



Staff Report

Report To: Mayor Cole and Members of South Huron Council

Meeting Date: April 18, 2017

From: Dan Best, Chief Administrative Officer

Report: CAO 17.19

Subject: Park Use Policy and By-law – Elliot Park

Recommendations:

That the memo of Daniel Best, Chief Administrative Officer dated April 18, 2017, 2017 regarding a Park Use Policy and By-law – Elliot Park be received;

And that Council authorize Staff to proceed with the development and draft of a Park Use Policy and By-law – Elliot Park for the consideration of Council.

Purpose:

Council Direction

Background and Information:

As Council is aware, Elliot Park Located at 12 Church Street, on the west side of Main Street Exeter along the Ausable River has allowed Short-term camping without camping permits for a \$5.00 nightly fee. A portable toilet is supplied in summer months, potable water and a dumping station are amenities that are located on site. Traditionally, the Ausable River Nomads and the Municipality of South Huron have maintained the Park.

Currently, there is no formal process for the use of Elliot Park. In the past six months alone, there have been two instances where the camping could be construed to be beyond “short term” camping that has been problematic from a community perspective and an enforceability issue from a staff perspective.

Staff are seeking Council direction on how to address concerns linked to camping at Elliot Park and it fundamentally comes down to what Council wishes to see how the park is used.

Operational Considerations

The following are options for Council:

- Do nothing. This option is not recommended by Staff as the current loose operation could pose some risk to the Municipality.
- Formalize how the Park operates and work with the Ausable River Nomads and establish a memorandum of understanding (MOU) providing clarity of roles and responsibilities. This would be the preferred option as it would result in a clear policy approved by Council with a supporting by-law.
- Eliminate camping from Elliot Park. This option is not recommended as there is a linkage between existing amenities such as the Pool, Splash Pad and Trails that could provide economic benefit to our local businesses.

Link to the Strategic Objectives:

Section 6.2.2 of the Municipality of South Huron 2015- 2019 Strategic Plan identifies key priorities and strategic directions. The following elements are supported by the actions outlined in this report:

- ✓ Improved Recreation and Community Wellbeing
- ✓ Administrative Efficiency and Fiscal Responsibility
- ✓ Increased Communications and Municipal Leadership
- ✓ Transparent, Accountable, and Collaborative Governance
- ✓ Dedicated Economic Development Effort

Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications as a result of the actions outlined in this report.

Staffing Implications:

There are no staffing implications as a result of the actions outlined in this report.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications as a result of the actions outlined in this report.

Attachments:

None

Respectfully submitted,



Dan Best MPA, BA
Chief Administrative Officer