



**WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY REPORT**

Information <input type="checkbox"/>	Recommendation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Decision Request <input type="checkbox"/>	Councillor Activity <input type="checkbox"/>
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**To:** Mayor Zebian and Members of West Hants Regional Municipality Council

**Submitted by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Alex Dunphy, Planner

**Date:** December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Subject:** Redesignation and Concurrent Rezoning: 65 Fort Edward Street, Windsor; PID 45059797; File# 21-15

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

Section 205 of the Municipal Government Act.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The following motion was defeated at PAC/HAC on December 2, 2021:

... that Council give First Reading and hold a Public Hearing to consider redesignating from Community Use to Residential and concurrently rezoning from Open Space (OS) to Two Unit Residential the property at PID 45059797, 65 Fort Edward Street, Windsor.

The following motions were prepared and passed by PAC/HAC:

... that PAC/HAC recommends that Council delay First Reading and direct staff to complete their research related to any former Town of Windsor outstanding commitments to heritage projects at the site (PID 45059797).

... that PAC/HAC request staff for comment from the Province of Nova Scotia regarding requirements of the Special Places Protection Act for the site (PID 45059797).

**BACKGROUND**

Property <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Opinion <input type="checkbox"/>	Environment <input type="checkbox"/>	Social <input type="checkbox"/>	Economic <input type="checkbox"/>	Councillor Activity <input type="checkbox"/>
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A completed application was received from the Chief Administrative Officer, Mark Phillips, on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021, following a motion passed by Council directing him to submit an application to the Planning and Development Department for the redesignation and rezoning of 65 Fort Edward Street (PID 45059797). The application was made to redesignate the lot from Community Use to Residential and rezone the lot from Open Space (OS) to Two Unit Residential (R-2).

## **DISCUSSION**

A Public Information Meeting was held on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Comments were received by the public regarding the redesignation and rezoning from November 8<sup>th</sup> to November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Ten (10) comments were received and the majority (8) of these were opposed to the redesignation and rezoning. The comments most commonly cited the lot's proximity to the National Historic Site, tourism use, neighbourhood disruption, parking use, and former Town Council decisions. Two (2) comments were received that were in favour of the redesignation and rezoning citing interest in seeing residential development.

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, staff presented a recommendation report to the Planning and Heritage Advisory Committee (PAC/HAC) (Appendix A).

During the December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, staff's recommendation that Council give First Reading and hold a Public Hearing was defeated by PAC/HAC. Instead, the Committee recommended that Council delay the First Reading and direct staff to complete research related to former Town of Windsor commitments to heritage projects at the subject lot. The Committee also requested that staff to obtain comments from the province regarding the requirements of the Special Places Protection Act for the subject lot. It was also discussed that staff would reach out to Sara Beansland and Johnathan Fowler for further information about the subject lot.

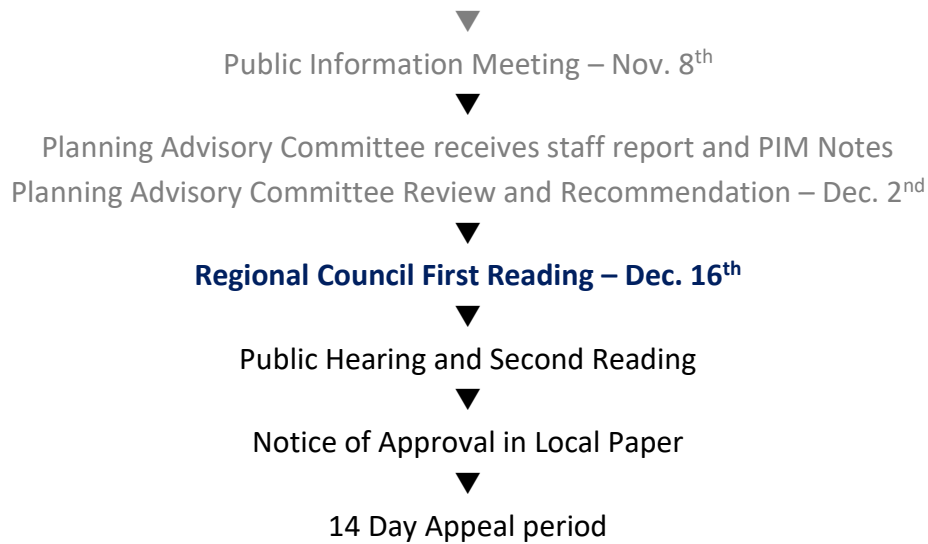
## **NEXT STEPS**

The proposed amendments have been considered based on both the enabling and supporting policies of the WMPS and have proven consistent with the intent, objectives, and policies of the WMPS. As a result, it is reasonable to consider redesignating from Community Use to Residential and concurrently rezoning from Open Space (OS) to Two Unit Residential (R-2) at 65 Fort Edward Street, Windsor (PID 45059797).

The subject lot's current designation and zoning provide the opportunity to develop the site as a museum or historic site as-of-right. As a result, it is also reasonable to consider delaying First Reading in order to complete research related to any former Town of Windsor outstanding commitments to heritage projects at 65 Fort Edward Street, Windsor (PID 45059797).

## ***Process***

Staff Review



## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

At this point, there are no anticipated costs to the Municipality associated with this development.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

In response to the application, Council may:

- hold a First Reading and authorize a Public Hearing to approve the redesignation and concurrent rezoning; or
- delay First Reading and direct staff to complete their research related to any former Town of Windsor outstanding commitments to heritage projects at the subject lot (PID 45059797)
- provide alternative direction such as requesting further information on a specific topic

## **APPENDICIES**

Appendix A                      2021-12-02 Staff Report - Redesignation and Concurrent Rezoning: 65 Fort Edward Street, Windsor; PID 45059797; File# 21-15

## **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REVIEW**

As noted in the report the PAC/HAC have met to review the rezoning application for the noted property. I did not attend the meeting but understand there was discussions by the committee resulting in two separate action items or requests for more information and further due diligence from PAC/HAC for Council to consider before proceeding to first reading.

