



**HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
August 26, 2020**

**PRESENT:** Lois Yorke, Chair  
Patrick Connor, Vice-Chair  
Councillor Sam Austin  
Councillor David Hendsbee  
Marisha Caswell  
Jennifer Clarke-Hines  
Sandra Nowlan  
Luke Stock

**REGRETS:** Jim Ballinger  
David Atchison

**STAFF:** Seamus McGreal, Planner III, Heritage Planning  
Aaron Murnaghan, Principle Planner, Heritage Planning  
Kurt Pyle, Program Manager Regional Planning  
Simon Ross-Seigel, Legislative Assistant  
Sharon Chase, Legislative Support

*The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.*

*The agenda, reports, supporting documents, and information items circulated are online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca).*

*The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m. and the Committee adjourned at 4:04 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 22, 2020**

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Patrick Connor

**THAT the minutes of July 22, 2020 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

MOVED by Sandra Nowlan, seconded by Marisha Caswell

**THAT the agenda be approved as presented.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES- NONE**

**5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE**

**6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE**

**7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS- NONE**

**8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE**

**9. REPORTS**

**9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

**9.1 STAFF**

**9.1.1 Case H00466: Heritage Conservation Districts (HCDs) Prioritization and Process Review**

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated August 19, 2020
- A staff presentation dated August 26, 2020

Seamus McGreal, Planner III Heritage Planning gave a presentation. A copy of this presentation is on file. This report addresses two Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committees motions from December 14, 2017 and May 16, 2019. The first requested a review to improve time frames for completion of any future Heritage Conservations Districts. The second was to consider prioritizing future Heritage Conservation Districts.

McGreal reviewed the definition of a Heritage Conservation District under the Heritage Property Act of Nova Scotia. A map was shown indicating the current districts: Barrington Street, Schmidville and Old South Suburb; as well as future districts for consideration. The Historic Properties District will be the next for consideration and the intent is to consolidate this with Barrington and Old South Suburb to create a Downtown Halifax Historic District.

A review of the process was outlined including studies, approval processes and public participation. The methodology and criteria being used for prioritizing study areas was shared: concentration of heritage resources, heritage value, recent development pressure and potential development pressure. A table showing the data for the study areas was shown. The top three areas are: Downtown Dartmouth, Old North Suburb and Creighton's Field. McGreal reviewed a jurisdictional scan done focusing on the use of stakeholder committees and the number of heritage staff. The factors to be considered in reducing time frames were reviewed. Examples of Community Involvement and Public Participation were shared along with examples of what has been done in HRM. There is also an opportunity to look at planning processes and the timing of policy reviews where Heritage considerations can be integrated.

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Luke Stock

**THAT the Heritage Advisory Committee recommend that Regional Council:**

- 1. Suspends the rules of procedure under Schedule 3, the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee Terms of Reference, of Administrative Order One, the Procedures of the Council Administrative Order;**
- 2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prioritize the adoption of new Heritage Conservation Districts in the following order: 1) Downtown Dartmouth; 2) Old North Suburb; and 3) Creighton's Field; and**
- 3. Repeal the Existing Public Participation Program for Heritage Conservation Districts (HCDs) as contained in Attachment E and adopt a revised Public Participation Program for HCDs as contained in Attachment F.**

The Committee discussed each of the recommendations, with McGreal answering questions. McGreal clarified that Heritage District Plans set policy for that area and the properties within it. The policy set can be customized for each district. The Centre Plan was developed with Heritage considerations in mind. Present and future development pressures were important criteria in the evaluations. Options do exist to consolidate future work and research can begin on future districts provided resources are available. McGreal shared examples of what might be considered in a public participation program, HAC's role and when the use of a Stakeholder Committee might be considered as an option within that program. Examples of what was effective in the establishment of Schmidville were discussed. Aaron Murnaghan noted that the Province is considering changes to the Heritage Property Act and how that might impact these districts. If a program was to include a stakeholder committee, that committee would have a set terms of reference that could spell out any determined timeline to its mandate. The best program would have a strong but flexible approach and go above and beyond the required minimum policies.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**9.2 MEMBERS OF THE HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – NONE**

**10. MOTIONS/DISCUSSION – NONE**

**11. ADDED ITEMS- NONE**

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – September 23, 2020**

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

Sharon Chase  
Legislative Support