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Item No. 4

**Committee of the Whole
March 11, 2015**

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed
Brad Anguish, Director, Parks & Recreation

DATE: March 2, 2015

SUBJECT: Paved Parking for Mainland Common

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

March 4, 2015 Committee of the Whole – During the presentation of the 2015/2016 Parks and Recreation Business Unit Budget and Business Plan, the Committee of the Whole requested a staff report on the feasibility of paving and marking the parking lot at the dog park on Westridge Drive, Halifax.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Regional Municipal Charter - Power to expend money

79 (1) The Council may expend money required by the Municipality for (aq) parking lots and parking structures

BACKGROUND

During the presentation of the 2015/16 Budget and Business Plan for Parks & Recreation on March 4, 2015, Committee of the Whole requested a staff report on the feasibility of paving and marking the parking lot at the dog park on Westridge Drive, Halifax.

DISCUSSION

In December 2014, Council approved the site on the Mainland Common off Westridge Drive as an off-leash dog park. Phase 1 of the off-leash park is complete and operational. Phase 2 is scheduled to be completed by the end of May 2015. The paving project could be completed during the 2015 construction season along with the other infrastructure improvements scheduled for the Mainland Common if approved.

The conceptual plan (Appendix A) illustrated a future parking lot configuration. Under the Mainland Common Master Plan, this parking area is intended to serve the existing ball field and passive uses associated with this section of the Mainland Common. As outlined in the staff report of December 2, 2014, there are benefits associated with paving and lining this lot. They include an estimated 30% increase in parking efficiency, easier winter maintenance, improved accessibility, improvements to the daily route to school to Halifax West, and creation of a more formal public entrance to the Mainland Common. Paving will be required as a part of future park development in response to increase in user demand.

A preliminary costing associated with construction of the paved parking lot is estimated at \$200,000. This includes asphalt paving, line painting, survey work, and improved lighting on the existing wooden poles. The layout will provide for a capacity of 78 vehicles.

Annual operating expenses (including winter maintenance) is estimated at \$12,500.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report. Should Regional Council, however, determine that this project should proceed this year, an increase in funding for the 2015/16 capital budget would be required or a reduction in other projects identified as priorities for 2015/16.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A public meeting was held in October 2014 to gather feedback on the Mainland Common as a replacement site for the Africville Off-Leash Park. Feedback indicated the majority of residents feel the parking lot should be paved.

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A – Conceptual Plan Parking Lot Configuration

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/agenda.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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Appendix A

