

Halifax Explosion Memorial Bells

Extracted from 102-1A, City of Halifax Council Minutes,
1983-12-01, p.554-5, Halifax Municipal Archives

Mr. Reginald A. Prest, Treasurer of the Halifax Explosion Memorial Bells Committee, addressed Council and introduced Mrs. Janet Kitz, an historian and a member of the Committee, and requested that she address Council in connection with how the memorial bells came to be.

Council
December 1, 1983

Mrs. Kitz addressed Council and advised of the events in connection with the Halifax Explosion leading to the donation of a carillon tower of nine historic bells to the United Memorial Church by Mrs. T. W. Thompson. Mrs. Kitz advised the bells were played for many years from the tower of the church until the tower became too weak and the bells had to be removed.

Mr. Prest then presented some of the history in connection with the subject and advised of the makeup and mandate of the Memorial Bells Committee.

Mr. R. MacLean and Mr. Frank Harrington, members of the Committee, displayed plans of the proposed memorial to be constructed at Fort Needham and advised of the process in selecting the proposed site.

Mr. Prest again addressed Council in connection with the proposal advising that the estimated cost of the projects was \$200,000 with an amount of up to \$100,000 being pledged by the Province with the other \$100,000 to be raised by the Committee. Mr. Prest also advised that the Committee will be leaving a trust fund when the project is completed so that there will be no costs to the City. Mr. Prest advised that the Committee was seeking Council's permission for the use of the proposed site at Fort Needham.

Alderman Meagher expressed appreciation for this evening's presentation and expressed the view there were different things Council should know before permitting such an undertaking on the land in question.

MOVED by Alderman Meagher, seconded by Alderman Nolan
that the matter be referred to City staff for review and Council
establish a Committee composed of representatives of City staff
from the Engineering and Works Department and the City Manager's
Office, and Aldermen O'Malley and Grant for the purpose of providing
Council with a report on the feasibility of the proposed memorial.

Alderman Meagher expressed the desire that a report be submitted to a meeting of the Committee of the Whole Council as soon as possible.

Following a discussion and questioning of Mr. Prest, the
Motion was put and passed.