PAC/HAC are advisory to Council and have been provided the authority to reject, amend or support a recommendation from staff. Council, is the decision making body and has the

authority to proceed as they see fit which may or may not be in alignment with the position of PAC/HAC or any advisory committee.

I support the original recommendation from staff that was forwarded to the PAC / HAC meeting on December 2, 2021.

... that Council give First Reading and hold a Public Hearing to consider redesignating from Community Use to Residential and concurrently rezoning from Open Space (OS) to Two Unit Residential the property at PID 45059797, 65 Fort Edward Street, Windsor.

Further information was requested by PAC /HAC.

1. Direct staff to complete their research related to any former Town of Windsor outstanding commitments to heritage projects at the site (PID 45059797).
2. Request staff for comment from the Province of Nova Scotia regarding requirements of the Special Places Protection Act for the site (PID 45059797).

Through the CAO's Office staff have revisited the past minutes of the former Town of Windsor Council relating to the former pool site, its' decommissioning and redevelopment of the lands. The discussion of the former Council and minutes have further been reviewed by solicitor John Shanks, who was also the former solicitor for the Town of Windsor, and there is no outstanding commitments to heritage projects as directed by the former Windsor Council. The minutes did reflect discussions about options for the site, including heritage uses but no motion of the former Council is influencing the current Council. The current Council has deemed the property (s) surplus as of May of 2021.

The second noted discussion point by PAC/HAC is to consider the property and its' connectivity to the Special Places Protection Act due to its proximity to the Parks Canada Site (Fort Edward). There is no legal requirement to conduct the assessment on the existing property (s) but it would be prudent for the municipality to carry out this action. The municipality, through staff, is currently engaging a qualified archeologist to carry out a Phase 1 Archaeological Resource Impact Assessment (ARIA) on the two lots to carry out additional due diligence on the sites. A Phase 2 could be triggered if Phase 1 results in concerns or findings. The (ARIA) is expected to be completed by the end of January and before the anticipated Public Hearing and Second Reading by Council.

As noted above, I recommend Council proceed with First Reading as per the staff recommendation to best accommodate the scheduled redevelopment of the site. Ample public consultation and added research can continue as the Public Hearing and Second Reading phases of the planning process are carried out. Should unknown information become available Council will have the opportunity to revisit or reflect as the Second Reading must also be approved by Council.

Report Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

Alex Dunphy, Planner

Report Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Madelyn LeMay, Director of Planning and Development

Report Approved by:  \_\_\_\_\_

Mark Phillips, Chief Administrative Officer

**Appendix A – Redesignation and Concurrent Rezoning: 65 Fort Edward Street, Windsor; PID 45059797; File# 21-15**



## WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY REPORT

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**To:** Members of Planning and Heritage Advisory Committee (PAC/HAC)

**Submitted by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Alex Dunphy, Planner

**Date:** December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

**Subject:** Redesignation and Concurrent Rezoning: 65 Fort Edward Street, Windsor; PID 45059797; File# 21-15

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### LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Section 205 of the Municipal Government Act.

### RECOMMENDATION

... that PAC recommends that Council give First Reading and hold a Public Hearing to consider redesignating from Community Use to Residential and concurrently rezoning from Open Space (OS) to Two Unit Residential the lot identified as PID 45059797, 65 Fort Edward Street, Windsor.

### BACKGROUND

A completed application was received from the Chief Administrative Officer, Mark Phillips, on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021, following a motion passed by Council directing him to submit an application to the Planning and Development Department for the redesignation and rezoning of 65 Fort Edward Street. The application was made to redesignate the lot from Community Use to Residential and rezone the lot from Open Space (OS) to Two Unit Residential (R-2) at the lot identified as PID 45059797, 65 Fort Edward Street, Windsor.

#### *Previous Uses*

The property was originally sold to the Town of Windsor in 1967 by Parks Canada as it had no further use for the land. It was then developed as pool site, then later transitioned to and is currently a vacant gravel lot utilized as municipal parking.

It should be noted that the subject lot is not a part of the Fort Edward National Historic Site. The designated historic site is owned by Parks Canada, while the subject lot is owned by West Hants Regional Municipality and is located wholly outside of the National Historic Site.

***Previous Council Discussions***

There have been many discussions regarding the intended development of this property over the last 14 years. This property has been of special interest to the West Hants Historical Society due to the proximity to the Fort Edward National Historic Site. Research for previous discussions and motions of the former Town of Windsor Council are ongoing.

**DISCUSSION**

The property is currently designated Community Use on the Generalized Future Land Use Map (GFLUM) of the Windsor Municipal Planning Strategy (WMPS) (Figure 1). This designation is generally applied to institutional, recreational, and open space uses.

The property is currently zoned Open Space (OS) on Schedule A of the Windsor Land Use By-law (WLUB) (Figure 2). Permitted uses in this zone consist of cemeteries, museums, historic sites, outdoor recreation, parks, and playgrounds.

Council’s motion to apply for a redesignation and concurrent rezoning will be considered through a set of enabling policies and a set of supporting policies. The enabling policies, which will be used to substantiate the ability for Council to redesignation and concurrent rezoning, consist of Policy 16.1.1 and Policy 16.3.1. The supporting policies, which will be examined as part of the criteria for the redesignation and rezoning, consist of Policy 11.0.1 and Policy 11.2.1.

***Surrounding Neighbourhood***

The subject lot directly abuts lots zoned Open Space (OS) to the northeast and southeast, Town Centre (TC) to the northwest, and Two Unit Residential (R-2) to the southwest.

*Table 1: Use Abutting Subject Lot by Direction*

Northeast & Southeast	Fort Edward National Historic Site zoned Open Space (OS).
Northwest	Single unit dwellings all zoned Town Centre (TC).
Southwest	Vacant gravel lot currently being used as parking zoned Two Unit Residential (R-2).

***Proposed Designation and Zone***

The intention of the application is to redesignate and rezone the subject property to allow for potential residential uses consisting of single or two-unit dwellings as of right or a greater number of units by development agreement.

Fort Edward Street is a local road which leads from King Street Extension and to the Fort Edward National Historic Site, as shown on the Transportation Map (Map 2) of the WMPS. The Municipal

Traffic Authority stated that there are many similar dwelling units in the area and they had no concerns in regard to the movement of auto, rail, and pedestrian traffic.

