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**STAFF REPORT: RECREATION DEPARTMENT**



**REPORT TO:** Infrastructure & Recreation Committee  
**MEETING DATE:** June 12, 2012  
**REPORT NO.:** DOR.12.36  
**SUBJECT:** Waterfront Access Process  
**PREPARED BY:** Shawn Everitt, Director of Recreation

**A. Recommendations**

THAT Council receive Staff Report DOR.12.36, "Waterfront Access Process" for information; and,

THAT Council Direct Staff to proceed with an internal review identifying options for each individual Waterfront Access based on options 1, 2, & 3 contained in this Report; or,

THAT Council Direct Staff to proceed with an internal review identifying options for each individual Waterfront Access based on options 1, 2, 3, & 4 contained in this Report.

**B. Background**

In 2009, Recreation Staff begin the process of identifying Waterfront Access points that are owned by the Town. This process was initiated after staff receiving several inquiries through multiple departments requesting information as to the status of waterfront access points.

In 2011, Staff put forth a report to Council identifying a communication plan once each access was identified. Prior to proceeding with any additional communication for Public Input, staff is recommending that Council approve the options to be placed before the public when reviewing each property.

Staff recommends that public consultation seek input on the following 4 options with respect to each waterfront access point:

- ▶ 1) Leave Access as is
- ▶ 2) Block public access
- ▶ 3) Further develop access for the public
- ▶ 4) Sell Access to neighbouring property owner/s, where reasonable in the circumstances

The options as listed would be tested against each property prior to reaching out for public input, to ensure that Council is comfortable with the option for each property. The test for the options would include an in depth review of aspects such as: location of nearest existing useable waterfront, the existing condition of the waterfront and any property constraints, what is the main function of the access (i.e. is it an existing drainage ditch), does the access create risk or liability if developed or left as is, approximate costs to enhance or develop as a Vista, etc. The public consultation will consist of options for each property identified; the options will have been vetted through

staff and Council. The public then would have the ability to comment on the approved options.

Town policies encourage maintaining public access to waterfront. The 2006 Leisure Activities Plan identified that Waterfront properties and access is a priority. Staff continues to use the Guiding Principles of that document for direction. As such, Council may wish to consider whether the potential sale of access points to private land owners is an option they wish to pursue at all.

If Council does wish to consider the sale of an access property as an option, in appropriate circumstances, the test to ensure that this is a reasonable option in the circumstances would be to conduct a complete detailed review requiring approval by the Engineering and Public Works Department, Planning Department, CAO's Office and Legal opinion prior to any recommendation to Council. The completed review would ensure drainage requirements are protected, maintenance access requirements are protected, that no future constraints are created, confirmation that the ability to sell is a real option, and from a zoning perspective what the land could be used for, etc.

### **C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan**

- Addressing the Town's municipal infrastructure needs
- 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**

Ensuring sustainable use of Town Lands

### **E. Financial Impact**

Staff will be utilized in the review of Waterfront options.

### **F. In Consultation With**

Troy Speck, CAO

### **G. Attached**

None at this time

Respectfully submitted,

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