



Staff Report

Community Services

Report To: Committee of the Whole
Meeting Date: September 8, 2020
Report Number: CSOPS.20.050
Subject: Preliminary Waterfront Access Point Classifications
Prepared by: Ryan Gibbons, Director of Community Services

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report CSOPS.20.050, entitled "Preliminary Waterfront Access Point Classifications";

AND THAT Council endorse the six (6) general classifications and use of Town owned waterfront properties.

AND THAT Council direct staff and the Leisure Activities Plan Steering Committee to use these classifications in the assessment of Town-owned waterfront lands.

B. Overview

As tourism numbers increase in The Blue Mountains, so does the pressure for access to water by visitors and residents alike. Council has provided direction for the Leisure Activities Plan to identify, classify and determine the use of all Town owned waterfront properties. The draft Leisure Activities Plan will recommend use of these properties. This report is seeking the endorsement of the proposed classifications of Town owned waterfront properties.

C. Background

Waterfront properties across the Town can be summarized as, all lands owned or managed by the municipality adjacent to water. These lands are numerous and have many uses, both historical and current and some also have specific legal obligations. Properties vary from drainage ditches, fire lane access for Fire Department access to water, public beaches, deeded access areas, right of ways, waterfront parks, etc.

Town staff have a fulsome inventory of all these properties and will create mapping to identify them, investigate and review any legal obligations, review operational uses and review potential future uses of these properties. Through the Leisure Activities Plan process staff will work with the Steering Committee to provide recommendations to Council.

Staff will recommend classifications of waterfront properties based on a number of factors, but the end goal will be to identify and classify current water access points, provide direction for where potential future development and/or access could be considered and consider input from The Blue Mountains residents regarding these properties.

D. Analysis

Included in this section are the six (6) proposed examples of general classifications. Through the Leisure Activities Plan process these classifications will be identified for the public to comment and determine how to utilize, identify, delineate and enforce the properties while maintaining legal or operational requirements as well as considering impacts on neighbouring properties and communities.

The classification examples below are general but provide the current concept for Council. Staff welcome recommendations to share with the Leisure Activities Plan Steering Committee and also acknowledge that some of the waterfront properties will not fit perfectly into a classification and may require a hybrid solution.

Class 1 Waterfront Property:

Parking lot of 50 vehicles or more, paid parking and will incorporate the establishment of no on-street or time limit parking by-laws, and required signage and enforcement; permanent washroom facilities or portable toilets; garbage receptacles; a minimum of xx acres of land and waterfrontage of xx meters.

- **Intended Use:** Beach or park activities specific to the amenities for prolonged visits including commercial activity.

Class 2 Waterfront Property:

Parking lot of 49 vehicles or less, may be considered for paid parking and may incorporate the establishment of no on-street or time limit parking by-laws, required signage and enforcement; permanent washrooms or portable toilets; garbage receptacles; a xx to xx acres of land.

- **Intended Use:** Beach or park activities specific to the amenities for prolonged visits but will be restricted due to space and parking availability.

Class 3 Waterfront Property:

On-street parking only and may incorporate the establishment of no on-street or time limit parking by-laws, required signage and enforcement; no washroom facilities; no garbage receptacles; is xx acres of land and xx metres wide.

- **Intended Use:** Water access for brief duration swimming, viewing the water or other activities that do not require prolonged stays.

Class 4 Waterfront Property:

No parking available and may incorporate the establishment of no on-street or time limit parking by-laws, required signage and enforcement; no washroom facilities; no garbage receptacles; is xx acres of land and is xx metres wide.

- **Intended Use:** Water access for brief duration swimming, viewing the water or other activities that do not require prolonged stays. These properties are intended for local area residents or active transportation participants but are not exclusive to residents.

Class 5 Waterfront Property:

Property is limited to specific residents through deeded access, Master Development Agreements or other legal obligations. May incorporate the establishment of no on-street or time limit parking by -laws, required signage and enforcement.

- **Intended Use:** Resident use only, specific to the agreement or plan.

Class 6 Waterfront Property:

No parking available and may incorporate the establishment of no on-street or time limit parking by -laws, required signage and enforcement; no washroom facilities; no garbage receptacles; is xx acres of land and is xx metres wide.

- **Intended Use:** Drainage ditch or other municipal use (i.e. Fire Department water supply), not intended for public recreational use.

E. The Blue Mountains Strategic Plan

Goal #1: Create Opportunities for Sustainability

Objective #5 Improved Visibility and Local Identity

Goal #2: Engage Our Communities & Partners

Objective #1 Improve External Communication with our Constituents

Objective #2 Use Technology to Advance Engagement

Objective #3 Strengthen Partnerships

Goal #3: Support Healthy Lifestyles

Objective #1 Promote the Town as a Healthy Community

Objective #4 Commit to Sustainability

Goal #4: Promote a Culture of Organizational & Operational Excellence

Objective #2 Improve Internal Communications Across our Organization

Objective #3 To Consistently Deliver Excellent Customer Service

Objective #4 To Be a Financially Responsible Organization

Objective #5 Constantly Identify Opportunities to Improve Efficiencies and Effectiveness

Goal #5: Ensure Our Infrastructure is Sustainable

Objective #1 Develop a Long-Term Asset Management Plan for the Maintenance, Renewal and Replacement of Existing Infrastructure

Objective #2 Avoid Unexpected Infrastructure Failure and Associated Costs and Liability
Objective #3 Implement Best Practices in Sustainable Infrastructure
Objective #4 Ensure that Infrastructure is Available to Support Development

F. Environmental Impacts

Appropriate and sustainable management and use of Town lands

G. Financial Impact

None at this time

H. In consultation with

CAO

Director of Planning and Development Services

Director of Legal Services

I. Public Engagement

The topic of this Staff Report has not been subject to a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre. Public consultation is taking place through the Leisure Activities Plan including a survey, focus group meetings and the Leisure Activities Plan Steering Committee. Comments regarding this report should be submitted to Ryan Gibbons, Director of Community Services, directorcs@thebluemountains.ca.

J. Attached

None

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Gibbons
Director of Community Service

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