The Development Officer has no concerns about the proposed rezoning of this property as there are several existing Two Unit Residential (R-2) properties in close proximity and the property meets the minimum zone requirements in the WLUB. As there is existing Two Unit Residential (R-2) development in the area, as-of-right development should have little impact on the existing development.

### ***Public Information Meeting Comments***

Prior to and following the Public Information Meeting, staff have received many emails, phone calls, and letters. Staff responded to the comments received prior to the Public Information Meeting at the meeting, as seen on the final page of Attachment C – Public Information Meeting Notes. The comments in opposition to the redesignation and rezoning were primarily regarding losing access to this piece of property as public land and the lost opportunity for tourism or heritage use. The comments in favour of the redesignation and rezoning cited interest in seeing residential development on the property.

## **DOCUMENT REVIEW**

### ***Municipal Planning Strategy***

There are two sets of policies in the WMPS that apply to this proposed amendment, the enabling policies (Policy 16.1.1 and 16.3.1) and the supporting policies (Policy 11.0.1 and 11.2.1).

The enabling policies provide the ability for the amendment to take place and the criteria that the amendment must meet.

Policy 16.1.1 allows Council to review and amend the WMPS or GFLUM. Amendments can be made when the GFLUM needs to be changed to bring the Strategy in line with the Statements of Provincial Interest, or when Council deems it necessary due to a change in policy intentions or development environment. The proposed amendment would provide an opportunity for further residential development within Windsor, which in the current housing climate is necessary to not worsen the housing shortage. The amendment also addresses the Statement of Provincial Interest regarding housing by enabling additional residential development.

Policy 16.3.1 establishes the general criteria that all amendments must meet. The criteria will be explained in further detail in Attachment A, but in summary of how the proposal meets the criteria:

- the proposal is not considered premature or inappropriate
- no Municipal costs related to the proposal are anticipated
- the Fire Chief, Development Officer, Senior Building and Fire Official, Director of Public Works and Traffic Authority have no major concerns

The supporting policies provide justification for the amendment by comparing the current designation and zone definition to the use and intent of the property.

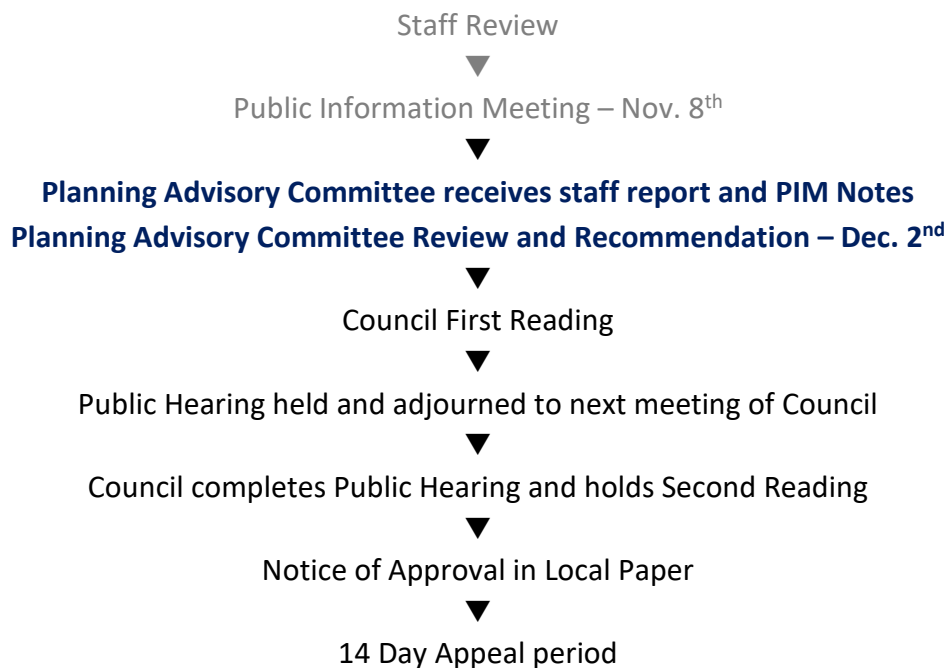
Policy 11.0.1 establishes the Community Use designation, which is the current designation of this property. As the property is currently a vacant gravel lot used for parking, it does not reflect the intent of the Community Use designation.

Policy 11.2.1 establishes the Open Space (OS) zone, which is the current zone of the property. The property is currently a vacant gravel lot used for parking, not a use for which the Open Space (OS) zone is intended.

## NEXT STEPS

The proposed amendments have been considered based on both the enabling and supporting policies of the WMPS and have proven consistent with the intent, objectives, and policies of WMPS. As a result, it is reasonable to consider redesignating from Community Use to Residential and concurrently rezoning from Open Space (OS) to Two Unit Residential (R-2) at 65 Fort Edward Street, Windsor (PID 45059797).

### *Process*



## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no anticipated costs to the Municipality associated with this development.

## ALTERNATIVES

In response to the application, PAC may:

- recommend that Council hold a First Reading and authorize a Public Hearing to approve the redesignation and concurrent rezoning; or
- provide alternative direction such as requesting further information on a specific topic

**ATTACHMENTS**

Figure 1	Windsor GFLUM Extract: Current Designation
Figure 2	Windsor GFLUM Extract: Proposed Designation
Figure 3	Windsor Zoning Map Extract: Current Zone
Figure 4	Windsor Zoning Map Extract: Proposed Zone
Attachment A	Policy Chart for Redesignation and Rezoning
Attachment B	Public Information Meeting Notes

Report Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

Alex Dunphy, Planner

Report Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Madelyn LeMay, Director of Planning and Development

