



Subject: *Plan Update - Community Consultation Update*
To: CAO for Planning Advisory Committee, June 15, 2021
Date Prepared: June 9, 2021
Related Motions: PAC21(14), PAC21(5), PAC21(6), C21(23), C21(24), PAC21(26)
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Approved by: John Woodford, Director of Planning and Development

Summary

Through out the Official Community Plan Update, Planning staff will be providing Planning Advisory Committee members with community consultation updates. These updates are intended to provide PAC with information on consultation that has taken place or any upcoming consultation that has been scheduled.

Today's report will outline consultation that has taken place since the Community Plan Update was initiated and consultation that will be taking place during the summer months.

Financial Impact Statement

The Community Plan Update has been budgeted for in the 2021/2022 Municipal Budget.

Recommendation

There is no recommendation associated with the adoption of this report.

Recommended Motion

There is no recommendation associated with the adoption of this report.

Background

Stakeholder and community engagement for the Official Community Plan has started. Below are the engagement items that have taken place or are schedule to take place this summer.

Type of Engagement	Details
Letters to adjoining Municipalities	Letters were mailed to the Municipalities of Colchester, West Hants and Halifax and to Sipekne'katik First Nation indicating the East Hants Official Community Plan Update had been initiated and that Planning staff were open to discussing the review with our neighbouring jurisdictions. To date, the Director of Planning has only received verbal communication on the Plan Update and no meetings have been requested.
Developer's Briefing	Planning staff held a Developer's Briefing through a Zoom meeting on May 20, 2021. The Briefing notified Developers of the Plan Update and identified some of the key policies and regulations that are to be reviewed as part of the Plan Update. In addition, the Briefing also provided Developers with demographic data, a summary of the Municipal Standard updates, overview of large infrastructure projects that will be undertaken by the Municipality, and changes to time lines for building permits, building inspections, and site plan approval.
Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting	The Agricultural Advisory Committee held its initial meeting, through Zoom, regarding the Plan Update on June 8, 2021. The Committee was provided information on the Official Community Plan, existing regulations, and the current Plan Update. In addition, the Committee discussed agriculture and the future planned area, and the committee was introduced to soils mapping.
Plan Update Survey	The Plan Update Survey is scheduled to start early summer and will be open to the public until September 1, 2021. Survey Monkey will be used for the digital platform, in addition, hard copies of the survey will also be available. The survey will be advertised in the Municipal Newsletter, Lisa's Web, and on our Municipal website and social media feeds. A copy of the survey questions has been attached as Appendix A.

Conclusion

An update on community consultation that has taken place as part of the Official Community Plan Update has been provided to PAC members. Additional, community consultation updates will be provided to PAC as the Plan Update continues. Results of the Plan Update Survey will be provided to PAC during the next community consultation update. The next steps in the community consultation process will involve in-person meetings in identified East Hants communities. However, dates for these meetings have not been determined yet due to changing public health measures. Staff are hoping that by September, in-person meetings will be permitted, allowing for community meetings to be scheduled for the fall of 2021.

Recommendation

There is no recommendation associated with the adoption of this report.

East Hants Plan Update - Community Survey

The Council of the Municipality of East Hants is in the process of updating the East Hants Official Community Plan. Part of this update includes bringing comprehensive land use planning to all communities within East Hants' borders.

Through this survey, we are asking you to tell us about land use issues in East Hants that are important to you. Your responses will help the Municipality create a comprehensive plan for the community that guides future development.

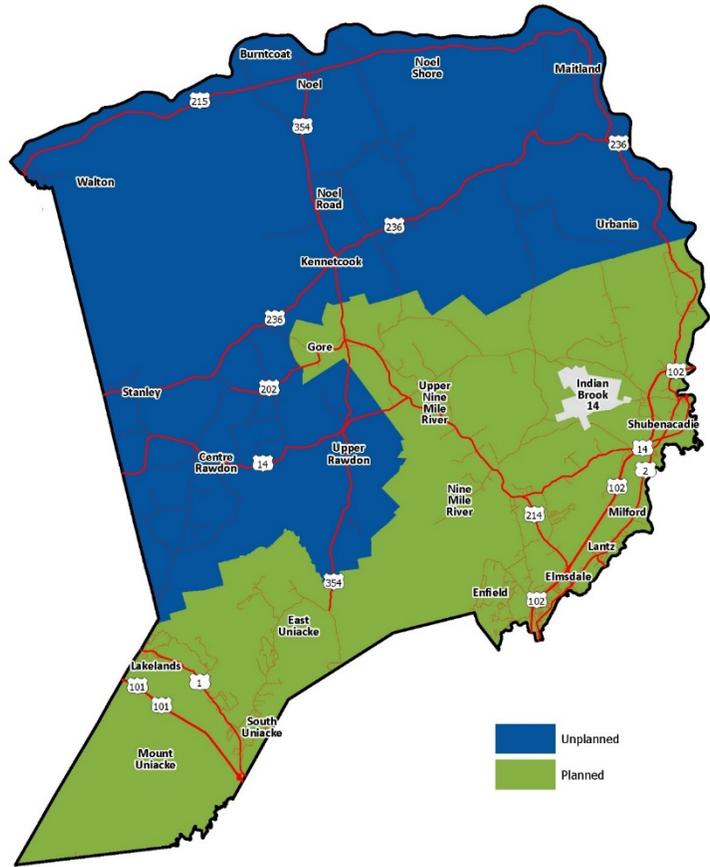
Please fill out the digital survey at: easthants.ca/community-plan-update, by September 1, 2021. To receive a hard copy of the survey with a return envelope, please call 902-883-3387 or email planning@easthants.ca.

Survey Questions:

1. How long have you been a resident of East Hants? _____

2. In which community do you live?

3. Overall, how satisfied are you with East Hants as a place to live?
 - a. Satisfied
 - b. Somewhat satisfied
 - c. Somewhat dissatisfied
 - d. Dissatisfied



Additional Comments:

4. In planning for the future of your community, how strongly should East Hants regulate land use in the following areas?

	Strong Regulations	Average Regulations	No Regulations	Comments
Environmental Preservation				
Farmland Preservation				
Heritage Preservation				
Industrial Development				
Shoreline Development				

5. What are the most important factors for you to see reflected in the Official Community Plan? (Please rank the following with 1 as the most important and 11 being the least important)

- ___ Infrastructure and Transportation
- ___ Promotion of Tourism and Recreational Sites
- ___ Growth Management
- ___ Initiatives to Attract Business
- ___ Sustainability
- ___ Preservation of Agricultural Land
- ___ Parks and Open Spaces
- ___ Heritage Conservation
- ___ Range and Mix of Housing
- ___ Age-Friendly and Accessibility Planning
- ___ Redevelopment, Urban Design

6. Do you think that growth in East Hants is happening in the appropriate areas? (circle the option that you prefer)

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

Additional Comments:

7. Is the development of parks and opens spaces important to you? If yes, please describe the types of parks you would like to see developed?

8. Is there anything special about your community that we should know about as we prepare this plan?

9. Has there been any recent development in your community that you are concerned about?

10. What is your long-term vision for the Municipality of East Hants?

If you want to stay informed as this plan is prepared please provide us your email address here _____.