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Item No. 5
Halifax Regional Council
March 10, 2015

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original Signed by Director

SUBMITTED BY: _____
Brad Anguish, Director, Parks and Recreation

DATE: January 20, 2015

SUBJECT: Bayers Lake Mystery Wall

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

October 21, 2014 motion of Halifax Regional Council:

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Whitman, that Regional Council request a staff report on the possibility of HRM staff working with the Nova Scotia Archaeology Society in developing a short term plan and long term plan to protect and stabilize the Bayers Lake Historical (Mystery Wall) site so that the history is saved and can be shared for future generations.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

-HRM Charter, Part III, Powers of Municipality Regarding Property -

61 (3) The property vested in the Municipality, absolutely or in trust, is under the exclusive management and control of the Council, unless an Act of the Legislature provides otherwise.

-Nova Scotia Special Places Protection Act

-Halifax Regional Municipal Planning Strategy policies;

- CH-13 – Cultural Landscapes and Scenic Views
- CH-14 – Cultural Heritage Conservation Standards and Guidelines
- CH-15- Consideration of Mechanisms for Management of Heritage Resources

BACKGROUND

The Mystery Wall is an archeologic resource located on Municipal land in the Bayers Lake Business Park. It is informally called the "Mystery Wall" as its purpose, age and history are not known. While known to local residents, its presence was identified during the land surveys to establish the Bayers Lake Business Park in the 1990s. The Municipality conducted a Level I Archeological Assessment in 2010 in order that the extent of the resource was known so that it would not be mistakenly developed for Business Park purposes. The Municipality has cooperated with the Province of Nova Scotia under the Special Places Protection Act to protect the area until additional work can be conducted to determine its significance.

The Nova Scotia Archaeology Society (NSAS) has approached the area Councillor to discuss possibilities for further exploration, interpretation and protection of the asset.

DISCUSSION

Municipal staff has held initial discussions with the Nova Scotia Archaeology Society. The Society intends to submit a proposal to HRM for consideration. Once received, staff intends to review the proposal in conjunction with the Province of Nova Scotia and professionals in the fields of archeology and cultural heritage resource management.

An assessment of the proposal, as well as an outline of the roles and responsibility of the Municipality and others, will be submitted to Regional Council through the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee for consideration of options.

It is anticipated to take six months for proposal preparation by the NSAS and assessment by staff. In the meantime staff will continue to monitor the property.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications at this time. Any future Municipal cost implications would be identified in subsequent reports.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

None

ATTACHMENTS

None

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.php> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

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