Figure 1 – Windsor GFLUM Extract: Current Designation



Figure 2 – Windsor GFLUM Extract: Proposed Designation



Figure 3 – Windsor Zoning Map Extract: Current Zone

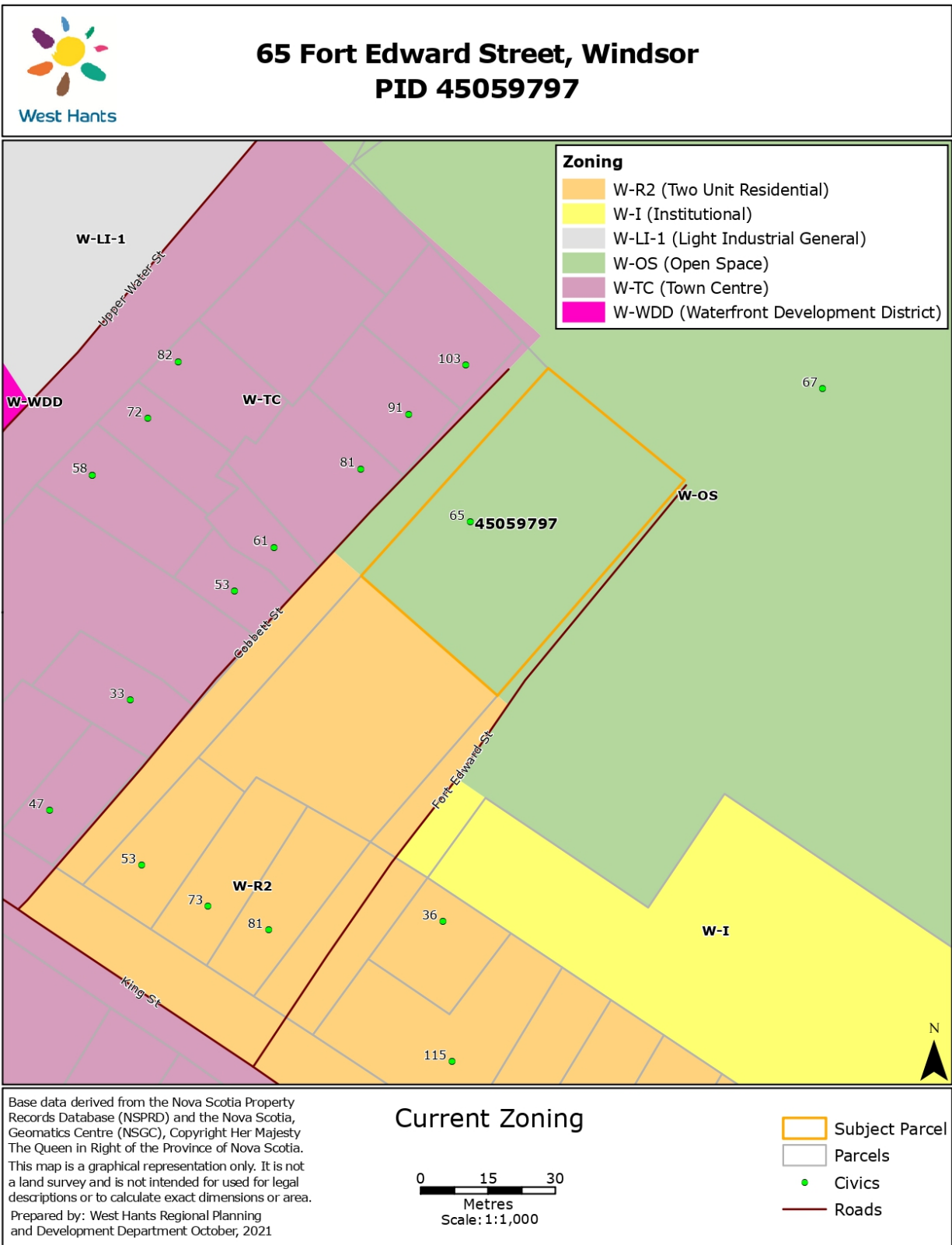
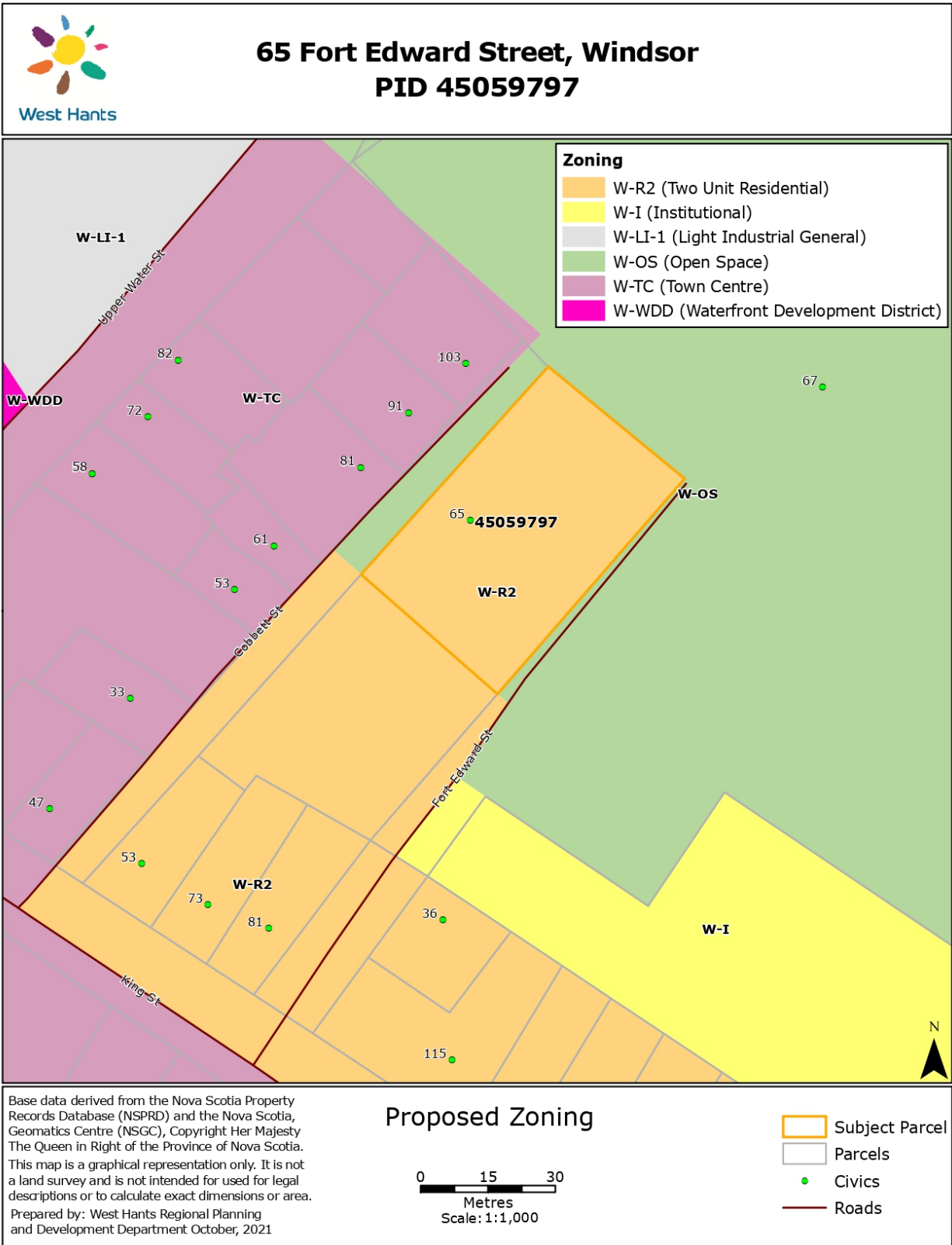


