



TOWN OF MINTO

DATE: October 12, 2016

REPORT TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Bill White, C.A.O. Clerk

SUBJECT: Harriston Lawn Bowling, Final Agreement Public Guardian and Trustee

STRATEGIC PLAN:

Maintain and enhance recreation opportunities to benefit persons of all ages and abilities using existing well maintained parks and facilities, and ensure the location, supply and availability of major facilities considering the cost as well as community development benefits.

BACKGROUND

- Since fall 2014 staff has been in discussion with members of the Harriston Lawn Bowling Club whose members owned and operated the facility for many years.
- The group continues to maintain and use the facility on Arthur Street but has sustainability concerns mainly due to costs for insurance and property taxes.
- The remaining members agreed that the lands could be transferred to the Town and that Lawn Bowling would run as a municipal program.
- During the process of transferring it was confirmed the lands were technically controlled by the Public Guardian and Trustee
- April 19, 2016 Council considered a report outlining agreement with the Public Guardian and Trustee for the transfer of the land. Council deferred the matter due to concerns the Town had to pay market value for the land if it was used for any other purpose besides lawn bowling or parkland
- At AMO in August Mayor and Council presented a revised agreement to the Attorney General which would see the lands transferred with the following provisions:
 1. Nominal fee
 2. Acknowledgement of the floodway zoning
 3. Town can use for recreation activities such as lawn bowling and enjoyment of the river, parkland and may do work for highway widening, flood and erosion control work to preserve as park
 4. Town cannot sell the lands for other purposes without consent of Public Guardian and Trustee

COMMENTS:

The lands highest and best use is the current lawn bowling. The Floodway zoning prevents site redevelopment for any other purpose. The revised agreement with the Public Guardian and Trustee restricts the Town's ability to sell or use the lands for commercial purposes, and requires consent to sell the property. This is reasonable as the policies of the Public Guardian and Trustee have been changed to prevent lands in this situation from being "flipped" and sold for monetary gain.

If lawn bowling were to discontinue, the infrastructure would be removed and the lands naturalized as parkland and floodway. The lands have value for future road widening, intersection improvements or bridge repairs are now acknowledged in the agreement



The Recreation Manager is finalizing an agreement with remaining members of the Lawn Bowling Club to confirm the terms for the use continuing. This report will be considered separately by Council.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The Town's Solicitor has been cooperative in minimizing fees on this file as the Public Guardian and Trustee would not share in legal costs.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receives the C.A.O. Clerk's October 12, 2016 report regarding Harriston Lawn Bowling, Final Agreement Public Guardian and Trustee and that a by-law be considered in regular Council to approve the final agreement.

Bill White, C.A.O. Clerk