

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, September 11, 2015				Report Date	Wednesday, September 8			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	X	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed

Parks and Boat Launch Use By-Law - Report #11/09/15/1001

Subject:

A review of the Parks and Boat Launch By-Law which was started earlier this year.

RECOMMENDATION:

WHEREAS by-law 2014-17 is a by-law first reviewed by Council and referred to the Recreation Committee in the fall of 2014 and is subsequently being submitted to council for third and final reading;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does hereby authorize that by-law 2014-17 being a by-law to regulate the use of park lands within and to regulate parking on lands owned by the Corporation of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria be read a 3rd time short and finally passed this 11th day of September, 2015.

BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

From the Recreation Committee meeting of February 18, 2015

“By-Law 2014-17 Use of Park Lands

Councillor Grills summarize the by-law so the committee could focus on the areas needing discussion and recommendations. The areas of discussion were: Animals in the parks, Overnight Camping or parking, Fires and enforcement/signage.

Recommendation: Animals in Parks

The committee recommends council consider allowing animals in the park, however it is important to note that responsible pet ownership is key and the animals must be leashed at all times and under control by their owner at all public gatherings. Poop and scoop practices must be in effect and we may want to consider supplying some poop & scoop bags and receptacle to promote this practice. Common sense would be the rule of the day. It was also felt that signage prohibiting pets near or around specific areas such as the BBQs, in the water or on the beach would be beneficial. Signage is also needed to help promote the message of safety and pets in the parklands and boat launches of Head, Clara and Maria.

Recommendation: Overnight camping or parking

The committee recommends council consider overnight parking at some of boat launches (Mackey Creek and La Croix Park) to allow persons to better use the river overnight or camps but no actual camping is recommended. (A camper/ trailer pull in and parked overnight for safety reasons only, such as just too tired to continue driving, again common sense would prevail here) OPP presence would be needed to police this. Again signage would be expected to play a large role in dictating the rules and liability issues expected by this council/township. An aside for council to consider was to place an outhouse at "Boat Launch Rd." dock for travelers as there is none available. Also at this launch signage directing boaters to park at the town hall with back up signage at the township building, to reduce congestion.

Recommendations: Fires

This committee recommends that council ban fires within the townships as we are not protected by a fire service. However, should a special event have need of a bonfire/fire a request must be submitted and approved prior to the event by council. HCM recreation committee will review the acquisition of a portable pit with grill for this purpose at a later date."

Options/Discussion:

Enforcement remains one of our main challenges in HCM of implementing any by-law. Consideration needs to be given to the ability to enforce any additional rules implemented. The current process is working for what we have however; introducing a large number of new restraints might pose an enforcement challenge.

The above recommendations have been coordinated with the draft by-law presented to Council in the fall of 2014 and presented here for further consideration. Signage will be reviewed and considered. Additional funding would need to be allocated during budget deliberations.

The original report to Council from September 2014 is included for your reference.

Financial Considerations/Budget Impact:

limited

Policy Impact:

Changes current policy.

Others Consulted:

HCM Recreation committee as directed by council in February of 2015.

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,

Municipal Clerk

Melinda Reith