



Staff Report

Legal Services – By-law

Report To: COW-Finance, Admin, Fire, Legal, Community Services
Meeting Date: June 26, 2023
Report Number: FAF.23.101
Title: Follow-Up to No Mow May
Prepared by: Debbie Young, Interim Manager of By-law and Licensing

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report FAF.23.101, entitled “Follow-Up to No Mow May Report”;

AND THAT Council direct Staff to continue with the No Mow May initiative for 2024, or in the alternative, not to proceed with the No Mow May campaign in 2024.

B. Overview

A deputation was made by a resident that the Town provide relief from the provisions of the Long Grass By-law for the month of May 2023. Council requested Staff to provide a follow-up report in relation to the outcome of the No Mow May initiative and the particulars of the outcome are contained herein.

C. Background

On April 24, 2023, a resident brought forward a request to council, and council passed a resolution to provide relief to the long grass by-law for the month of May for residential properties. Staff understands the purpose of the No Mow May to be to assist with the pollinators. Staff has done some research and found that other municipalities participate in No Mow May.

D. Analysis

During the No Mow May initiative, By-law received two complaints about long grass. One resident referred to “No Mow May” as a fad. His concern was that the dandelions need to be cut before going to seed. He also indicated that there should to be some stipulations added to the May exemption in relation to the Long Grass and Noxious Weeds By-law.

Overall, Staff do not feel that many residents were impacted by the No Mow May initiative and that based on the low number of complaints, this might be something that Council would consider on an annual basis.

E. Strategic Priorities

1. Communication and Engagement

We will enhance communications and engagement between Town Staff, Town residents and stakeholders.

2. Organizational Excellence

We will continually seek out ways to improve the internal organization of Town Staff and the management of Town assets.

3. Community

We will protect and enhance the community feel and the character of the Town, while ensuring the responsible use of resources and restoration of nature.

4. Quality of Life

We will foster a high quality of life for full-time and part-time residents of all ages and stages, while welcoming visitors.

F. Environmental Impacts

Research indicates that No Mow May helps with biodiversity which is intended to give insects and their food supplies a chance to go through their part of the life cycle early on in the summer and assist with pollination. There is also a reduction of pollution without the use of lawn maintenance equipment. However, other statistics show that there is not much change in the pollination process with the No Mow May initiative.

G. Financial Impacts

None

H. In Consultation With

Ryan Gibbons, Director of Community Services

I. Public Engagement

The topic of this Staff Report has not been the subject of a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required.

Any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Debbie Young, Interim Manager of By-law and Licensing bylawadmin@thebluemountains.ca.

J. Attached

None

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Young
Interim Manager of By-law and Licensing

For more information, please contact:
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Report Approval Details

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Attachments:	
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This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Ryan Gibbons - Jun 14, 2023 - 4:58 PM