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September 10, 2024

The Honourable Susan Corkum-Greek
Minister
Department of Economic Development
1809 Barrington Street, PO Box 2311
Halifax, NS B3J 3C8

VIA Email: EDminister@novascotia.ca

Dear Minister Corkum-Greek:

Re: Peggy's Cove Commission pressing concerns

The Peggy's Cove Commission's purpose as provided under the Peggy's Cove Commission Act is to preserve the unique scenic beauty, character and atmosphere of the Area for the enjoyment of both residents and visitors for property within the Peggy's Cove Preservation area. This is primarily achieved through administering the Land Use Bylaw for the preservation area.

I hope this letter finds you well. The Peggy's Cove Commission is writing to address several pressing concerns that have emerged due to the significant changes in Peggy's Cove, which have largely resulted from the government's investments and initiatives. While we greatly appreciate the support that has contributed to the area's development, these changes have also brought increased pressures and challenges that need urgent attention.

The Commission has been diligently working on several key action items for an extended period, but we have encountered obstacles that hinder our progress. Without the necessary support from the Department of Economic Development (DED), we are struggling to fulfill our duties and uphold our commitments to the community, local businesses, and the public at large.

1. Enforcement Mechanisms:

Under the Act we are authorized to issue fines for non-compliance, yet for over a year, we have been requesting a mechanism to enforce these fines. This lack of enforcement capability undermines the effectiveness of our bylaws and has led to breaches that affect both the community and the integrity of our regulations. Additionally, there have been requests to DED for legal review before posting compliance information on our website, which have yet to be addressed.

2. Budget and Staff Support:

The Peggy's Cove Commission's reliance on the Department of Economic Development for budgetary and legal support hampers our ability to act autonomously and promptly. The Commission sincerely appreciates the legal support and expertise provided by Department of Justice staff, but we understand they can not work without direction from DED. This dependency results in delays and inefficiencies, impacting our responsiveness and effectiveness in meeting community needs and fulfilling our responsibilities. For example, increasing transparency was requested by the community and stakeholders and the Commission developed a protocol for this. The Commission reached out to DED in early 2024 for assistance in operating an open portion of our meetings.

3. Development Officer:

From the inception of the bylaw, we have highlighted the need for a dedicated Development Officer. Despite requests from the Commission and the community this role remains unfilled, impacting our ability to manage and guide development effectively. We are hopeful this role is filled soon.

4. Revision of the Act:

The current Act requires revision to better align with the evolving needs of Peggy's Cove. We are hopeful that an Act review is prioritized to ensure that our regulatory framework remains relevant and effective.

Given these challenges, we would greatly appreciate the DED's immediate assistance in resolving these issues. If direct support is not feasible, we are open to discussing alternative options that could help us meet our objectives and continue serving our community effectively. At present the Commission is unable to fulfill all duties under the Act. The community and stakeholders see the Commission as responsible for ensuring appropriate land use development in Peggy's Cove. Therefore, we feel we are not fully upholding our commitments to the community, local businesses, and the public at large.

Thank you for your attention to these urgent matters. We look forward to your prompt response and hope to work collaboratively to address these concerns.

Yours sincerely,



Maria Bartholomew
Acting Chair, Peggy's Cove Commission