Figure 4 – Windsor Zoning Map Extract: Proposed Zone



## Attachment A – Policy Summary

### *Enabling Policy*

<p><b>Policy 16.1.1</b> It shall be the policy of Council to review and make amendments to this Strategy:</p>	
(a) when there is a requirement to change the Generalized Future Land Use Map (Map 1);	The GFLUM will need to be updated if a redesignation is permitted by Council.
(b) to bring the Strategy in line with Provincial Statements of Interest; or	The redesignation would address the Statement of Provincial Interest with regard to Housing.
(c) when Council deems it necessary because of a change in policy intentions or the development environment.	Council has deemed this property as surplus and has given direction to the CAO to apply for the proposed changes..

<p><b>Policy 16.3.1</b> In considering development agreements and amendments to the Town of Windsor Land Use By-law, in addition to the criteria set out in various policies of this Strategy, Council shall consider:</p>	
(a) whether the proposal is considered premature or inappropriate in terms of:	
(i) the adequacy of sewer and water services;	The Director of Public Works commented that the property is capable of being serviced with water and sewer from Cobbett Street and would be adequate for uses associated with the amendment.
(ii) the adequacy of school facilities;	There are a number of schools within the area including an elementary school, two high schools, and an adult education centre.
(iii) the adequacy of fire protection;	The local Fire Chief and Manager of Building and Fire Inspection Services commented that there are no concerns regarding fire protection. There are multiple points of access to firefighting infrastructure and is located close to the Fire Hall.
(iv) the adequacy of road networks adjacent to, or leading to the development; and	The Traffic Authority commented that the road networks around or adjacent to the property are sufficient for uses associated with the amendment. The property has access to both Fort Edward Street and Cobbett Street

(v) the financial capacity of the Town to absorb any costs relating to the development.	There are no anticipated costs to the Municipality regarding this development.
(b) the suitability with any aspect relative to the movement of auto, rail and pedestrian traffic;	The Traffic Authority commented that they do not have any concerns regarding movement.
(c) the adequacy of the dimensions and shape of the lot for the intended use;	The Development Officer commented that the lot has adequate area and frontage to meet the requirements of the Two Unit Residential (R-2) zone.
(d) the pattern of development which the proposal might create;	There are several properties zoned Two Unit Residential (R-2) near the site. The Development Officer commented that as-of-right development should have little impact on the nearby development.
(e) the suitability of the area in terms of steepness of grade, soil and geological conditions, location of water courses, marshes or bogs and susceptibility of flooding;	The property is on a sloped grade, so water runoff may occur; however the property has been landscaped to be suitable for development. The property is also not within the Environmental Constraints layer on the Windsor Zoning Map (Schedule A of WLUB).
(f) whether the proposal meets the requirements of the appropriate provincial or federal agencies as well as whether it conforms to all other relevant municipal by-laws and regulations; and	All Municipal, Provincial, and Federal regulations will have to be met.
(g) any other matter required by relevant policies of this Strategy.	All relevant matters have been addressed in this report.

**Supporting Policy**

<p><b>Policy 11.0.1</b> It shall be the policy of Council to establish a Community Use designation as shown on the Generalized Future Land Use Map (Map 1) to be applied to existing institutional uses, municipal recreation uses and open space areas.</p>	<p>Following the demolition of the former pool site, the use of the property as a vacant gravel lot does not match the intention of the Community Use designation. During the previous request for Expressions of Interest, the only proposal received was for a residential development.</p>
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**Policy 11.2.1**

It is the intention of Council to establish an Open Space (OS) zone which applies to parks and other outdoor recreation uses, cemeteries, historic sites and similar uses. Generally, open space uses do not involve main buildings, but the zone may also be applied to certain institutional uses, such as museums, which are located on large parcels of land used as parkland.

Following the demolition of the former pool site, the use of the property as a vacant gravel lot does not match the intention of the Open Space (OS) zone. The property is not currently being utilized to the best of its ability.

