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Item No. 15.1.1
Halifax Regional Council
August 19, 2025

TO: Mayor Fillmore and Members of Halifax Regional Council
FROM: Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer
DATE: July 9, 2025
SUBJECT: Community Grants Program 2025 - Referral

SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATION REPORT

ORIGIN

June 24, 2025 – Item 15.5.3

THAT the Grants Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council:

1. Approve 63 awards as detailed in Attachment 2 of the staff report dated May 26, 2025, for a combined total of \$476,430 from Operating Account M311-8004 Community Grants;
2. Amend the funding conditions for #56 Petpeswick Yacht Club in Attachment 2 of the staff report dated May 26, 2025, to remove the holdback condition, having the society confirmed provincial funding;
3. Recommend reduction in Grant award for #48 Kiwanis Club of Cole Harbour Westphal in Attachment 2 from \$5,000 (full funding) to \$1,000 as a result of the soil been donated and not a cash expenditure, and if a reduction is approved, the Financial Implications section of the staff report dated May 26, 2025, be amended to a revised balance remaining of \$23,570; and
4. Approve that the application for St. Peter Parish be referred to staff for further review on the basis of the historic significance of the building and the need for remediation.

The Report was approved through the consent agenda.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An application to the Community Grants Program in the amount of \$24,282 was requested from the Parish of St. Peter's Church for renovations to the St. John's Church, a registered heritage property, located at 8 Church Road, Peggy's Cove. The application was deemed ineligible because the Parish is not the property owner as per the Nova Scotia Land Registry [Policy, s. 5 (b) (ii)]. The application was referred to staff for further review based on the property's historical significance and demonstrated need for remediation.

RECOMMENDATION ON PAGE 2

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council approve a Capital Grant in the amount of \$23,570 to the Parish of St. Peter's Church/Anglican Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. The award will be issued to the Property owner, the Anglican Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

BACKGROUND

The 2025 Community Grants Program received a total of 120 applications of which 63 were approved by Regional Council at their meeting of June 24, 2025. One application, a Capital Grant request in the amount of \$24,282 from the Parish of St. Peter's Church was referred to staff for further review based on the historical significance of the building and the demonstrated need for its remediation. Following Council's approval as of June 24, 2025, the balance remaining in the program budget is \$23,570.

DISCUSSION

The Parish of St. Peter's comprises three (3) churches: St. Peter's (Hackett's Cove), St. Andrew's (Indian Harbour), and St. John's (Peggy's Cove). The grant application requested funds to restore stain glass windows, remove and replace three storm windows, and partial painting of the exterior. The St. John's Church, a registered heritage property was constructed in 1883. It represents a Gothic Revival church with a corner tower and spire and is in the heart of Peggy's Cove. The heritage designation applies to the church and the land it occupies.

As per policy, the applicant must be the owner of the property. Therefore, to be eligible for reconsideration as a joint application the property owner, the Anglican Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, was required to submit a financial statement. In addition to the review the application revealed that the Parish of St. Peter's has initiated a partnership with Peggy's Cove Preservation Society and are currently working on and creating an extensive fundraising strategy in support of the ongoing restoration efforts.

The overall project involves restoration of stained glass, repair sections of some windows sills as required, prime and painting the North side of the church as well replace three storm windows. The applicants' cost share in the amount of \$1,000 is confirmed. As a registered charity the applicant may qualify for an HST rebate as well as the provincial sales tax rebate from the Heritage Property Program.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Community Grants Program 2025 Budget M311-844 | \$500,000 |
| Less Approved Awards | (\$476,430) |
| Less Recommended Award (1) | <u>(\$23,570)</u> |
| Revised Balance | (\$0) |

RISK CONSIDERATION

No risk considerations were identified.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not required as this report deals with one applicant referred to staff by Regional Council for further review.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

No environmental implications were identified.

ALTERNATIVES

Regional Council could overturn the recommendation to grant funding or amend the value of the award.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, SNS 2008, c 39

Section 7A The purposes of the Municipality are to

- (a) provide good government;
- (b) provide services, facilities and other things that, in the opinion of the Council, are necessary or desirable for all or part of the Municipality; and
- (c) develop and maintain safe and viable communities.

Section 79A (1) Subject to subsections (2) to (4), the Municipality may only spend money for municipal purposes if

- (a) The expenditure is included in the Municipality's operating budget or capital budget or is otherwise authorized by the Municipality.

Administrative Order 2022-005-ADM Community Grants Program

Section 3. The aim of the Community Grants Program is to support the volunteer participation of residents of the Halifax Regional Municipality in local nonprofit and charitable organizations that develop or deliver a project, program, service, or amenity to the benefit of members of the public and that aligns with elements of the Municipality's 5-Year Strategic Priorities Plan

Section 27. The following criteria shall be used by staff to evaluate applications for consideration by the Grants Committee for recommendation to Council:

- a) The way in which a project addresses a program funding priority;
- b) The applicant's demonstrated financial capacity and the incremental impact of a municipal grant;
- c) The applicant's reliance on volunteers and self-generated revenues – preference may be given to
- d) organizations not in receipt of recurring municipal, provincial, or federal government funding; and
- e) The type and scope of public benefit in terms of one or more of the following: accessibility, diversity, affordability, or inclusivity.

HRM Grants Committee Terms of Reference

The duties of the HRM Grants Committee are to:

- 4.1. Advise Regional Council on all matters related to the allocation of grants, as defined by Regional Council.

Administrative Order 2019-007-ADM Respecting Public Disclosure of Municipal Grants

ATTACHMENTS

None.

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