



TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HURON

REPORT

Item No.

REPORT TO: Reeve Vincent and Members of Council
PREPARED BY: Pat Newson, Director of Recreation and Facilities
DATE: 07/03/2016
SUBJECT: Memorandum of Understanding for Snowmobile Trail Land Use for Blyth Greenway Trail
ATTACHMENTS: Memorandum of Understanding and Trail Map

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron hereby direct staff to prepare an authorizing by-law to sign the Memorandum of Understanding Prescribed Snowmobile Trail Land Use Permission for the Blyth Greenway Trail.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Township of North Huron leases the land for the Blyth Greenway Trail and is liable for other groups that utilize the land. The North Huron Snowmobile Club uses a portion of the Blyth Greenway Trail for their trail system. It is recommended that the Township enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Snowmobile club to formally recognize the use by the club, to transfer liability and to set conditions of that use for things such as liability insurance and maintenance.

Attached is the proposed Memorandum of Understanding and the map of the trail used by the Snowmobile club. Note that this is a standard Memorandum of Understanding prescribed by the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs. Significant changes to the MOU would require expenses to the Township as we would be required to have our legal resources create and develop our own MOU.

DISCUSSION

The snowmobile club has used the Blyth Greenway Trail for several years as part of the snowmobile trail system. Their use of the trail provides economic benefit to the community as snowmobilers stop in Blyth for fuel, food, and rest.

Staff were unable to find a formal agreement for this use, and previous land lease agreements with the province did not allow for establishing a user agreement with the snowmobile club. The new lease with the Province will permit this arrangement.

To reduce the risk and liability placed on the Township as the tenant of the leased lands, this memorandum of understanding outlines the permitted use and responsibilities of the North Huron Snowmobile club. The North Huron Snowmobile Club has had an opportunity to review the draft Memorandum of Understanding and are agreeable to the terms in the draft.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The snowmobile club pays no fee to the Township, however they perform the winter maintenance for their trail use, and are responsible for any damage to the trail as a result of their use. Insurance

carried by the North Huron Snowmobile Club will respond for their specific use of the trail, minimizing the Township's risk and potential expenses.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

This permission can be reviewed as needed if circumstances with respect to the trail lease change in the future.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Our community is attractive and welcoming to new businesses and residents.
Our natural environment is valued and protected.

Pat Newson, Director of Recreation and
Facilities.

Sharon Chambers, CAO