



"for the use of the inhabitants of the town of Halifax as Common forever" (1763-2013)

April 3, 2017

Mayor Savage, Councilors and CAO Jacques Dubé

Box 1749, Halifax

NS B3J 2A5

Dear Mayor Savage, Councilors and M. Dubé:

Re: Proposal for Temporary Stadium at the Wanderer's Grounds

Further to our letter of January 16, 2017, Friends of Halifax Common write again to inform you that we intend to oppose any approval given by the city, which would allow a "temporary" stadium to be erected on the Halifax Common at the Wanderer's Grounds. Less than 20 - 25 acres of the original Halifax Common remains openly available to the citizens of Halifax. The Wanderer's Grounds is one of the last such sites. In fact, remediation made to the Wanderer's Grounds for this summer, means it should be freely open to public access, as is the North Common.

Recent statements in the press and our meeting with the proponent Derek Martin indicate that he is planning for a three-year lease and a further three-year option for a "temporary" stadium. The City's own legal department has advised the city that only temporary structures are allowed on the Common. In our view, temporary structures may last a few days or a week, such as during the Grand Chief Membertou 400 Celebration. We do not consider a three- or six-year project as a temporary use, nor do we feel that a court would.

We are also aware that the proposed stadium is aimed at attracting a team as part of a national soccer league, and is therefore an ongoing commitment. The idea of "temporary" does not apply. Please be advised that should the project be approved our group would intend to seek an injunction to prevent it from going forward.

We continue to be disappointed that HRM's decisions about the Halifax Common are taken outside of a comprehensive masterplan for the Common as committed to when Halifax adopted the 1994 Halifax Common Plan. And we are concerned that numerous decisions by HRM continue the privatization of public space on the Halifax Common.

We are prepared to meet with city officials to discuss this issue if you wish, but in any event, we would appreciate a timely response to our position, to my attention.

Regards,

Peggy Cameron
Co-Chair Friends of Halifax Common

EC, Friends of Halifax Common