



**TOWNSHIP OF ESSA  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.  
Via Zoom**

In attendance: Sandie Macdonald, Mayor/Chair  
Ron Henderson, Councilor  
Brandy Rafeek, Member  
Jim Hunter – Member  
Baileigh White, Municipal Staff Support/Secretary  
Jason Coleman, Manager of Parks & Recreation

Absent: Willy Parkinson, Member  
Eric Villani, Member

**1. Opening of Meeting (Orientation)**

1.1 The meeting was called to order by the Mayor/Chair and the minutes of October 14<sup>th</sup> accepted as circulated.

**Moved by** Rafeek and **Seconded by** Henderson

**2. Recap of Meeting points from December 14<sup>th</sup> and Highlights**

2.1 Gym curtain installed key switch, able to divide in half for future bookings nice improvement

2.2 Thornton arena chiller – not high enough demand based on time of year and covid, has been installed, testing this week, using as dry floor

**3. Kayak and canoe**

3.1 Launch becoming increasing more complicated. (Jason)

3.2 A Structural engineer is involved

3.3 Soil concerns by NVCA and endangered species

3.4 Looking to make progress in 2021 but lots of roadblocks

3.5 Reason for the project is because Don Ross is too dangerous (Sandie)

**4. Bob Geddes**

4.1 Weather has not been great so not as much use but there definitely has been some

4.2 Two roof pieces on back order

**5. Red Zone**

5.1 Speculating we will be entering Red Zoon Shortly

5.2 Going into red 10 on the ice no spectators

5.3 Township protocols and policies and procedures has been taken seriously and staff have been

diligent

**5.4** Hosted a pop-up testing clinic last month

**5.5** Ensuring we are not letting our guard down

**5.6** Concerns within minor hockey not keeping up guard. By law to assist with monitor and assist operations staff

**5.7** Working closely with health unit and governing authorities,

**5.8** Positive feedback from community that we allow spectators. Many rinks do not allow for spectators. Jason and Baileigh do extensive research to determine what is best for the community

**5.9** Interested in looking into streaming games based on cost etc.

## **6. Budget Highlights**

**6.1** Budget in the draft stage still but video surveillance at skateboard parks and outdoor rinks looks like a go

**6.2** Mike Hart park converted to a basketball court

**6.3** Grass cutting equipment – in house. Quality not the same for contracted services.

**6.4** LED lighting at outdoor rinks, two-year return on investment

**6.5** Question by Jim- Boat launch Are we waiting to hear from other governing bodies. Answer from Jason, Yes. Structural Engineer and clearance from NVCA (swallows are burrowing in the riverbanks). Not close to finalizing install. Even with all the obstacles it is still high priority

Development charges that are designated for trails restoration and improvement. If it does not go through, we would look to relocate the launch based on council direction  
Funds will remain reserved for the project

**6.6** Question from Jim, back to Grass Cutting- Is the equipment suitable to handle the demand. Answer from Jason - They are more expensive they are the highest level of grass cutting equipment.

Collaborated with Public Works to get a tractor with an attachment to offset costs and share equipment. Equipment is anticipated for heavy duty use.  
The goal is more in- housework.

## **7. Fishing Passes**

**7.1** Sandie - Overview of what is going on the riverbank by Ron. More families, more problems with more people

**7.1** Jason - Over 500 passes sold

**7.2** Sandie - New binder much easier to keep things tidy especially for Ron.

**7.3** Addition of parking passes. Utilize lions parking and landowner to the west. Parking pass to stop people from using it for non-fishing activities i.e., Carpool. Useful for safety. Can indicate if fisherman is still on bank for extended periods of time. Need to look at getting our own parking spot

**7.4** Staff did a good job of taking care of the park. New disposal contract, much better

**7.5** Pass Fees necessary for garbage, washrooms, pay for parking, 40.00 per year is very reasonable.

Want to continue the growth at the riverbank. Dollars are divided between parks and rec and riverbank. One of the nicest rivers, a gem we need to look after. People from everywhere attend

## **8. General**

**8.1** Additional revenue over the holidays through private family skate

**8.2** Not able to offer public skate currently

**8.3** Looking into Safe ways to offer pickle ball in January. Want to be 110% confident in all that we offer so we are starting with the small stuff.

**8.4** Sandie - Loss of revenue is huge. Departments are doing well but we cannot have everything due to funding restraints. Jason Did a great Job prioritizing needs vs wants for the department.

**8.5** Only way to do this without increasing taxes

**8.6** Positive feedback from team towards Jason and parks and rec team

**8.7** Jason, only got 2 meetings in out of 4 because of covid. We appreciate the positive feedback

**8.8** Sandie - Thanks to Brandi and Jim for their community engagement

**Meeting Adjourned**

**Moved by** Henderson, **Second by**, Rafeek