

## DECISION/DIRECTION NOTE

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**Title:** Vote on Public Information Session  
Application to Develop a Multi-Purpose Annex  
Cathedral of St. John the Baptist – Heritage Building  
16 Church Hill  
DEV1900091

**Date Prepared:** July 17, 2019

**Report To:** Mayor and Members of Council

**Councillor & Role:** Councillor Maggie Burton, Planning and Development Lead

**Ward:** 2

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**Decision/Direction Required:** To seek approval for a public information session on the design of the proposed annex to be attached to the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist at 16 Church Hill.

### **Discussion – Background and Current Status:**

At its regular meeting on July 8, 2019, Council decided to defer a decision on approving the modern design of the proposed annex building which is to be attached to the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, extending into the green space south of the Cathedral.

After a meeting of members of Council with representatives of the Anglican Church on July 16, 2019, the members of Council agreed to call for a public information session next week. This will not be a public meeting as contemplated by Section 5.5. of the St. John's Development Regulations, as such a meeting is not required. Therefore, the public information session does not have the lead times and advertising requirements of a public meeting.

The day discussed by the members of Council was Tuesday, July 23. However, Mr. Paul Antle, representing the Church, is not available on that day. The only day he is available next week is **Thursday, July 25**, and it is important that he attend to speak about the project. The Cathedral can host the information session in the main body of the church.

For public meetings, we engage independent facilitators to chair. In this case, the City manager feels that the information session can be chaired by a member of Council. City staff will be present to discuss the process to date and to take minutes. Depending on the number of people who attend, we may be able to step out into the church yard to view the location.

The new annex will be attached to the side of the Cathedral and will contain church offices, a multi-purpose room, and a furnace room to heat the Cathedral. It will be one (1) storey high near the Cathedral, becoming two (2) storeys high as the ground drops off toward Duckworth Street.

# ST. JOHN'S

The proposal is a modern glass design which does not meet the standards of Section 5.9.4 Heritage Area Standards (Table) of the St. John's Development Regulations. New buildings that do not meet the standards may be approved by Council with a comprehensive design package. Subject to some minor changes, the design has been recommended for approval by the Built Heritage Experts Panel.

The Cathedral is in Heritage Area 1; is in the Institutional District and the Open Space District of the St. John's Municipal Plan; and is zoned Institutional (INST) and Cemetery (CEM). As the proposed extension may affect the old cemetery, the applicants are working with an archaeologist who will report to the Provincial Archaeologist at the NL Department of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation. The Cathedral is:

- designated by the City as a Heritage Building;
- is a provincial landmark Registered Heritage Structure
- is a National Historic Site of Canada; and
- falls within the Ecclesiastical District National Historic District

The City advised the applicants to contact the Heritage Foundation of NL and Parks Canada.

There has been public concern expressed about the development possibly disturbing human remains. While an oil spill in 1999 did reveal some human remains in this area (the remains were removed and reburied elsewhere in the graveyard, with an appropriate religious ceremony), recent test pits on the site of the project have not shown evidence of any human remains. The question of what to do if any remains are found here is best answered by the property owner, the Anglican Church of Canada, as well as the Provincial Archaeologist.

### **Key Considerations/Implications:**

1. Budget/Financial Implications: Not applicable.
2. Partners or Other Stakeholders:  
The property owner; neighbouring properties; local heritage groups.
3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans:  
*A Sustainable City* – Plan for land use and preserve and enhance the natural and built environment where we live.
4. Legal or Policy Implications:  
Council can hold a public meeting or public information session on any matter.
5. Engagement and Communications Considerations: Not applicable.
6. Human Resource Implications: Not applicable.
7. Procurement Implications: Not applicable.
8. Information Technology Implications: Not applicable.



9. Other Implications: Not applicable.

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended to arrange a public information session next week to gain public input on the design of the proposed annex to the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, 16 Church Hill. The proposed date is Thursday, July 25.

It is further recommended that the session be held at the Cathedral; be chaired by a member of Council; and advertised by the City on its website and social media platforms, and by the Cathedral through its own resources.


**Prepared by/Signature:**

Ken O'Brien, MCIP – Chief Municipal Planner

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Approved by/Date/Signature:**

Kevin Breen – City Manager

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

KOB/dlm