



P.O. Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

**Item No. 10.1.2**  
**North West Community Council**  
**September 21, 2015**

**TO:** Chair and Members of North West Community Council

Original Signed

**SUBMITTED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Brad Anguish, Director, Parks & Recreation

**DATE:** August 6, 2015

**SUBJECT:** **Hammonds Plains Common Area Rate Request**

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**ORIGIN**

July 20, 2015 North West Community Council motion:  
Motion passed that North West Community Council request a staff report regarding the allocation of \$75,000 from the Hammonds Plains Common Area Rate to Hammonds Plains Lucasville Memorial Committee to facilitate the construction of a Veterans Monument in Uplands Park, Hammonds Plains for recommendation to Regional Council

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

*Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, Section 96, regarding area rates.*

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that North West Community Council recommend that Regional Council approve allocation of up to \$75,000 from the Hammonds Plains Common Area Rate to facilitate the construction of a Veterans Monument in Uplands Park, Hammonds Plains.

## **BACKGROUND**

Staff has received a request on behalf of the Greater Hammonds Plains Lucasville Memorial Committee (GHPLMC) for consideration of placement of a veteran's monument at Uplands Park, pursuant to HRM's Public Art Policy. HRM's Public Art Policy, approved in 2008, outlines a process by which the municipality may accept donations of public art. The GHPLMC's request has been considered using that process and a staff report related to the request is scheduled to be considered by Regional Council at the September 22, 2015 meeting under a report entitled "Request for permission to install Cenotaph, Uplands Park - Greater Hammonds Plains Lucasville Memorial Committee".

Subsequent to the request for permission to install the monument, North West Community Council also received a request for allocation of funding from the Hammonds Plains Common Area Rate towards the project. On June 20, 2015, North West Community Council (NWCC) requested a staff report regarding the allocation of funding from the area rate.

## **DISCUSSION**

GHPLMC is in the process of raising funds toward the design and construction of a Veteran's Monument at Uplands Park. That request has been reviewed pursuant to HRM's Public Art Policy with a recommendation outlined in a report entitled "Request for permission to install Cenotaph, Uplands Park - Greater Hammonds Plains Lucasville Memorial Committee". Regional Council is expected to consider that report at its September 22, 2015 meeting.

### **Area Rate**

The Hammonds Plains Common Area Rate is collected from the community of Hammonds Plains and provides funding for "general recreation amenities in the community". While most of the area rates require a business plan outlining the proposed projects and funding allocations from the area rate on an annual basis, the Hammonds Plains Common Area Rate is considered a "common" area rate and as such, funding decisions are made by the applicable community council for recommendation to Regional Council. Therefore, North West Community Council has the authority to consider the request for allocation of up to \$75,000 towards the project and also, if desired, that additional community input be undertaken prior to consideration of the request. Should NWCC choose to allocate funding from the area rate to the project, NWCC's recommendation would then need to be ratified by Regional Council.

Finance staff has confirmed that the request for use of the area rate funding towards a cenotaph in the community is consistent with the purpose of the Hammonds Plains Common Area Rate. Further, since the area rate is collected from all residential and resource properties in the Hammonds Plains community and decisions on the use of the funding is at the discretion of North West Community Council, a separate community vote on the allocation of funding towards the project is not required unless requested by North West Community Council.

### **Project Costs**

Supplementary information included in the application submitted by GHPLMC indicates that the Committee has voted in favour of a total project budget of \$100,000. Although the detailed design of the monument has not been determined (no technical drawings have been submitted), there are indications that the proposed site has drainage issues that must be addressed in order to accommodate the weight, size and scale of the monument being proposed as well as the number of Remembrance Day attendees expected. As a result, the GHPLMC is currently completing testing to be able to confirm the viability of the site, and any work that might be required to accommodate the monument and associated gatherings. GHPLMC will also be required to submit a grading plan for the site showing existing and proposed ground surface elevations for the site as proposed. That plan will be used to confirm the overall site development requirements to support the monument which would then inform the project costs. Depending on the scope of the required site work, the overall project cost could be increased. Preliminary estimates based

on similar site developments indicate that the site development costs could be in the order of \$15,000 - \$20,000.

The information submitted by GHPLMC indicates that \$42,500 has been raised to date. The GHPLMC has also informed HRM that they are applying for funding from the Province and Veterans Affairs Canada, but as of the date of this report no confirmation from the group has been received. With the request for \$75,000 from the Hammonds Plains Common Area Rate, the current total raised toward the project would be \$117,500, which would cover the project cost of \$100,000 approved by the Committee and the 10% maintenance allocation to be provided to HRM upon acceptance of the monument.

### **Maintenance Costs**

Pursuant to the Public Art Policy, acceptance of a donation of public art by HRM is to be accompanied by an allocation of 10% of the total project cost which is to be used to support the ongoing maintenance of the art by HRM. Ongoing maintenance includes such functions as grass cutting, minor repairs, cleaning, etc. and is expected to cost approximately \$3,000.00 annually.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The request for allocation of up to \$75,000 towards the project can be accommodated in the Hammonds Plains Common Area Rate which has accumulated a balance of \$314,541 at March 31, 2015.

The maintenance requirement (10% of project budget) as set out in the Public Art Policy and agreed to in the Deed of Gift will be allocated to the Cultural Development Reserve (Q312) for ongoing maintenance of the cenotaph.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The Greater Hammonds Plains Lucasville Memorial Committee is made up of members of the community and has undertaken community and stakeholder engagement in the development of the monument's conceptual design.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

Any environmental implications will be addressed through the geotechnical assessment to be completed prior to construction of the monument.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

North West Community Council could choose to recommend that Regional Council approve an amount less than \$75,000 from the Hammonds Plains Common Area Rate to Hammonds Plains Lucasville Memorial Committee.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

None

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/index.php> [or other appropriate Committee link] then choose the appropriate [Community Council/Board] and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

Report Prepared by: Elizabeth Taylor, Manager, Culture & Events, 902-490-7622

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