



**TOWNSHIP OF ESSA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17TH – 6:00 p.m.
Electronic Meeting**

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

Absent: Willy Parkinson, Member
Eric Villani, Member
Ron Henderson, Councilor

1. Opening of Meeting (Orientation)

1.1 The meeting was called to order by the Mayor/Chair Sandie Macdonald and the minutes of December 9th accepted as circulated.

Moved by Brandi Rafeek **Seconded by** Jim Hunter

2. Recap of Meeting points from December 9th and Highlights

2.1 Meeting turned over to Jason Coleman by Mayor Sandie Macdonald

3. Successful in budget process, receiving funds to replace a pick-up truck and dump truck- previous trucks were over 17 years old., New pickup truck is in fleet another dump truck has been ordered.

4. Grass Cutting Equipment- coming tomorrow (Thurs Mar 18). Staff are enrolled in training to alleviate liability and help educate staff.

5. New Recreation Booking Software - Has been purchased training and is coming. Residents have been asking for quite some time. Through this software payments made easier. The improvement is fiscally responsible, easier to track reports and is a great addition to the township.

6. Summer camp – Parks and Recreation department feels we are not at the service level to deliver this safely, if we were a larger Township with greater resources this could be possible but unfortunately this is not the case. The department's ideal is to defer until next year. Safety is of the highest priority. We also believe that with the number of participants we are permitted to have, and the staff required, camps would put us at a financial deficit. By not having camps there is no effect on the budget., we did budget neutral, so we are not coming up behind next year.

7. We applied for 4 grants.

7.1 Canada summer jobs – Applied for 3 summer students, we budgeted for them however the grant will offset it, waiting to hear an update.

7.2 Trans Canada Trail Spring Cleanup – Applied for 2000 dollars general repairs and maintenance, ideally a chainsaw to remove tree branches etc.

7.3 Healthy Community Initiative Grant – Applied for funding to revitalize public spaces in the township, increase the amount of picnic tables and bike racks. Lots of picnic tables dispersed at school. New recycled picnic tables are aesthetically pleasing unlike the previous ones, this doesn't require upfront fees.

7.4 Simcoe County Sports and Culture – Boat launch not eligible, we are applying for funding for trail signage, quote was substantial, \$4000 for 1 sign, Goal is to increase directional signage at trail heads and then improve maps, within the trails. Lots of trails that need lots of work. Goal to improve trail use.

- Mayor Sandie Macdonald suggests signage in a bench.

8. Recreation Facilities are open, no game play, just skills and drills., almost booked solid, extended ice by a month to the end of April.

- Manager of Parks and Recreation Jason Coleman's computer sent him out of meeting.

9. Member Jim Hunter asked for further detail about camps.

9.1 Mayor Sandie Macdonald explained why it is too costly to run with covid restrictions.

10. Mayor Macdonald speaks to Emergency Management Team meeting - Allowing renters of the Banquet Halls to have fees at a reduced rate as they can only have 10 people, no one can make money off this, so we cut them a break, in turn they rent from us and we all make money. Karate joining top floor rentals. Once we open fully, they pay full rate again.

11. Grass cutting great for us, we paid contractors for each time we called them to come back regardless of how poor their job was originally. Training, and education, procedures and protocols are all in place, PPE has been prepared for staff.

11.1 Mayor/ Chair Sandie Macdonald asked have you thought of licensing someone to spray for Poison Ivy? Manager of Parks and Recreation Jason Coleman -becomes very costly requires many treatments. Mayor Sandie Macdonald -requested to investigate getting one of our staff licensed so we don't have to call out for it. The more trails and green space, the more weeds and Poison Ivy we will get,

12. Member Jim Hunter – Chair for Angus Farmers Market August to September every Thursday. Protocol to come, talking to other markets, logistics, no sponsors as it is too tough right now. Just bare bones with as many vendors as possible. Mayor Sandie Macdonald asks- Where will it be? Member Jim Hunter -Still at the Arena, Allows for control of traffic. Looking forward to that. Parks and Recreation Jason Coleman asks – Cashless transactions? Member Jim Hunter - 1 or 2 vendors may have contactless but, Is this a concern with covid. Barrie allows for both cash and Electronic, sanitizer at all booths.

13. Mayor Sandie Macdonald –. Essa’s great gardener competition to come in April. Calling on all Essa Residents to join the initiative Mayor & Council Grow a row share a row. In your back yard the shared produce row will go to our 2 Essa Food Banks and the largest yield will give the bragging rights of winner being named Essa's Top Gardner. More info contact Krista @705-424-9917 ext 116.

14. Salmon Derby - Still plan on having a Salmon Derby with Prizes.

15. Have the idea for golf: raise some funds play x number of holes, 40 ppl that sign up and come over a week as opposed to one day. Have to be creative, money for hospice Dr recruitments. Grants be distributed out of the Dr. portion. Grants come from tax this does not.

16. Meeting every 3 months is the goal for this Committee.

17. Now that things are opening, budget requests for fixing parks to come/be considered in 2022. Mayor Sandie Macdonald - \$680,000 in deficit only coming up with 3% increase in taxes.

Meeting Adjourned

Moved by Brandi Rafeek, **Second by** Jim Hunter

Staff Signature