

Councillor Megan Mitton's statement to Sackville Town Council on repeal of the heritage bylaw, Monday, July 9, 2018:

Whether one is for or against repealing the heritage bylaw, it seems to me as Councillor Evans stated that pretty much everyone agrees the status quo isn't working, something needs to change. There will be a gap if the heritage bylaw is repealed and that does concern me. I don't like that there won't be anything in place for a certain amount of time and, many would argue that there are already many gaps in the current bylaw and it's not doing its job and I would agree.

There have been significant expenses to the town. There have been expenses to property owners, which have been identified as problematic and inconvenient for home owners and property owners. There have also been issues of the bylaw that it's seen as too weak.

Ultimately, the bylaw has not really done what it was intended to do.

Ultimately, it's not an easy decision to come to. I am going to vote to repeal the bylaw even though I'm not satisfied with the solution. I do wish we could have found a way to change it and address many of the concerns raised. It may be that the will of council is to repeal the bylaw and if this is the case, my understanding is that staff will immediately work on new [heritage] grant criteria and report back to council. I sincerely hope that moving forward we're using planning mechanisms and reformed grant programs that will be more effective than what is happening currently.