

REPORT TO ADVISORY BOARD

SUBJECT: Planner Update

DATE: November 6th, 2008

PREPARED BY: Seamus McGreal

The community planning process for Grand Pre and Area made some important steps forward in the month of October. Staff held its first meeting with the newly formed Grand Pre and Area Community Association to draft an initial vision and goals for their community.

During the public meeting in September, several members of the business community asked for more time to discuss their ideas for commercial growth. As a result, a business community meeting was held to continue the discussion of commercial growth in the area within the context of the larger vision for the community.

The issue of the Heritage Conservation District is an ongoing and will remain an important issue. To assist in understanding the provincial role and legislation regarding heritage districts and to gather some additional insight into the history of the district, a meeting was held with Kevin Barrett, Coordinator of the Heritage Property Program with the Province. At a recent Development Officers Conference, Madelyn LeMay from the Town of Lunenburg also shared some of her unique experience in the administration of a heritage conservation district within a designated World Heritage Site.

Community Meetings Completed in October

Community Liaison Meeting with the Grand Pre and Area Community Association

- Determined that 'Infrastructure' should be addressed as one of the key area topics in the plan (alongside Heritage, Agriculture, Commercial Growth, Community, and Environment)
- Drafted an initial vision statement
- Drafted initial goals for Heritage and Agriculture

Business community meeting for Grand Pre and Area

- 15 business community members were in attendance
- Conducted a SWOT analysis for commercial growth in Grand Pre and Area
- Received suggestions for revising the draft vision statement and goal for Commercial Growth

Heritage Conservation District

- Discussed heritage property district issues with Kevin Barrett

- Reviewed the policy for adjusting the boundary of the G.P Heritage Conservation District

Development Officers Conference

- Presented the Grand Pre and Area Community Plan process for discussion to the provincial association of Development Officers
- Met with Madelyn LeMay to discuss the administration of a Old Town Heritage Conservation District within the Lunenburg World Heritage Site.

The next meeting with the Community Association will be held on November 6th where the goal for Commercial Growth and Community will be reviewed. The vision statement and goals will be presented to the community for feedback at a public meeting on November 20th, where the aim is to ratify the vision and goals for Heritage, Agriculture, Commercial Growth, and Community.

The goals for Environment and Infrastructure still remain to be drafted, hopefully in the month of December. As we begin to discuss objectives and policies into the New Year, the experience of key contacts like Kevin Barrett and Madelyn LeMay will become increasingly valuable to the process.

Communication with the community remains our greatest challenge. We hope to overcome this challenge through clarifying the process with the larger community and by speaking more directly with community members. Meetings are arranged with the Grand Pre Marsh Body and with seniors within the community. Telephone interviews have been conducted and will continue with key community members. The communications strategy currently being developed will also provide additional insight into effective communication practices with this community.

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