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

Design Review Committee August 9, 2012

TO: Chair and Members of Design Review Committee

SUBMITTED BY: Brad Anguish, Director, Community and Recreation Services

DATE: July 24, 2012

SUBJECT: Case 17793: Substantive Site Plan Approval – Revised Citadel Hotel

Redevelopment, 1960 Brunswick Street, Halifax

ORIGIN

• Application by SilverBirch No 15 Holdings Ltd.

• January 19, 2012 Approval of the Design Review Committee

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Design Review Committee approve the qualitative elements of the substantive site plan approval application for the mixed-use redevelopment of the former Citadel Hotel site at 1960 Brunswick Street, Halifax, as shown on the building elevations contained in Attachment A.

BACKGROUND

On January 19, 2012, the Design Review Committee approved plans for the redevelopment of the former Citadel Hotel site at 1960 Brunswick Street. In addition to a residential building, the project includes a hotel, comprised of two, 13 storey, towers above a two storey base (podium), for a total of 15 storeys.

The demolition of the former Citadel Hotel building is now complete and site excavation is underway. As construction plans have progressed, the developer, SilverBirch No. 15 Limited, has identified a demand for additional hotel rooms. Consequently, it has submitted an application to add two floors to the middle portion of both hotel towers. The two additional floors will blend with the appearance of the brick and glass on these sections of the towers.

In support of the application, new building elevations, renderings, and addendums to the original design rationale and wind study have been submitted (see Attachments A-D).

The changes to the two hotel towers require the project to go back through the substantive site plan approval process. The Development Officer has considered the new plans and found that the proposal complies with the built-form and land use requirements of the Downtown Halifax Land Use By-law. Specifically, the revised proposal has no impact on the viewplane or Citadel ramparts provisions and falls below the 49m pre-bonus height limit. The role of the Design Review Committee is to decide if the proposal should be approved pursuant to the guidelines contained in the Design Manual.

DISCUSSION

The two additional storeys are a relatively minor change as outlined in the design rationale addendum (Attachment B) and as shown through a comparison of the revised and former renderings (Attachment C). The additional height does not materially change the design of the building and further reinforces the distinction between the middle and top of the building by extending the middle portions of both buildings. All other aspects of the project, as originally approved, including the site plan, the approved streetwall height variance, and the Design Review Committee's conditions of approval remain unchanged.

The wind study addendum (Attachment D) finds that there will be, "negligible effect on the pedestrian wind conditions at street level, from what was originally assessed." Therefore, no changes to the building design will be required for wind mitigation purposes.

The staff report for the original project contains detailed analysis of the building design against the Design Manual. It concluded that the project should be approved. Staff's review of the additional two storeys is that the detailed analysis and findings in that report are unaffected by this minor change in the design. It is therefore recommended that the Design Review Committee approve this revised proposal.

¹ The staff report for the original site plan approval may be found at www.halifax.ca/boardscom/drc/documents/120119drc71.pdf

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The HRM costs associated with processing this planning application can be accommodated within the approved operating budget for C310 Planning & Applications.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved 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 is consistent with the intent of the HRM Community Engagement Strategy and the requirements of the Downtown Halifax LUB regarding substantive site plan approvals. The level of engagement was information sharing, achieved through the HRM website, the developer's website, public kiosks at HRM Customer Service Centres, and a public open house held on May 29, 2012.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

ALTERNATIVES

- 1. The Design Review Committee may choose to approve the application for substantive Site Plan Approval, as submitted. This is the recommended course of action.
- 2. The Design Review Committee may choose to approve the application with conditions. This may necessitate further submissions by the applicant, as well as a supplementary report from staff.
- 3. The Design Review Committee may choose to deny the application. The Committee must provide reasons for this refusal, based on the specific guidelines of the Design Manual.

ATTACHMENTS

Map 1 Location and Zoning

Attachment A Site Plan Approval Plans (Elevations)

