


**Harbour East Community Council**  
**May 5, 2011**

**TO:** Chair and Members of Harbour East Community Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**  *for*  
Paul Dunphy, Director, Community Development

**DATE:** April 18, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Case 16915: Urban Gardening

**INFORMATION REPORT**

**ORIGIN**

April 7, 2011 Harbour East Community Council (Item 11.1)

*Motion approved that Harbour East Community Council request staff to undertake Public Consultation and determine the appropriate amendments to consider urban gardening and the sale of urban garden produce in residential areas.*

**BACKGROUND**

Locally based agriculture is seen as a means of reducing our carbon footprint created by shipping foods long distances, eating healthier foods and supporting local growers. One aspect of this trend is urban gardening where residents farm their own backyards and sell the produce from their home or to another grower for sale at a single site.

No specific policies exist within the four plan areas under the jurisdiction of Harbour East in regards to urban gardening in serviced areas. The existing Land Use By-laws permit growing of fruits and vegetables in all residential zones but regulates the sale of such produce under home occupation provisions. Staff presented a report to HECC on “urban gardening”, dated January 18, 2011, which provided Council with background on the issue and how existing Land Use By-laws address urban gardening. In response, Council has requested staff to investigate options to permit urban gardening and to implement a public consultation process with the intent to prepare draft amendments that permit urban gardening and the sale of such produce in residential zones.

**DISCUSSION**

Staff has opened Planning Case 16915 in response to Council's request to look at the issue of urban gardening and sale of such produce. The first step in moving forward with Council's request is to work with Community Developers in determining an effective method for public engagement and schedule any meetings if necessary. Using input from the public and analysis of planning documents staff will prepare a report with proposed amendments to be submitted to Harbour East Community Council in late Fall 2011 for first reading and to set a date for a public hearing.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

None.

**FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN**

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the proposed Operating, Project and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Project and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The community engagement process will be consistent with the intent of the HRM Community Engagement Strategy. The level of community engagement will be consultation, achieved through a Public Information Meeting (PIM). A public hearing may be held by Council before they can consider approval of any amendments.

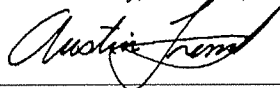
**ATTACHMENTS**

None.

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/cc.html> then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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Report Approved by: Austin French, Manager, Planning Services, 490-6717

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