

REPORT TO ADVISORY BOARD

SUBJECT: Heritage Planner Update

DATE: August 28th, 2008

PREPARED BY: Seamus McGreal

The main goal of this position is to work with the community to develop a long term community plan, which eventually will tie into the UNESCO proposal. To achieve this task, the interim board of the Grand Pre and Area Community Association has begun work to draft a community engagement strategy to guide and inform the Community Plan. The interim board now consists of five community representatives who sit on the Community Plan work group along with Councillor for District 12 and Municipal Staff. The board aims to receive a mandate from the community, through an open election, at a public meeting on September 18th.

Since June, there has been two presentations to Council. They have approved the initiative to produce a Community Plan for Grand Pre and Area as well as the Terms of Reference for the project. Staff has undertaken a thorough environmental scan of the area and prepared a number of topical base maps, some of which include LiDAR to illustrate relief. A community profile was produced to address pertinent topics about the community including a regulatory review of pertinent legislation. A web page on the Municipal website has been dedicated to providing all material relating to the Community Planning Process in Grand Pre and Area. There has been one community meeting and two meetings with the interim board of the Grand Pre and Area Community Association where a vision was drafted for the community. Several meetings have taken place with community members and community groups and these meetings will continue into the future. Engagement with the community remains the most challenging and important part of the process.

A community engagement strategy has been developed. It first identifies key groups relating to youth, women, seniors, and any other club or organization within the community. Meetings are arranged with these groups through contact with key individuals and members of the Community Association. Individuals and groups are encouraged to meet with Staff to discuss the Community Plan. They will be encouraged to become involved in the process.

The Community Plan process will be developed in phases over a period of 18 months. There are three general phases:

- Phase I: Vision and Community Assessment
- Phase II: Strategic Initiatives
- Phase III: Draft Community Plan

Each phase will begin with a Grand Pre and Area Community Association meeting. The board will make recommendations to the community. Each phase will culminate with a public meeting where decisions will be made through community consensus.

In the months ahead, goals will be drafted based on the community vision. Some conflicts are expected to arise out of competing interests. Individual household visits and dialogue will be used to both notify the public of contentious issues and bring together individuals with competing interests to discuss options for solutions. A draft community plan will be prepared and scrutinized using focus groups to ensure that goals are met with each objective. There may be amendments required in the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law. These will be taken before Council. The draft Community Plan will also be presented to the Land Use Management Plan work group and they may make recommendations to the Community that will be taken into consideration. There will be several more meetings with the Community Association and community meetings before the final draft of the Grand Pre and Area Community Plan is adopted by the community at which point it will be submitted to the Municipality for Council approval by the end of spring 2009.

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