Attachment B Design Rationale Addendum

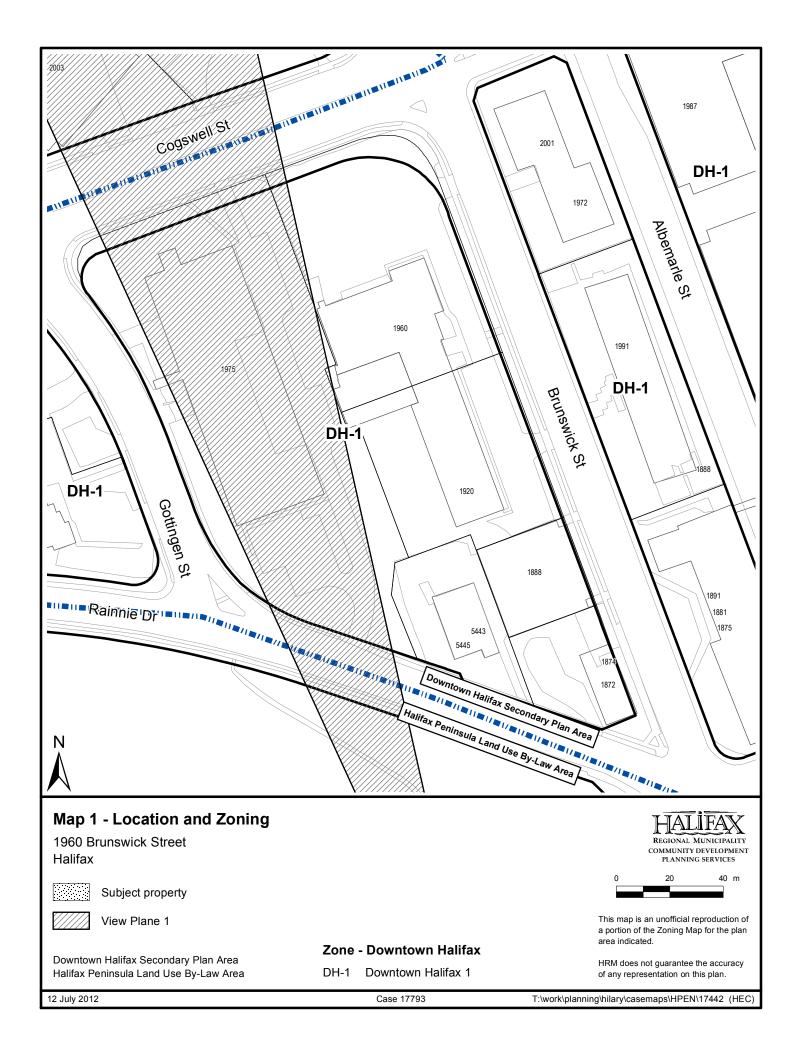
Attachment C Comparison of Revised and Original Renderings

