

Re: Item No. 12.2



November 23, 2021

Presenters: Paul Morash – President
Brady Stevenson - Treasurer

Presentation Outline

- Team Overview
- Key Activities
- Funding Information
- Limitations with Current Base
- Intentions for Property
- Benefits to the Community

Team Overview

- MVGSAR is a Nova Scotia registered non-profit society in operation since 1983.
- One of four partner search and rescue teams providing search and rescue services within HRM.
- Current team resources include 42 members, one vehicle, a Command/Logistics trailer, various communication and SAR equipment.
- Prudent financial management, newly passed bylaws, and a modern Code of Conduct point to a bright future.

Key Activities

- MVGSAR's primary mission is to provide search and rescue services to locate and rescue lost people when called to do so.
- SAR services are undertaken in partnership with other search teams within HRM and the province, and in collaboration with Nova Scotia Emergency Management, Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency, the RCMP, and HRP.
- Additional priorities include:
 - Assisting in civil emergencies and evacuations when requested.
 - Assisting police of jurisdiction in searches for evidence when requested.
 - Outreach at local schools, to teach children what to do if they become lost.
 - Assisting community organizations with human resources when requested (examples: parking assistance, gate keeping, community events, parade marshals).

Funding Information

- MVGSAR's primary funding comes from a yearly operational grant from HRM.
- Additional funding is obtained from the Nova Scotia Search & Rescue Association, Nova Scotia EMO, donations, and fundraising.
- The team has budgeted plans and available funding to repair and update the former Station 37 Fire Hall in Elderbank.
- The team has maintained a sound financial position, and continued operations in a new operational base is within our organizational means.

Limitations with Current Base

- MVGSAR currently leases the old school bus garage adjacent to Musquodoboit Rural High School in Middle Musquodoboit, which is an HRM owned property.
- Since 2003, the team has maintained what was possible with the building, however, persistent roof leaks, lack of running water, and other conditions that were present since the team entered the building have aggravated over time.
- Current conditions of the building have prevented team activities such as regular meetings, training, and storage of equipment since 2019. Conditions are such that repair is not financially prudent or possible.
- Team is effectively homeless with meetings being held at various locations within the community.
- A lack of a stable base impacts equipment maintenance and storage, recruitment and training opportunities, and fundraising.

Need For New Base

The current situation does not offer the long-term stability required for the team to continue operations. The lack of a base has impacts to recruitment, training, fundraising, morale, and high value assets. The new building will offer:

- A true base of operations, at a central location in our area of jurisdiction.
- Equipment storage.
- Training location.
- Community and team pride.
- Ability to store all team assets in one location, greatly reducing time and coordination when deploying for a search.
- Indoor Storage for high value assets including our truck and command trailer.

Intentions for Building

If granted, the team intends to complete the following updates to the building in order to ensure team operations are successful and the building can once again be a community asset. Most updates have been planned and budgeted, unless otherwise noted.

- New heat pumps, siding, and sign.
- New bay doors.
- Repair to windows and side wall (one side has deteriorated)
- Updates to kitchen and bathrooms.
- Repair septic field (planned through forthcoming grant applications).

Benefits to the Community

In addition to providing a stable base of operations, which will allow MVGSAR to continue to provide Search & Rescue services to the local area, MVGSAR is committed to having the building be a resource for the community. Examples include:

- MVGSAR, in collaboration with a local community organization, has discussed the rejuvenation of the outdoor community rink located on a pond on the property.
- MVGSAR has committed to continuing to provide the building to community groups currently making use of it.
- The building can be used as an asset in civil emergencies or other community events where possible.