

Open House #1

Draft 2 – Revised Regional Plan

**North Preston Community Centre**

44 Simmonds Road, North Preston

June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013



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## **Comments:**

### **Transit, Roads, AT**

- community transit service - having a small transit service to better serve the community if there were people who need to get to work faster; closer instead of depending on the bigger bus service
- North Preston road sidewalk needed
- Westphal transit route 10
- North Preston Trail
  - Poorly maintained
  - Weeds
  - Shoulders
- Appeal to Metro Transit
  - Should go down Simmonds Road and turn around
  - The urban transit service boundary excludes North Preston which is within the urban tax boundary
  - Extend transit into and down Simmonds Road

### **Culture & Heritage, Housing, Centre Plan**

- housing – rent to own
- gathering spaces/playground for children and young people (no place to go)
- housing affordability
  - the residents of North Preston require housing where they can own
  - no more housing units
  - space for playground

- young residents want to come back home from other provinces to build their own homes
- Culture & Heritage
  - you need to recognize the Black Cultural Centre when it comes to Culture and Heritage for African Nova Scotians
  - marker for the old Simmonds Road cemetery
    - unmarked and almost lost
    - Leon & Edith Downey/Pearl Cain in North Preston
- Affordable housing
  - We need not just affordable housing; but the ability to access financing for mortgages
  - Support for the intergenerational culture within the community
  - Seniors living with other families should receive support when accessing/requesting affordable housing
- Culture & Heritage
  - Is there a plan for the inclusion and preservation of our African Nova Scotia culture and history?
  - Nova Scotia is very unique in that we are the only province with a major concentration of indigenous ANS settlement. This should be part of our Tourism plan.

### **Green Development**

- Water courses and buffers should be left to the provincial and federal governments. Municipalities do not have staff to deal with what is on their plate now. DOE have more people with expertise in these areas.
- I agree that removing water settling areas should be looked at closely though and HRM could make suggestions.
- Greenbelting – North Preston does not have a community park or structured space for community service.
- Greenbelting needs a definition
- 30 Meter setbacks for water courses

- Want to know what the name *Preston* represents because we understand we live in North Preston.
- Conservation design
  - Philosophy may seem good but!
  - Open space design takes undue advantage of property owners; 60% open space and 80% without building is ridiculous. Taxes are paid on unusable land.
  - Forcing property owners to build in 20% of the property does not give room to plan a private home yard of any adequate size.
  - Consideration should be given to the % if the property borders on existing parkland or raw area.
- Map 2 - GFLUM
  - Discretionary approvals – big loophole in G16 (was IM-18)
  - Allows developers to ask council to approve extending development approvals/rights from urban settlement into urban reserve lands. That is wrong.
  - This policy should be scrapped or severely curtailed to only subsection (d) – street line only

### **Process, Taxes, Health, Quality of Life**

- Information should be taken to the church so the community is aware!
- Tired of people making plans for our community and the community doesn't know anything about it!
- Over-charge with our water
- Can't fish or swim in the lake or the body of water in which we live!
- High land taxes
- And the value of our homes decreases not increase
- Paying for sidewalk but have none in the community
- Has there been any discussion around the development of Park Lands within the Preston area as well with a continuation of the trails within the Preston area?

- I've lived in North Preston for 63 years. I've seen a lot of movement to our black community that was not to our approval. I do not want to see a large scale subdivision in our community, thanks!
- Water resources; bill too high – no explanation when increased
- Need to develop more recreational areas for youth such as sport fields, swimming pools, ice rinks etc. skateboarding, baseball diamond, hiking trails in the community
- Established sign "North Preston" on the other side of the Milldamp which is the original boundary of North Preston.
- Since we are in the watershed need more policing of material which is being brought into community i.e. high rate of cancer, diabetic
- No playground for our children. Children play on the roads where metro transit buses, cars etc. are commuting.
- Need homes for low income families. Paying rent, need rent to own.