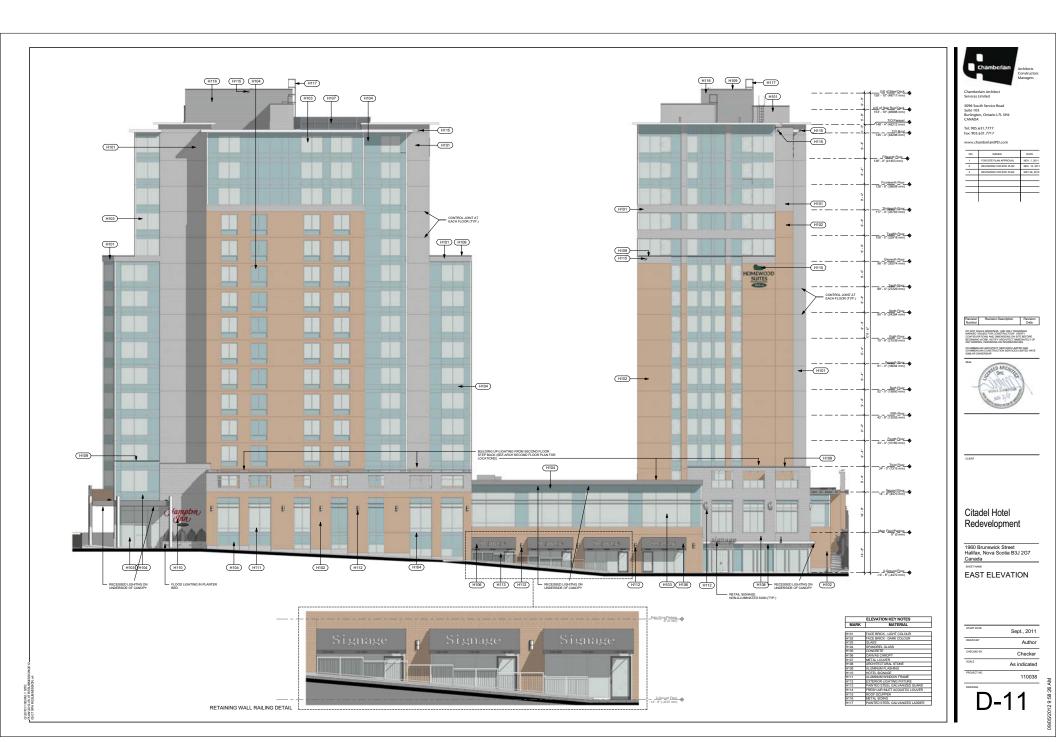
Attachment D Wind Study Addendum

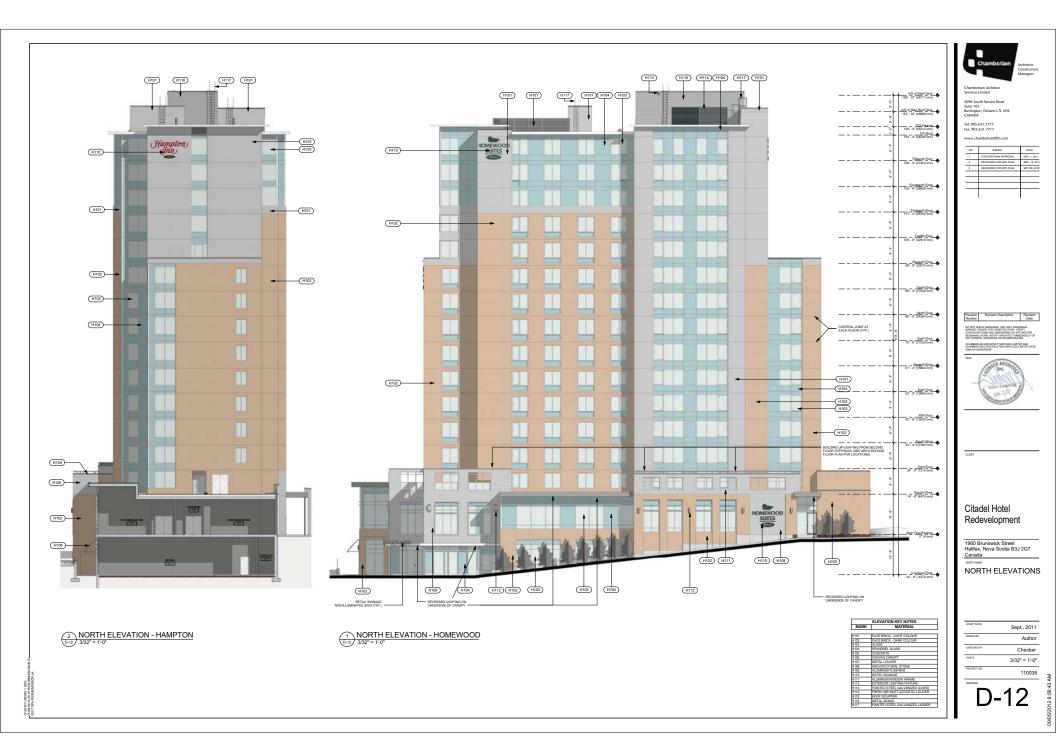
A copy of this report can be obtained online at http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/DesignReviewCommittee-HRM.html then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210 or fax 490-4208.

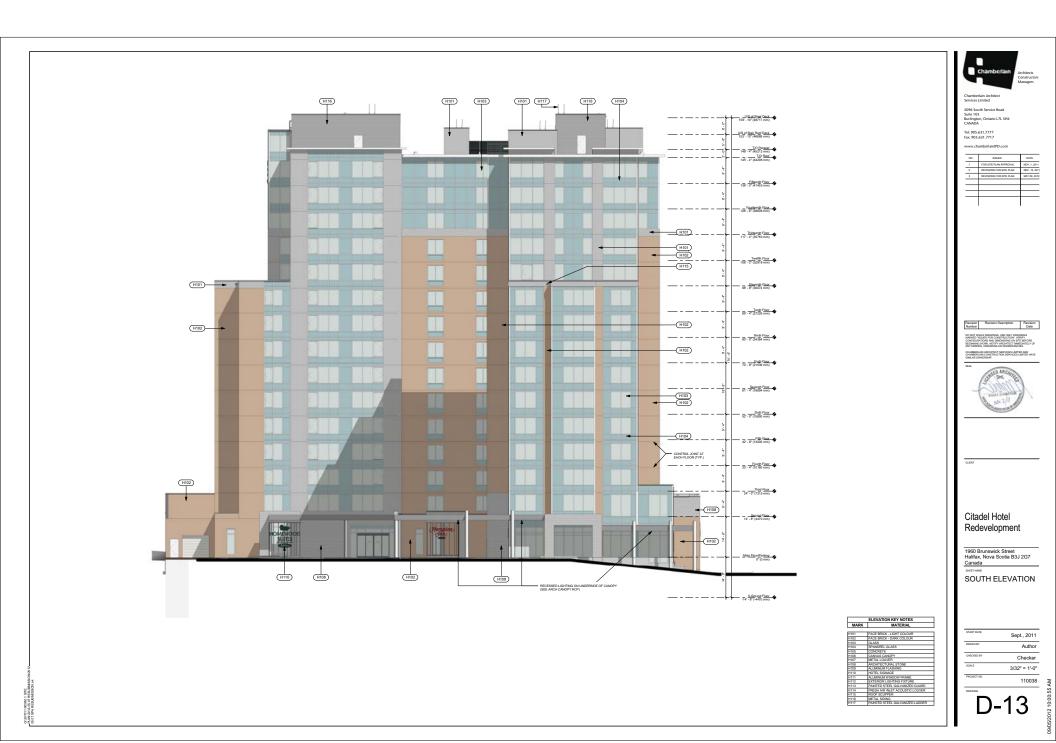
Report Prepared by: Paul Sampson, Planner, 490-6259

