

REPORT TO ADVISORY BOARD

SUBJECT: Planner Update

DATE: September 25th, 2008

PREPARED BY: Seamus McGreal

The community planning process is picking up steam, with the communities taking an active role. Although, there has been some confusion regarding the community planning process and the UNESCO process, it seems that some of this confusion is being eased through our ongoing communication activities

A community planning meeting and visioning exercise were held on September 18th, immediately after a community meeting to elect the new executive for the Community Association for Grand Pre and Area. Forty-four residents from the four communities of Grand Pre, North Grand Pre, Hortonville, and Lower Wolfville were in attendance at this meeting.

Communication and Community Engagement

- A first in a series of community newsletters was produced and sent out to the four communities to provide some information about the community planning process and to encourage residents to attend the community planning meeting and visioning exercise. After a presentation and discussion at the community meeting, there was some understanding that community planning is a separate process than the UNESCO Nomination.
- To better describe my role with the community planning, my job title has changed from Heritage Planner to Planner.
- Information was shared with the ICON group who will begin to develop a communications strategy.
- As a representative of the municipality, I attended the first annual community corn boil hosted by the community association on Saturday, September 6th, where I had the opportunity to meet many community members and participate in a community activity.
- A Facebook Group was established regarding the project and community members are being asked to join, post pictures and discuss issues. All Advisory Board members are encouraged to join this group called "Grand Pre and Area: Planning for World Heritage".
- The Municipality has established a web page related to the community planning project: <http://www.county.kings.ns.ca/comdev/plan/GrandPre/GrandPrePlan.asp>

- The first meeting with the new executive of the community association will be arranged in the weeks ahead. This meeting will be used to build on the ideas generated by the community during the visioning exercise.

Vision

- A Vision Statement will be produced based on the shared values statement and the outcomes from the visioning exercise.
- It is expected that the Vision Statement will be ratified by the new community association and by the rest of the Community at the next community meeting on November 27th.
- Policy will be developed around the vision and broken down into 5 main areas:
 1. Commercial Growth
 2. Environment
 3. Heritage
 4. Community
 5. Agriculture

Next Steps

We are on track to have a vision statement, goals and objectives ready by mid-February. Meetings were held with the North Grand Pré Community Association and the Grand Pré Heritage Society. Meetings are planned with the following organizations to keep them abreast of the planning process:

- Horton 4-H Club
- Women's Institute
- United Church Women
- Pre-School Management
- Local Artisans
- Community Centre Trustees
- Marsh Body
- Lower Horton Cemetery
- Boyds Campground

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