

BEECHVILLE COMMUNITY MEETING

STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING

January 30, 2019

Attendees:

Marjorie Wright
Doris Shephard
Josh Crawford
Alfred Jarvis
Bobby Taylor
Danielle Jackson

Jenee Jarvis
Patsy Crawford
Bev Alferink
Gary States
Chris Williams

Iona Duncan-States
Cass Dunn
Carolann Wright
Quinn Berbick-Wright
Yvette Jarvis

Guest Speakers

Chris Williams and Bobby Taylor came to talk about the troubles they are experiencing in their community of East Preston. Bobby Taylor (President) and Chris Williams (Vice President) are members of the East Preston Ratepayers Community Development Association (EPRCDA).

- Biggest issue facing East Preston and all black communities is LAND!
- We are losing our community
- East Preston is still under Provincial legislation
- We want handpicked officials representing us
- Right now there are officials who speak for the community but don't communicate with the community
- EPRCDA has been invited to speak at the next council meeting
- Working at Citadel Hill it is a concern that the Maroons are still not being recognized for the contribution in building Citadel Hill and the knowledge they brought with them – Citadel Hill is still standing because of the knowledge, skill and materials of the Maroons – even with today's technology they still cannot replicate what the Maroons produced
- Beechville has 100% backing support from East Preston
- All black communities are fighting to have a say in what happens in their own community
- "The Preston Township" used to measure 87x87 square miles and now some black community are only 2 roads
- All of the black communities are trying to play the same game alone against the government but we should be working together and backing / supporting each other
- We are in a generational cycle – the government wants land, community puts up a fight, government waits for the fights to lose steam or die off and then the government comes back for the land it wanted
- The government attacks each community separately and what they don't get from one community they take from another but if we all work together we will be stronger
- Youth leadership is critical to saving our communities

** Meeting with Irving Carvery (Conservative Rep) Monday, February 18, 2019, at the Black Cultural Centre – Beechville community members are welcome to join **

Fundraising Plan

Short Term

- Raffles
- Fitness Class
- Yoga
- Paint Night
- 50/50
- Historical Memorabilia
- Chase the Ace
- Craft Fair
- \$100 Bill Draw
- Dance
- Party
- Auctions (dessert, silent)
- Sporting Tournament
- Dinner Theatres
- Car Wash
- Bake Sale
- Game Nights (trivia, cards, checkers, video games)
- Bingo
- Meals
- Walk-A-Thon / Bowl-A-Thon / Wake-A-Thon

Medium Term

- Look at initiatives Monthly, Quarterly, Annually
- Grants, Funding Applications
- Summer camps, Recreation
- Banquets
- Bus Tours / Train Trips
- Shopping Bus Tours

Long Term

- Business Rental Space
- Designated Commerce Space
- Rental Space Facilities (sports)
- Daycare Rental (generate employment)
- Annual Events – Gala (special events / holidays)
- Financial Plan (investments, portfolios)
- Artifacts / Tours / History Month
- Outside Affiliate Organization Rental

Review of Where We Are and Where We Are Going

- At the beginning stages
- Having regular community
- Headed towards being recognized as a historical community
- Acquiring vacant lands
- Nowhere – we are still in the talking stages
- Land identified – designated to us
- New Beechville – growing but not African Nova Scotian families
- Community shrinking
- Haven't gotten questions answered by government
- Community heritage site

Review of Where We Are and Where We Are Going (con't)

- Beechville is history
- Strong groups of advocates who will act in the best interest of our community
- We are united
- Things we need in community – zoning, stability, support of government
- Community Centre off site of church
- Revenue
- Things we need to deal with now – paving, stop signs, streets, crosswalks
- Triage
- Moving forward in the right direction
- Having meetings
- Draw up plans for community centre – consultation
- Start putting out info to the world about Beechville
- Not sure but there's movement
- School systems incorporate us into the curriculum
- Community economic self-sufficient
- Clean up lakes so we can use them
- We have identified a lot of things – heritage info, the “Burnt,” maps of Beechville
- We hope they are listening to what we say

Review of HRM Maps and Boundaries

- Where we were, where we are now?
- Farmland / Green Space
- CBC land?
- When are the boundaries issues gonna stop?
- Recover land we've lost
- Housing
- Challenge – having one right information
- Research
- Useful
- Gave insight
- It opened eyes
- Expansion opportunities and reviving old boundaries
- Rezoning, Renaming
- Boundary changes
- Abused Authority
- Reclaiming boundaries
- Preserve our legacy
- More information about process
- Prioritizing issues
- Community condo project
- Property important throughout community
- What we have?

- What we had we don't have!
- What should be ours? What is ours?

Community Centre Agreement / Contract

- To hire our own, to do our own work
- Respect and Responsibilities for libations / adult content on premises
- Representation of community, church and supporters
- Objectivity of double duty
- Financial management plan
 - Where does the money go
 - Signing officers
 - Separate entities
- Review the contract / agreement with the church in trust to the community
- Resign the centre back over to the community
- Maintenance / up keep / bills
- Renovations / full gut
- Historical significance
- Use money to maximize capacity

Plan of Action

- Assessment of Centre – Trustee Committee (June 2019)
 - Cost to tear down
 - Costs to full gut
 - Cost of renovating
- Writing the contract agreement – Carolann (June 2019)

Community Centre Plan / Funding

- In talks with government
- Should be torn down
- Look in the community for building, planning skills (tax deductibles for companies)
- Look into Crown lands
- Location
- Ground level
- New Community Centre should have a name
- Old Centre should be “Beechville Refugees of 1812” (museum)
- Focus is everywhere else – community will restart the community and bring people back
- Faith background is not as important to younger generation
- Convincing community to get on board
- Not many descendants left in the community – encourage those who left to come back
- More positive information leaving the church and bringing people back
- It will help to have the design on paper
 - Speak to an architect

Community Centre Plan / Funding (con't)

- Black History Month Events
- Kwanzaa celebrations (week long pot luck)
- Weddings
- Funerals
- Daycare / Summer Camps
- Beechville Days

Funding

- Should have a board of directors (community members, African Nova Scotian)
- Community will need to come up with a percentage of money for new community centre
- Donation drive – fundraiser (clothing, house items)
- Progressive Chart for Updates – people can see / gage the progress, increase involvement
- Expenses / intake – more profitable
- Community calendar
- Getting younger generation to participate
- 3 levels of government to work within
- Staffing / volunteers from the community first

Action Items for Community

- Next working meeting February 23, 2019
 - Second half of day will be Agreement
- Carolann will start talks with church around agreement (deadline June 2019)
- Trustees will head old centre project (deadline June 2019)
 - Contacting to have assessment completed
 - What can be saved
 - Costs