**ATTACHEMENT B**  
**Public Information Meeting Notes**  
**November 8, 2021- November 23, 2021**  
**File 21-15**  
**65 Fort Edward Street, PID # 45059797**

<b>Meeting date and time</b>	A public information meeting was held on November 8, 2021 beginning at 6 p.m. The meeting was broadcast live on the Municipal Facebook page.
<b>File Number</b>	21-15
<b>Attending</b>	<p>The PIM was held prior to the regular PAC/JAC meeting. As a result, the following members of PAC/HAC and staff were present:</p> <p>Councillor Jim Ivey  Councillor Rupert Jannasch  Councillor Mark McLean  Councillor Debbie Francis  Councillor John Smith  Bill Preston  Jane Davis  Shelley Bibby  Jennifer Nicholls  Lisa Bland  Jamie O’Hanlon</p> <p>Staff:  Madelyn LeMay, Director, Planning and Development  Sara Poirier, Senior Planner  Alex Dunphy, Planner  Vanessa Lake, Meeting Secretary</p> <p>Applicant:  Mark Phillips, CAO</p> <p>As this meeting was held virtually there were no members of the public present.</p>
<b>Applicant</b> Mark Phillips, CAO	Mr. Dunphy outlined the application for a redesignation and concurrent rezoning at PID 45059797.
WHRM	A presentation was not made by the applicant.
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Comments from the public could be submitted to Alex Dunphy by mail, e-mail and telephone between November 8 – November 23, 2021.</p> <p>Two (2) letters were received, one (1) which requested priority consideration for a period of nine (9) months for the West Hants Historical Society to create a project plan and one (1) which was opposed to the redesignation due to the potential for public land to be developed with heritage and sustainability in mind.</p> <p>Four (4) emails were received, one (1) was in favour of the redesignation to provide additional housing possibilities, and three (3) were opposed to the redesignation based on proximity to the</p>

	<p>National Historic Site, elevation of the property, availability of parking, and potential community use.</p> <p>Four (4) Phone calls were received, with three (3) of the calls prior to the Public Information Meeting. Three (3) of the calls were opposed to the sale or development of the property, citing concerns regarding former Town Council decisions, the quality of development, and sale of the land without public consultation. One (1) call was in favour of the redesignation and was interested in developing the property as housing.</p>
<b>Adjournment</b>	The presentation portion of the PIM ended at approximately 6:10 p.m.

### ATTACHMENT A

**PIM Submissions: 65 Fort Edward Street**

**Received: October 28<sup>th</sup> – November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (Prior to PIM) & November 9<sup>th</sup> – November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021**

**Compiled: November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

***Letter***

November 16, 2021

Shirley Pineo  
 President  
 West Hants Historical Society

281 King Street, Windsor, NS B0N 2T0  
 Mayor and Councillors of West Hants Council  
 Chair and Members of West Hants Planning Committee  
 76 Morison Dr, Windsor, NS B0N 2T0

Dear Mayor, Councillors and Planning Committee Members:

Thank you for considering this letter in the request by Council for development proposals regarding two municipal plots, PIDs 45059797 and 45059805, which abut the western edge of the Fort Edward National Historic Site in Windsor, West Hants, Nova Scotia.

**Importance of Fort Edward**

101 years ago, in 1920, Parks Canada declared Fort Edward a National Historic Site because of its role in the struggle for predominance in North America from 1750 to the war of 1812. However, the Fort and its location have importance much beyond its above noted role.

Fort Edward is intertwined in every major occurrence and the day-to-day life of our region since before recorded history. For centuries, the Mi'kmaq people knew this place as an ideal area for hunting and fishing. In the 1600s, the Acadians had a chapel on the grounds that became Fort Edward in 1770. Shortly thereafter, in 1755, over 1,000 Acadians were wrongfully deported from the region and an influx of American Planters ensued.

The longest running agricultural fair in North America began over 250 years ago at Fort Edward, and during World War I, the first Prime Minister of the State of Israel trained for military service at the Fort. Today, the

sole remaining built structure of Fort Edward is its blockhouse, prefabricated defense post that is now oldest and longest serving structure of its kind in North America.

Fort Edward National Historic Site is a landmark like none other, having borne witness to and played a crucial role in our collective histories, reminding us of who we are and how far we have come as a community.

### **West Hants Historical Society**

Since the late 1990s, Parks Canada has contracted the West Hants Historical Society to facilitate the visitor experience offered at Fort Edward and contribute valuable input in the overall management of the Site. For its part, Parks Canada oversees the strategic operations of Fort Edward in context to the Fort's relationship with other Parks Canada historic sites throughout Southwest Nova Scotia.

There have been many discussions over the years as to how Fort Edward should be enhanced as a tourism destination, a recreation space, a learning tool to convey historic perspectives and potentially as a contributor to the local economy. The strict archaeological constraints of the Site itself, however, restrict development to take place, meaning that any sort of building or structure to support the Site would need to be placed off the Site on adjacent land not currently managed by Parks Canada.

When Windsor's Centennial Pool (PID 45059805) was decommissioned in 2006 it represented the first opportunity for the Society since entering its contract with Parks Canada to expand the Site's offering beyond its designated borders. Discussions were held with Town staff regarding use of pool's administration building so Site visitors and staff could access the public washrooms, with the remaining space used for artifact displays and minor retail, however, access was not granted.

Later, in 2010, the West Hants Historical Society formally requested Windsor Town Council to entertain development propositions for the above-named properties adjacent to the Fort Edward Site only if the developments were to be sensitive to and supportive of the Historic Site. The request was in response to an expression of interest submitted to Council from a developer proposing high value residential units that would be available for young professionals to rent. After the Society's request, the residential development proposal did not proceed.

In 2016, Parks Canada released its [10-year National Historic Sites of Southwest Nova Scotia Management Plan](#). This document provides a wealth of data in which to aid Parks Canada and stakeholder communities throughout the region to effectively leverage important sites like Fort Edward as destinations at which community members and visitors alike can learn, connect, reconcile, build bonds, share histories, tell our stories, and bridge our differences toward creating a society that is more aware, inclusive, and productive.

As local custodians of the Fort Edward Site, and on behalf of members of the Society, stakeholder groups and area residents who wish to see the Fort Edward National Historic Site play a more relevant role in education, economic development, and facilitating reconciliation within our community, the **West Hants Historical Society proposes to lead a multi-stakeholder, collaborative plan to provide a built structure on the surplus parcels (PID #s 45059797 and 45059805).**

Based on feedback we have received from visitors and community members alike dating back several years, along with initial interest of involvement from stakeholder groups we have approached thus far, we are confident we can deliver to Council a progressive development plan to create a built structure that adds economic value and diverse interest to the existing Site as well as provides a designated space for visitors and community members to gather, learn, enjoy, and reflect.

We therefore request the Municipality of West Hants to **grant the West Hants Historical Society priority consideration for a period of nine months so the Society, its partners, and community stakeholder**

**representatives may collaborate on a multi-use, built project plan toward creating a centre that provides for historical and cultural interpretation, commerce, amenities, and public gatherings upon PID plots 45059797 and 45059805.**

Signed respectfully,  
Shirley Pineo  
President  
West Hants Historical Society

c.c.

