



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: 23/01/2017
SUBJECT: Wingham and District Horticultural Society Memorandum of Understanding
ATTACHMENTS: Draft Memorandum of Understanding

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron hereby receives the draft Memorandum of Understanding for the Wingham Horticultural Society for information purposes;

AND FURTHER THAT the Clerk be directed to prepare a by-law to adopt the Memorandum of Understanding for the Wingham Horticultural Society at the February 6, 2017 Council Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Wingham Horticultural Society provides volunteer leadership and labour on municipal property. At the March 7, 2016 Council meeting, staff were directed to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding with this volunteer organization.

DISCUSSION

The Wingham and District Horticultural Society celebrated their 50-year anniversary in 2016. They are volunteers that perform valuable services in the Wingham community, and evidence of this is notable and appreciated in the many parks and gardens in Wingham. The organization maintains membership with the Ontario Horticultural Association, and this parent organization provides their members with liability and personal injury insurance, along with resources and leadership. The Township of North Huron has had a long-term relationship with these volunteers. With the implementation of the North Huron Committee Appointment Policy in 2015, staff were directed to develop Terms of Reference or Memorandum of Understanding Agreements with all North Huron volunteer groups/committees, performing work on behalf of the Township of North Huron or on municipal property. The Wingham and District Horticultural Society is not a Committee of Council, they have their own executive board, financial accounts, and policies and procedures. They operate as an organization under the Ontario Horticultural Association. They do perform valuable work on municipally owned property which is why a Memorandum of Understanding is required, to clarify the intentions of both parties, insurance, indemnity, Council's obligations, and the role the volunteer group plays in the community. Clarification through a Memorandum of Understanding provides direction for staff, and protects the Township and the Horticultural Society members.

The draft Memorandum of Understanding has been vetted by both lawyers from the Township and the Wingham Horticultural Society. The agreement is attached to this report. The agreement has been approved and signed by the Wingham Horticultural Society.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

The Wingham and District Horticultural Society has a positive impact on our community and continuing this relationship is beneficial to the future of the municipality. By signing the Memorandum of Understanding it further solidifies this volunteer group's role in the community.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Our community is attractive and welcoming to new businesses and residents.
Our residents are engaged and well informed.



Pat Newson, Director of Recreation and
Facilities



Sharon Chambers, CAO