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Staff Report

Infrastructure & Public Works

Report To: Committee of The Whole
Meeting Date: January 29, 2018
Report Number: CSPW.18.007
Subject: Environmental Sustainability Fund Distribution
Prepared by: Jeffery Fletcher, Manager of Solid Waste and Environmental Initiatives

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report CSPW.18.007, “Environmental Sustainability Fund Distribution”;

AND THAT Council approve the distribution of funds as outlined in the “Sustainability Fund” Terms of Reference and as follows:

Blue Mountain Watershed Trust: \$1,036.64; and

Free Spirit Gardens: \$3,355.00.

B. Overview

A Staff committee has reviewed and evaluated two applications made to the Town’s new Environmental Sustainability Fund. The evaluation has resulted in a recommendation to distribute a total of \$4,391.64 to the Thornbury Community Gardens project led by Free Spirit Gardens and a project for Environmental Learning in Local Elementary Schools led by Blue Mountain Watershed Trust Foundation.

C. Background

Council approved the creation of a Sustainability Fund (Staff Report CSPW.17.090) to provide financial support to projects that advance sustainability in The Blue Mountains. A fund of \$5,000 to be distributed to local sustainable/environmental projects was created. A terms of reference guides the distribution of the funds.

D. Analysis

Two applications were received in November of 2017. The Staff Committee reviewed and evaluated the applications and based on the nature of the applications and the requested amounts concluded and recommend the following distribution of funds:

- Free Spirit Gardens – Thornbury Community Gardens, Six school workshops and a tool shed: \$3,355; and
- Blue Mountain Watershed Trust Foundation – Environmental Learning for Local Elementary Schools, education to take place in the Beaver Valley Community School and other area schools: \$1,036.64.

The Committee decided on the above distribution of funds based on the scoring related to the terms of reference criteria. The applicants were scored in the following areas:

- Project description and articulation of benefits;
- People, partnerships and performance measurement;
- Level of impact;
- Project feasibility; and
- Planning.

E. The Blue Mountains Strategic Plan

Goal #1: Create Opportunities for Sustainability

F. Environmental Impacts

This fund will work to provide significant financial resources to meaningful projects and provide demonstrable, widespread and lasting environmental benefits in The Blue Mountains.

G. Financial Impact

Applicants will receive half the outlined funds immediately and the remainder upon completion of the project. The applicants have one year to complete the project.

Total funds to be distributed from the 2017 budget will be \$4,391.64. The balance of the \$5,000, \$608.36 will not be rolled over into 2018. A new maximum amount of \$5,000 has been proposed in the 2018 draft budget.

H. In consultation with

Ruth Prince, Director of Finance and IT

I. Attached

None

Respectfully submitted,

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