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Policy & Strategy Committee Meeting AGENDA
Tuesday, November 15, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.
Council Chambers, 10 Allée Champlain Drive Cookville NS
And Via Audio & Video Teleconference

- 1. Call to Order**
 - 1.1 Mi'kma'ki Territorial Acknowledgement
- 2. Election by Ballot for Vice Chair**
- 3. Announcements, Acknowledgements, Recognition**
 - 3.1 Municipal Awareness Week Proclamation
- 4. Approval of Agenda**
- 5. Approval of Minutes of October 18, 2022 (as circulated)**
- 6. Business Arising from Minutes - Nil**
- 7. Presentations - Nil**
- 7. Referral from Council - Nil**
- 8. Staff Reports**
 - 8.1 Recreation Department**
 - 8.1.1 Update on Managed Trails 1-7
 - 8.2 Planning & Development Department**
 - 8.2.1 Flood Risk Project 8-9
- 9. Mayor's/Deputy Mayor's/Councillors' Matters**
- 10. Added Items**
- 11. In Camera**
 - 11.1 Potential Litigation under Section 22(2)(f) of the MGA
- 12. Adjournment**

Trail Groups Meeting: What We Heard



Martin's River Bridge

Leave the road, take the trails.

~Pythagoras



Celebrating Successes

- Completion of New Germany Bridge
- Created accessible ramps providing care home residents trail access
- Secured \$1.4 million in funding for Martin's River Bridge repairs
- NauglerRoad connection
- Partnership with New Germany Legion for OHV parking
- Collaboration of 3 trail groups to upgrade trail junction site



ENFORCEMENT

Funding

Disconnect & lack of communication various government departments

Inconsistency/lack of set standards

Volunteer recruitment & retention

Trail connectivity



Understanding the Challenges

When everything feels like an uphill struggle, think about the view from the top.

~ Unkown



LaHave River Trail Challenges

- Missing connections
- Bureaucratic red tape
- Inability to spend grant money
- Landowner conflicts
- Encroachment
- Volunteer burnout



What can MODL do?



Alone, we can do so little; together,
we can do so much.

~Helen Keller



- Continue to support trail groups
- Help bridge the gap between government & trail groups
- lobby for consistency & trail standards
- Continue providing financial support



Questions?





Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Request for Decision

Report to: Municipal Council

Prepared by: Jeff Merrill, MCIP, LPP, Director of Planning & Development Services

Date: November 15, 2022

Re: Flood Risk Mapping Engagement

Recommendation

That Municipal Council direct planning staff to pause all work on the flood risk engagement and regulations until the remainder of the 2040 land use planning project is completed in 2024 and that all flood risk data has been reviewed and verified with the consultants who completed the initial flood risk report and mapping.

Discussion

In accordance with upcoming provincial requirements around minimum planning standards for flood risk areas, MODL and the District of Chester issued a joint RFP in 2019 to complete detailed flood risk mapping for most areas within Lunenburg County. The project was subsequently awarded to a consultant, who undertook the analysis and completed a report that was provided to MODL in 2021. The analysis was based on lidar elevation data that was obtained in 2016 and involved modelling different scenarios to predict future flooding events. These events were then projected onto a map that shows areas that are predicted to be at a 1% or 5% annual risk of flooding.

As a part of MODL's larger 2040 land use planning project, staff launched the public engagement campaign for the topic of flood risk in October, 2022. This campaign has involved outreach to residents through a variety of means, including an interactive map and website, as well as a mailout to more than 15,000 residents whose properties were deemed to be affected by flood risk areas. Since the campaign was launched, hundreds of responses to the online poll have been

received, and more than 50 resident calls or emails have been responded to by planning staff. A virtual open house was held on October 25th and the first in-person open house was then held on Saturday, November 5th in the community of Parkdale Maplewood.

As the letters have been mailed and received by property owners, staff have begun to note that many of the questions brought forward related specifically to the accuracy of the flood risk report and the mapping. At the most recent public meeting in Parkdale Maplewood, several different residents also raised concerns relating to the accuracy of the mapping. Due to these concerns, staff confirmed with the public at that meeting that MODL would investigate the concerns raised and communicate next steps. Following a staff discussion on Monday, November 7th, the open houses initially scheduled for Tuesday, November 8th and Wednesday, November 9th were cancelled, and the interactive online map has been removed from the engagement website. Additional virtual and in-person open houses scheduled for future weeks remain scheduled and the engagement website is currently active.

On November 10th, staff notified provincial planning staff that challenges had been encountered with the flood risk mapping and although written confirmation has not yet been provided, were assured that approval of the new Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law would not be directly impacted by this issue.

Conclusion

Due to the concerns raised about the flood risk mapping to date and the possible time commitment involved in changing the approach, staff are recommending that Council pause the flood risk-related elements of this project in order to focus on completing the 2040 project in a timely manner. It is noted that there will be an additional in-camera item dealing with the data issue from the consultant.

Report Preparation	
Department	Planning and Development
Report Prepared by	Jeff Merrill, Director of Planning & Development Services
Report Approved by	
Date Reviewed by C.A.O.	