- Kody Blois, MP for Kings Hants
- Melissa Sheehy Richard, MLA for Hants West
- Glooscap Ventures, Glooscap First Nations
- Ted Dolan,, Superintendent, Parks Canada
- Sharmay Beals-Wentzell, Coordinator, West Hants Historical Society Diversity Committee
- Sara Beanlands, Historian, Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society
- Jonathan Fowler, Archeologist, Archaeology in Acadie
- Adrienne Wood and Ashley Wood, Chairs, Windsor Township Business Association
- Lisa Hines, Manager, Windsor Agricultural Society
- 84th Regiment of Foot
- WHHS Facebook page

November 23, 2021

From: Teresa Newcomb  
To: Alex Dunphy, Planner  
C/C Abraham Zebian  
Windsor West Hants

Re: 65 Ft. Edward St  
PID 45059797

Request to Redesignate to Residential, Concurrent Rezoning to Two Unit Residential (R-2) zone

See attached letter

### ***Emails***

**From:** Kelly McGregor  
**Sent:** November 1, 2021 11:38 AM  
**To:** Alexander Dunphy <ADunphy@westhants.ca>  
**Subject:** Feedback 65 Fort Edward Street

Hello,  
I would like to give feedback on the change of use for the 65 Fort Edward Street.

We would like to strongly support this project. We feel that any additional housing stock is absolutely necessary at this time.

We were contacted because the Portal owns a property in the vicinity.

Regards,  
Kelly McGregor

**From:** Andrea Moore  
**Sent:** November 3, 2021 12:38 PM  
**To:** Alexander Dunphy [ADunphy@westhants.ca](mailto:ADunphy@westhants.ca)  
**Subject:** 65 Fort Edward St meeting

Hi Alex,

I would like to virtually attend the meeting about 65 Fort Edward Street.

I also have 3 questions.

1. This property and adjacent 36 Fort Edward are currently listed for sale on Viewpoint, advertised as "lands are zoned R2 which allows for duplex dwellings."

The letter I received states that the redesignation is proposed.

So, is the redesignation already in place or is it in the proposal phase?

2. The properties are listed together for 303,000\$. Why is this meeting about one property only? Is there another different plan for 36 Fort Edward Street?

3. These are large properties. How many duplex dwellings would be permitted on each PID?

Thank you,  
Andrea Moore

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Hi Alex,

Thank you for your responses to my initial questions.

I do not agree with the rezoning of 65 Fort Edward Street to R2.

It is adjacent to a National Historic Site and as such should receive significant more consideration as to its use, and perhaps more importantly, the lost potential from selling off this unique land.

1. Tourists come and go from this location because of its listing as a National Historic Site...and a free one at that. But they often take a picture and leave within 5-10 minutes, likely on to Grand Pre where there are facilities and an interpretive centre. Any kind of tourist information or interpretation or facilities in a separate building would likely be well received and well visited, encouraging people to stay longer and explore the local area further. This may be a better location for the tourism information bureau given the ample parking, existing stream of visitors, and proximity to the highway.
2. Alternatively, create something of additional value for locals. Why not a community garden on the gravel lot. Or on the grassy area or both. Raised beds could easily be added to the gravel surface and allow for much more substantial use than other areas in town which are limited to one plot. This would provide benefits to many more people than the potentially 2 families from a duplex. There are surely many more options for this location recreation-wise given the proximity to the trail. Enhancing this area could also provide relief to the now marshfront, offering an alternate destination for a lovely walk, with potentially another outdoor gym or playground for families.

3. Personally, I can see residential use for the adjacent property on Fort Edward, but this one is much different. It is very high and large and is split by a road that the public uses. The side on Cobbett Street beneath the gravel is very steep and a building would be an eyesore from that side, assuming that a residential unit would face onto Fort Edward Street. A building, even a two story, would loom large from below, more like a four or five story given the difference in elevation, which is a significant, not a minor, disturbance to the current view, and amount of natural light from my location.

I strongly urge the committee to consider alternative uses for this unique property before it is sold. Or delaying its rezoning for another year. Please also consider splitting the PIDs and selling 36 Fort Edward Street but not 65 Fort Edward Street. This would allow the municipality to make some money from the sale of a property but reserve another to potentially reach many more community members and tourists in a much more meaningful and long lasting way.

Sincerely,  
Andrea Moore

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**From:** Denise Forand  
**Sent:** November 9, 2021 5:34 PM  
**To:** Alexander Dunphy <[ADunphy@westhants.ca](mailto:ADunphy@westhants.ca)>  
**Subject:** Former pool site, 65 Fort Edward Street

Dear Mr Dunphy,

I feel the name alone says why we should not sell this land or call it surplus.  
I don't think there is a home on that short road.

These lands are used for excess parking for the municipal regional office, the fire station, tourist for the Fort and locals who walk the trail, not surplus.

If our new municipality building moves into the economic centre , we will require the parking spaces even more than today.

This Downtown location should be kept for local needs in our future as we have limited lots downtown in our commercial town centre.

What happened to the Jewish museum? They were thinking of that location.

The region is in great financial shape.

We cannot grow more lots downtown, it's a historic 175 year old town.

I firmly believe all councillors and planners should have a slow tour of the architectural district and the reason for different rules for different locations.

Late 1898 would have been when Windsor got rebuilt. No cars in any planner's designs, we had ships, lots of ships and a rail line.

I firmly believe that this land should be held for our own future needs.

Sincerely,  
Denise

Thank You Alexander, I am against losing the designation of open space in our town center for residential or commercial on said lots by Fort Edward.

I firmly believe our next pool will be back where our centennial pool was for 50 years, on high ground. This land is too valuable to sell for a measles amount when it's need will be required in the future growth of our township.

