

STAFF REPORT: RECREATION



REPORT TO: Infrastructure and Recreation Committee
MEETING DATE: March 9, 2010
REPORT NO.: DOR 10 21
SUBJECT: Parks and Trails Parking Lot Winter Maintenance
PREPARED BY: Shawn Everitt, Director of Recreation

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receives Staff Report DOR 10 21 "Parks and Trails Parking Lot Winter Maintenance" for information purposes; and,

THAT Council direct Staff to provide for operational funding for 2011 budgets discussions based on;

- Option 1 Hire a contractor to provide snow clearing services for Metcalfe Rock Parking Lot, and add Heathcote Park to Parks Division for snow removal. Or;
- Option 2 Hire a contractor to provide snow clearing services for Metcalfe Rock Parking Lot. Or;
- Option 3 Hire a Contractor to provide snow removal services for Metcalfe Rock and Heathcote Park Parking lot. Or;
- Option 4 Continue to provide only seasonal maintenance to Parking lots

B. Background

Over the past two years the town has constructed 4 new parking lot areas that currently provide seasonal opportunities for use. The 4 parking lots consist of;

- Heathcote Park located on Grey Road 13
- Tomahawk Main Parking Lot and Entrance 10th Line
- Tomahawk Mini Field Parking Lot 10th Line
- Metcafe Rock Parking Lot 6th Line

Since the construction of these parking lots the Town has received written correspondence as well as verbal requests for parking lots to be cleared and maintained in winter months.

Metcalfe Rock Parking Lot has been the most requested and currently would be the most utilized if maintained. This property is owned by the Ministry of Natural Resources and currently has a MOU for seasonal use only.

The MOU would need to be revised to allow for year round use and a possible negotiation for shared cost may be an option to help reduce overall winter maintenance costs. The 6th Line currently has a no parking By-law in place this does create a problem for an area that is a well used cross country skiing and snow shoe trail.

The parking lot at the new Heathcote Park could be identified as a possible winter maintained lot, and the possibility of having snow shoe and cross country ski trails could be established. These trails would highlight winter habitat and winter bird watching opportunities.

Staff is suggesting that one of the two parking lot areas at Tomahawk be maintained. Staff again in 2011 will be proposing through the Tomahawk Business Plan and budget process the development of Cross Country Ski Trails and Snow Shoe trails. This development will utilize the local public School to help provide this highly requested physical activity opportunity.

Staff is presenting three options for the provision of Parks and Trails winter maintenance. Because of the berming of Metcalf Rock Parking lots it is suggested that the use of snow blowing equipment rather than snow plow alone be utilized for that particular property.

- Option 1 Hire a contractor to provide snow clearing services for Metcalf Rock Parking Lot, and Heathcote Park to Parks Division for snow removal.
- Option 2 Hire a contractor to provide snow clearing services for Metcalf Rock Parking Lot.
- Option 3 Hire a Contractor to provide snow removal services for Metcalf Rock and Heathcote Park Parking Lot.
- Option 4 Continue to provide only seasonal maintenance to Parking Lots

Staff suggests that winter maintenance be elevated to one of the two parking lot entrances at the Tomahawk recreation complex December 2010. In 2009 snow clearing of only the Parks Operations Building was maintained.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

- Supporting the development of social and recreational programs to meet the broad range of needs in the community
- Preserving and enhancing natural and environmental features, and cultural heritage of the community

D. Environmental Impacts

Providing sustainable management of Town and Government Parkland while providing active lifestyle opportunities

E. Budget Impact

Option 1 for Metcalf Rock Parking Lot contract and Heathcote cleared in-house

- Snow removal estimate \$60.00 per clearing or \$900.00 for season, plus Staff and equipment time for Heathcote snow removal (\$50.00 per clearing)

Option 2 for Metcalf Rock Parking Lot

- Snow removal estimate \$60.00 per clearing or \$900.00 for season

Option 3 for Metcalf Rock and Heathcote Park Parking Lot

- Snow removal estimate of \$60.00 per clearing or \$1800.00 for season

Option Continue to provide only seasonal maintenance to Parking Lots

- No cost incurred

F. Attachments

None at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Everitt, Director of Recreation

For more information, please contact:

Shawn Everitt
severitt@thebluemountains.ca
519-599-3131 Ext. 281