



Subject: *Plan Update - Community Consultation Update*
To: CAO for Planning Advisory Committee, September 21, 2021
Date Prepared: September 13, 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

As part of the Official Community Plan Update, Planning staff will be providing Planning Advisory Committee 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 fall months. An in-depth community consultation report, with the results of the Plan Update Survey and rural open houses will be presented to Planning Advisory Committee this November or December.

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 is underway. Below are the engagement items that have taken place or are schedule to take place this summer.

Type of Engagement	Date	Details
Letters to adjoining Municipalities	April 2021	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	May 2021	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 Standards 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	June 2021	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	Summer 2021	The Plan Update Survey was opened the first week of July and closed to the public September 1, 2021. Survey Monkey was used for the digital survey. In addition, hard copies of the survey were also available for residents to complete. The survey was advertised in the Municipal Newsletter, Lisa's Web, and on our Municipal website and social media feeds. A total of 430 Plan Update Surveys were submitted (not all surveys were entirely completed). Results of the survey will be presented to PAC in a larger community consultation report later this year.
Plan Update Open Houses - Rural East Hants Communities	October 2021	<p>East Hants Plan Update open houses have been scheduled for the month of October. The open houses have been designed for rural residents and will discuss what it means to have the future planned area comprehensively zoned. Residents will have the opportunity to review the community inventory maps and discuss land use issues such as shoreline erosion, agricultural activities, recreational vehicle use and more.</p> <p>Open houses will be held in the communities of Noel, Walton, Kennetcook, Rawdon and Maitland. A flyer detailing the events has been attached as Appendix A.</p>

Community Engagement Report	November or December 2021	A Community Engagement Report outlining the results of the Plan Update Survey and Open House events will be presented to PAC at their meeting in either November or December 2021, depending on workload requirements. The results of the community engagement will inform land use policies and regulations for the future planned area.
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Conclusion

An update on community consultation that has taken place as part of the Official Community Plan Update has been provided to PAC in this report. Additional, community consultation updates will be provided to PAC as the Plan Update continues. Results of the Plan Update Survey and of the October Open Houses will be prepared in a Community Engagement Report for PAC members to review.

Recommendation

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