



TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH CARDINAL ACTION ITEM

Committee: Combined Committee of the Whole - AF - PWESF

Date: August 8, 2022

Department: Parks / Recreation & Facilities

Topic: SNC Property Maintenance – The Healing Place

Purpose: To review the SNC contract and to authorize Township staff to continue to cut The Healing Place property for the remainder of the 2022 season.

Background: At a committee of the whole meeting in June, Councilor Hunter inquired if Township staff could help assist the South Nation River Conservation Authority in maintaining the grass cutting at a property in the north end of the Township.

Located at 8040 County Rd 22, The Healing Place is a quiet place where residents can go and help nurture the plants and trees planted by SNC. TWPEC staff met with SNC staff the first week of July to get an idea of the scope of the grass cutting, the property has since been cut twice and staff would recommend that a biweekly cutting is needed on a go forward basis. Historically, the Township does not perform work on private property as it may open the Township up for potential litigation.

SNC has provided the Township with a contract that is attached for the maintenance of the property for the next 5 years at no charge. This was not part of any conversation staff had with SNC.

In 2018 the Township had a 4-year agreement with SNC regarding the Butternut Compensation project. The contract contained costs for SNC to conduct an annual fall assessment and submit an annual report to the Natural Resources. Annually, the Township was charged for 1 ½ days' work and the total cost for the 4 years was \$3,278.71 which included the non-rebated HST.

Options for the maintenance of the property could be as follows:

1. Finish grass cutting the property for the 2022 season as an in-kind donation and then request that SNC maintain the property on their own
2. Sign the maintenance agreement with SNC & do one of the following:
 - a. TWPEC staff cut the property with our equipment (estimated costs is \$200.00 per cut, 12-14 cuts). This could be considered an in-kind donation or could be included in the contract outlining the annual cost that would be billed to SNC.

b. Use the Township Grass Cutting Contractor (estimated cost would be \$ 85.00 per cut), this price could fluctuate from year-to-year dependent on different contractors bidding. This cost could be considered an in-kind donation or could be included in the contract outlining the annual cost that would be billed to SNC.

Policy Implications: If the municipality enters into a 5-year agreement with SNC, a bylaw would have to be drafted as the agreement exceeds the term of council.

Financial Considerations: This was an unplanned additional maintenance activity for the Recreation department in 2022. The estimated equivalent cost if this was to be billed out in the future would be approximately \$200.00 per cut. This cost includes staff time (travel and cutting) and fuel costs (vehicle and mower). SNC could also submit an application for the In-Kind donation program for the coming years annually.

Recommendation: That Committee recommends that Council direct staff to cut the grass at The Healing Place Property for the remainder of this year and then request that SNC coordinate with an independent contractor to maintain the site.



Facilities Manager



CAO