



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, April 12, 2017

PR TOK 005-17

Big Changes for Downtown Kentville Building

KENTVILLE, NOVA SCOTIA – The Town of Kentville has been reviewing development potential of the Robinson Building (“The Edge Building”) in downtown Kentville, and recommends conditional demolition of the structure.

In 2016, the Town of Kentville bought the property for approximately \$170,000 to support the transition of the building or property to another useful life. The Council of the day felt that their engagement would be needed in order for the building to transition into another use or to be redeveloped. Since the purchase of the property staff were assessing the structural integrity of the building, mechanical systems, and hazardous materials that may be present, and the general future challenges and opportunities of the site.

“Town staff have established an understanding of the work that needs to be done to bring this building block back to its former glory through the work of external engineers and consultants,” stated Mark Phillips, Chief Administrative Officer of the Town of Kentville, “including assessments of environmental issues, structural integrity, mechanical and electrical systems, and exterior façade.” Staff have also obtained an estimate of the cost to demolish the site.

“To deal with environmental concerns, install a new roof and deal with structural issues could cost up to 1.8 million dollars,” stated Fred Whynot, Director of Engineering and Public Works. “Staff are recommending the demolition of the building as the most viable option.”

“Now is the time for the business community as well as the greater community to speak up if there is a business or redevelopment plan that someone believes can work for the existing building. This recommendation serves as a proposed direction and not an absolute decision to demolish the building,” stated Phillips. “There will be public engagement sessions for the future use of the site coordinated within the next 4 months. We need to hear from the people.”

To read the full report, please download the meeting package for the April 10th meeting of the Council Advisory Committee, available online at www.kentville.ca.

Editorial contact: CAO Mark Phillips

Phone: 902-679-2501

mphillips@kentville.ca

www.kentville.ca

--END--