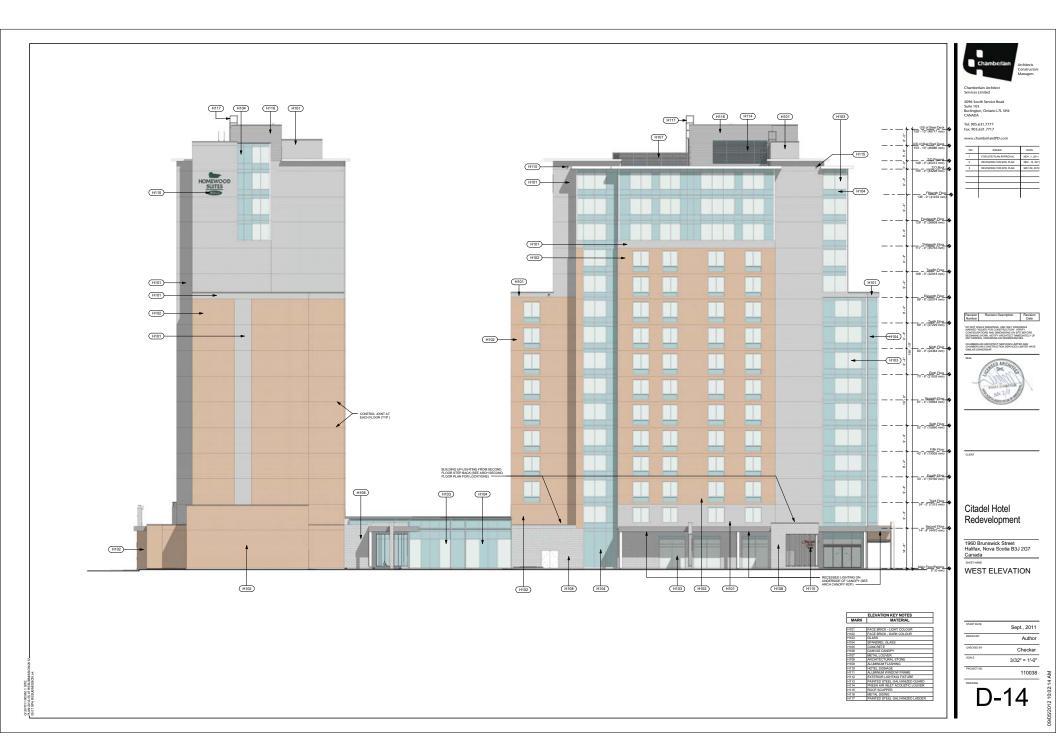
Report Approved by: Kelly Denty, Manager, Development Approvals, 490-4800











Attachment B: Design Rationale Addendum (Case #17793)

Proposed Changes

The 2-Storey addition provides the two hotel towers and podium with a better defined Base, Middle and Top. The buildings floor plate has been duplicated at the 11th floor adding two additional floors bringing the final floor count to 15 storeys. The masonry on both towers has been brought up two floors higher to better accentuate the middle portion of the design. The buildings interior courtyard and street facades remain unchanged and functions at both these levels remain the same. Both the Client and Architect feel that this is an improvement to an already strong design proposal.

