

October 30, 2018 SLRPC Newsletter – request for Steering committee members

Hello again SLRPC (Sandy Lake Regional Park Coalition) member groups,

Work continues toward protection Sandy Lake and area. We are setting up a Steering Committee for the SLRPC and plan to have it operating by the end of November. If you wish to send a representative to the Steering Committee please contact me by return email or phone 902-452-3002. I am acting as interim organizer until we hold our first formal meeting of the SLRPCoalition Steering Committee when we would elect a chair.

As you may recall there is no requirement to send a representative but we would welcome participation if you have a member who is willing. So far we have representation from Sandy Lake Conservation Association (SLCA), the Sackville Rivers Association, and tentatively from the NS Wild Flora Society/Halifax Field Naturalists for a total of 4 people.

The sole purpose of the Coalition and Steering Committee is to seek Regional Park status for the lands designated in the attached map, that is, to add 1000 acres to the approximately 1000 acres that are already city-owned parkland and to have the entire acreage designated Sandy Lake Regional Park. Any member organization can choose 1 or maximum 2 participants (or none) as members to participate in the Steering Committee; we anticipate holding 4 in-person meetings per year and conducting other business via email or phone, and issuing a newsletter to inform member organizations and the public of our progress. There is no formal constitution otherwise and once our goal is achieved, the Steering Committee would be dissolved. This approach is modeled on the Chebucto Wilderness Coalition which sought and eventually realized formal protection of the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area.

Our mission statement is:

“To preserve and protect over 2000 acres of wildlife and aquatic habitat surrounding the Sandy/Jack/Marsh Lakes and Sackville River area, Bedford, by public ownership. One thousand acres are now in public ownership as a HRM Regional Park. The remaining 1,000 acres are under immense developmental pressures and must be protected immediately. SLRPC will work to acquire a further 1,000 acres to the west and north of Sandy Lake for the enjoyment of the public and protection of the natural environment, for historical, cultural, conservation, educational, and recreational use.”

I am attaching the coalition guidelines that we have been using to date plus a digital copy of our Sandy Lake pamphlet.

The area's precious ecology has been identified in many studies and reports and was identified nearly 50 years ago as a unique ecosystem to preserve as a Regional Park for all. Efforts over the years were unsuccessful for various reasons. The recent Halifax Green Network Plan identified it as an important corridor connecting the Chebucto Peninsula with its many Parks and Protected Areas to the mainland.

Please consider sending a representative to the SLRPC by November 30.

Thanks very much,

Karen

Karen L.H. Robinson

Park Committee Chair, Sandy Lake Conservation Association (SLCA)

SLCA Website: www.sandylake.org

SLRPCoalition website: sandylakecoalition.ca

Sandy Lake and environs website: <http://sandylakebedford.ca/>

Face Book: We Love Sandy Lake Bedford

Twitter: @sandylake_park