Thank You, Denise

**From:** Don Hurshman

**Sent:** November 23, 2021 12:47 PM

**To:** Alexander Dunphy <[ADunphy@westhants.ca](mailto:ADunphy@westhants.ca)>

**Subject:** Just my opinion.

What I think should happen with the 2 parcels of land at the fort is to have a small tourist bureau in the lower parking lot similar to the one that used to be as you drove into Hantsport. And in the upper parcel a splash pad for the small children that are yet too young for the pool, don't forget there are many young families that can't afford to take their children to the pool everyday, having a splash pad would cure that problem. After all this land was deeded to the town for the benefit of the citizens of Windsor and not for the benefit of one developer. There are other lots of land I'm sure where a couple of duplexes could be built.

Thank you for your time

Don Hurshman

### **Phone Calls**

**From:** Liz Galbraith

**Date:** October 28, 2021

**To:** Alexander Dunphy

Ms. Galbraith had concerns regarding former Windsor Town Council decisions to reserve the property for heritage or tourism usage. Ms. Galbraith also had concerns regarding the suitability of infrastructure and neighbourhood character. The Planner replied that they would research former Town Council decisions and that any development would be required to follow all policies and by-laws.

**From:** G. Fogarty

**Date:** November 4, 2021

**To:** Alexander Dunphy

Ms. Fogarty had concerns regarding the quality of development for the property. The Planner replied that the land had yet to be sold and that any development would be required to follow all policies and by-laws.

**From:** Roaland Newcomb

**Date:** November 8, 2021

**To:** Alexander Dunphy

Mr. Newcomb had concerns regarding the sale of public land without public consultation. The Planner replied that the public consultation process had yet to begin and that it would be starting with the Public Information Meeting that night.

**From:** Kevin Saunders  
**Date:** November 17, 2021  
**To:** Alexander Dunphy

Mr. Saunders was interested about developing the land as residential and was in favour of the redesignation and rezoning.

### ***Staff Comment Response***

PIM Comments Response – Nov. 8th, 2021

We have received a number of phone calls from the public about this lot. Generally, the concerns were regarding the public consultation, sale of the land, the quality of future development, former Town Council decisions, the suitability of infrastructure and the neighbourhood character.

In response to these concerns, staff provide the following:

- This application is solely for the redesignation and rezoning of the lot.
- Staff are researching any previous decisions regarding 65 Fort Edward Street by the former Windsor Town Council
- Any sale of this lot is a decision of Council
- All requirements of the Public Participation Policy process have been and will continue to be met
- Any future development on this property will be required to follow the regulations in the Windsor Land Use By-law
- The Municipal Planning Strategy requires aspects such as the suitability of infrastructure and neighbourhood character to be examined as part of the recommendation made by planning staff

Staff have also received a number of emails regarding the Public Information Meeting.

In response to these questions, staff provide the following:

- This application is only dealing with 65 Fort Edward Street. It is currently zoned Open Space (OS) and the application is to rezone the lot to Two Unit Residential (R-2). No decisions have been made yet
- A single or two-unit dwelling would be permitted as-of-right on this lot if the rezoning application is approved

This concludes the comments received so far.

Nov 23/2021

To: Alex bunphy, Planner, Planning Dept.  
c/c Abraham Zebian  
Windsor West Hants

Re: 65 Ft. Edward St  
PID 45059797  
Request to Redesignate to Residential,  
concurrent Rezoning to  
Two Unit Residential (R-2) zone

Dear Sir;

I respectfully must say no to this request for rezoning. I want Windsor West Hants to keep this property for community use. Here's why:

- there is a fantastic opportunity for WWH to create a development that could promote and enhance Fort Edward National Historic Site (FENHS) and the local cultural + Natural History. (In particular the tidal bare + saltmarsh ecosystem of the Avon + St Croix Rivers).
- WWH needs to preserve some land in public (not private) control as a refuge during flood events. (which are happening now due to climate change)

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- The site offers commanding views of the beautiful Aron River valley and distant hills of Falmouth, Martock and beyond.
- The orientation of the site with its south-facing slopes lends itself to passive-solar community buildings and active solar electricity generation.
- The site is an important place for the ~~town~~ to manage water runoff (already significant)
- The site, if developed as a community-use, tourist accommodating, environmentally sustainable centre would be an intelligent investment that would pay LONG TERM dividends

Thousands of tourists already visit Ft Edward every year, but even though they all enjoy the spectacles and RARE 360° views from the Fort, there is and the excellent guidance from the Fort Attendant, there is little to keep these very keen + informed local, provincial, national, N. American and International tourists engaged and able to expand their knowledge of this amazing area.

- If tourists could go to 95 Ft Edward St and enjoy interpretive information, gift shop, Café with a view, wash rooms and a building and gardens that exemplify good passive solar design, water conservation, soil protection, preserved view planes for FENHS, then they may decide to book overnight accommodation, go downtown for dinner and music, purchase gas, groceries etc in WWT.
- Such a development would also attract planners and designers from other communities to see the thoughtful and forward-thinking, successful, sustainable and lucrative center that WWT had the foresight to build.

Please please please carefully consider these suggestions. I am sure it is very difficult to have to make decisions regarding town properties. I would like to point out that what happens at 65 Ft Edward St. affects much more than the small group of us who live adjacent, since it is used by the whole municipality, province, country and world. Therefore WWT really needs to be a leader in sensitively developing this gem of a property.

So This is why I must say no to the request for rezoning to residential. WWHT should not sell this valuable property in which it has already invested heavily over the years. (The thriving pool, costly demolition + filling, and on-going maintenance) WWHT should not rezone to residential and be swayed by developers who really do not have the mandate of caring for and leaving a legacy for the community as WWHT / you do.

Also, regardless of what happens with this site, I am strongly opposed to any high density housing development (ie: several packed in Two Unit dwellings, or multi use dwellings). I am also strongly opposed to any development that blocks the view planes from FENHS.

5/5

We have many wonderful things to be thankful for here in WWH. I am also thankful to you, Mr. Dunphy, and to all the WWH leaders, workers, staff; for the hardwork you all do. Please have the courage to do something sustainable and environmentally, socially, historically profitable (and actually financially profitable for the spin offs) and keep this very important property for community use and beyond.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this matters.

Sincerely

Teresa Newcomb

Teresa Newcomb  
81 A King St,  
Windsor NS.

902-798-5143