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Item No. 15.1.5
Halifax Regional Council
March 18, 2025

TO: Mayor Fillmore and Members of Halifax Regional Council

FROM: Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: February 4, 2025

SUBJECT: **Appointment of Heritage Officer - 2025**

ORIGIN

The Nova Scotia *Heritage Property Act* requires municipalities to appoint a Heritage Officer when they establish a Heritage Conservation District.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Seamus McGreal, current Heritage Officer has resigned from the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM), effective February 26, 2025.
- Recommend that Regional Council appoint Jesse Morton as the Heritage Officer.
- There are no financial or risk implications with the new appointment.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council end Seamus McGreal's appointment as Heritage Officer, and appoint Jesse Morton as the Heritage Officer pursuant to Section 19G(1) of the *Heritage Property Act*, and that this appointment be effective for the duration of their current conditions of employment with the Halifax Regional Municipality.

BACKGROUND

Section 19G of the *Heritage Property Act of Nova Scotia* enables municipalities to establish heritage conservation districts to protect areas of significant heritage resources. HRM has adopted three Heritage Conservation Districts (HCD): Barrington Street HCD (2009), Schmidville HCD (2018), and Old South Suburb (2020). In accordance with *Heritage Property Act*, Regional Council is required to appoint a Heritage Officer. The Heritage Officer is responsible for the administration of the Heritage Conservation District Plan and By-law and the issuance of Certificates of Appropriateness for development within the Districts. The existing designated Heritage Officer is Seamus McGreal, Planner III for Heritage, who was appointed by Council on June 18, 2024.

DISCUSSION

Seamus McGreal has resigned from HRM, effective February 26, 2025. Staff is recommending that Regional Council end Seamus McGreal's appointment as Heritage Officer so there is a public record respecting the status of his appointment and to fill the position.

The position of Principal Planner for Heritage is currently being performed by Jesse Morton and staff are recommending that Mr. Morton be appointed as the Heritage Officer. Kurt Pyle, Manager of Heritage and Planning Information Services within Planning and Development, is the existing Alternate Heritage Officer, and was so appointed by Council on November 17, 2009 and he will continue in this role.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No financial implications at this time.

RISK CONSIDERATION

No risk considerations were identified.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

No community engagement was required.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

No environmental implications were identified.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Heritage Property Act, R.S.N.S., c. 199, as follows:

19G (1) A council that has adopted a conservation plan and conservation by-law shall designate a person employed by the municipality as the heritage officer and the heritage officer shall be responsible for the administration of the conservation plan and conservation by-law and the issuance of certificates.

Heritage Conservation District Regulations, NS Reg 138/92

ALTERNATIVES

Council may choose not to appoint a new Heritage Officer, in which case the alternate Heritage Officer would become the Heritage Officer. This is not the recommended course of action for the reasons stated above.

ATTACHMENTS

None

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