49m Height Confirmation

This description is also to confirm that the proposed 2-storey addition is below the 49m maximum. The average mean on both Cogswell (92.05') and Brunswick (89.1') combined is 90.6' (2900mm below our Main Floor). The T/O Roof dimensions on the attached elevations are 44,298mm. With the addition of the 2900mm for the mean grade the total height comes to 47,198mm. Our hotel roof tops our comprised of 26% (Hampton) 24% (Homewood) coverage of Penthouse, Elevator overruns and stairs which is less than the 30% maximum allowable coverage noted in HRM Downtown Land-use By-law. Which concludes that our roof top items follow the allowable protrusions, therefore satisfying the 49m height regulation.





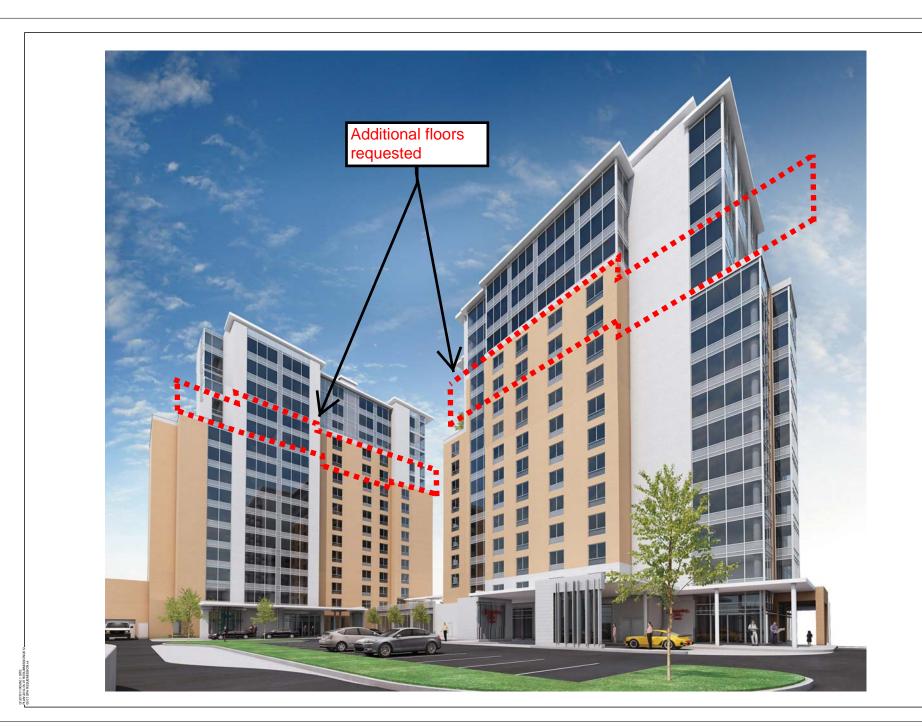


Citadel Hotel Redevelopment

CORNER VIEW

START DATE	
	Sept., 2011
DRAWN BY	Author
CHECKED BY	Checker
SCALE	
PROJECT NO.	110038
DRAWING	

D-8













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Citadel Hotel Redevelopment

> 960 Brunswick Street alifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2G7 anada

COURTYARD VIEW

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Tel: 519.823.1311 Fax: 519.823.1316

Rowan Williams Davies & Irwin Inc. 650 Woodlawn Road West Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1K 1B8 Case 17793 Attachment D

June 1, 2012

lan Smith
SilverBirch Hotels and Resorts LP
The Burrard Building
1030 West Georgia Street
Suite 1600
Vancouver, BC V6E 2Y3

Email: mismith@bellaliant.net

Re: Citadel Hotel Redevelopment

RWDI Reference No. 1102163

Dear lan.

We understand that a design change is currently being considered for the Citadel Hotel Redevelopment in Halifax, which involves a two-storey addition to each of the two proposed hotel towers. RWDI conducted a Pedestrian Wind Study for this project in 2011 (RWDI Reference #1102163, Pedestrian Wind Study report, dated October 28, 2011). Based on drawings received by RWDI on June 1, 2012 and dated May 25, 2012, these two-storey additions in height will have negligible effect on the pedestrian wind conditions at street level, from what was originally assessed.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours very truly,

ROWAN WILLIAMS DAVIES & IRWIN Inc.

Tahrana Lovlin, P.Eng. Sr. Project Engineer

Edyta Chruscinski, P.Eng., PMP, LEEP AP Project Manager

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