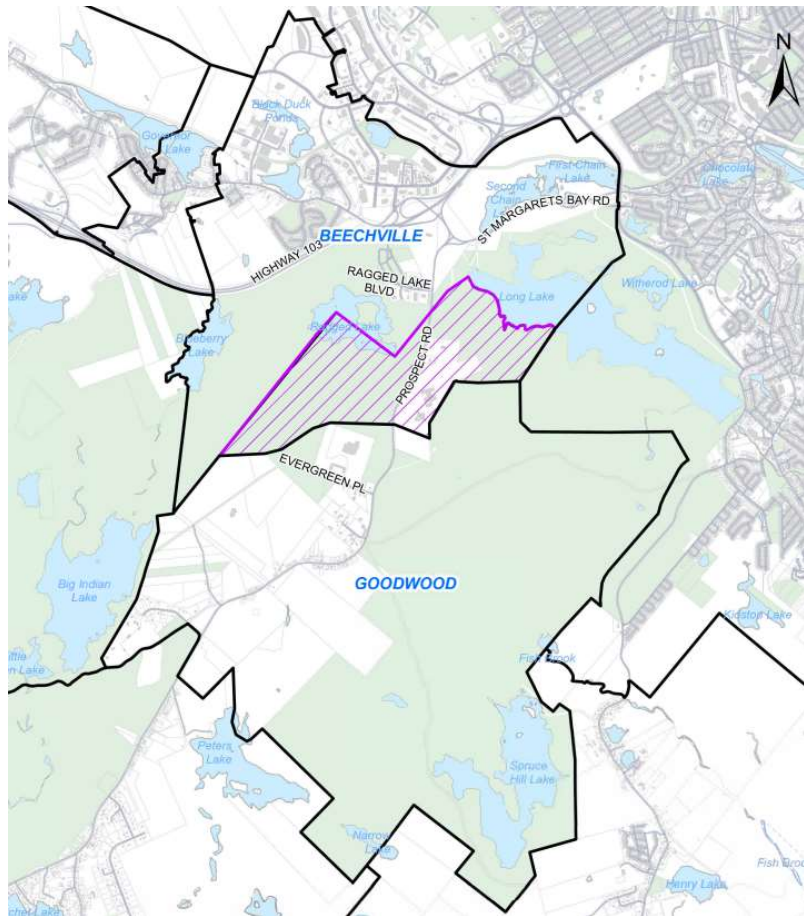
The Goodwood feedback is presented as Alternative 1 and is depicted in Map 2 of the report.

-  Current community boundaries.
-  Alternative boundary 1.
-  Area within alternative 1 Goodwood expansion.

Alternative Boundary 1.

Historical Review


- A thorough review of the archival records for the lands surrounding the southern Beechville/northern Goodwood boundary was conducted by HRM's Heritage Planning Researcher.
- This review intends to reflect historical settlement patterns of each community in the vicinity of the study area.



Alternative 2 reflects a modification of boundaries based on the historical review.

 Current community boundaries.

 Alternative boundary 2.

 Area within alternative 2 Goodwood expansion.

Alternative Boundary 2.

Feedback from BCDA

- Staff met with the BCDA for one in-person meeting to discuss progress on the boundary project. The BCDA reiterated its stance on the community boundary process and the significance of the boundary approved on June 20, 2023.
- The Beechville community has seen its community boundaries shrink due to unclear land titles, expropriation of lands, industrial development, and recent private development.

Feedback from BCDA

- Representation was made that Beechville residents supported deferring the signage until engagement with Goodwood was completed. BCDA, in their written correspondence to HRM, advised that they did not support deferring the signage until engagement was complete.
- The BCDA view the June 20th motion as deviating from the agreed-upon engagement standard for Community Boundary Reviews.
- These events have eroded trust and threaten the existing relationship between Beechville and HRM staff.

Recommendation Rationale

- Approved boundary resulted from the standard process for community boundary reviews and reflects feedback from the Beechville community obtained through that process.
- Recommendation reaffirms the commitment HRM made to the community of Beechville through its endorsement of the ANS Road to Economic Prosperity Action Plan; a commitment rooted in trust and relationship building.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council authorize staff to install and relocate community signs at the Beechville/Goodwood boundary location approved on June 20, 2023, as identified in Map 1 of the staff report.