



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: 18/04/2016
SUBJECT: Snowmobile Club Use of Blyth Greenway Trail
ATTACHMENTS: [Click here to enter text.](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron hereby approve the expense to have our North Huron lawyer revise the standard agreement for the Snowmobile Club use of the trails, and present this revised agreement to the North Huron Snowmobile Club for their consideration in order to use the Blyth Greenway Trail.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the March 7, 2016 Council meeting, the Director of Recreation and Facilities was directed to further investigate whether the Ontario Snowmobile Association's standard Memorandum of Understanding for Snowmobile Trail Land Use for the Blyth Greenway Trail would sufficiently transfer risk and liability to the snowmobile club and their members using the trail.

DISCUSSION

The Township insurance provider (BFL) reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding and suggested some changes to the standard Memorandum of Understanding. In general their understanding is that the snowmobile clubs are well organized and do take care of the trails they are responsible for. Their comments on the MOU was that it does not adequately protect the municipality because there is no indemnification/hold harmless clause. It is also recommended that the MOU clearly define what the municipality will or will not do in the case of trail and sign maintenance, and inspections. The standard agreements and comments from the North Huron insurance provider were shared with the Township lawyer, and he agreed with the recommended inclusions from the insurance provider, and had additional suggestions that would further protect the Township.

In order for the process to continue, the cost of updating the agreement sits with the Municipality. The snowmobile association provides their standard MOU, and if the municipality would prefer a customized agreement, the duty is with the Township to provide that customized agreement for their review.

The Village of Blyth benefits from the snowmobile club use of the trail. Users visit the community for fuel, food, and rest stop. It is a tourist stop along the snowmobile trail. It is recommended that if Council would like to continue to provide the snowmobile club use of the Blyth Greenway Trail, that a customized agreement be prepared and put in place prior to the winter of 2016/2017.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated expense to draft a revised agreement from the lawyer is \$200-\$300. However if there are further reviews and revisions required, the cost would increase depending on comments back from the snowmobile club.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

Once the agreement is drafted, and reviewed and approved by the snowmobile club, it will be brought back to North Huron Council to review and adopt as by-law.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Outcome: Tourism is a driver in economic development.

Goal: Our administration is fiscally responsible and strives for operational excellence.

Pat Newson, Director of Recreation and
Facilities

Sharon Chambers, CAO