



Staff Report

Legal Services – By-law

Report To: COW-Finance, Admin, Fire, Community Services
Meeting Date: November 27, 2023
Report Number: FAF.23.165
Title: Wards Road traffic and parking concerns
Prepared by: Debbie Young, Interim Manager of By-law & Licensing

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report FAF.23.165, entitled “Wards Road traffic and parking concerns”;

AND THAT Council receive this report for information only.

B. Overview

This staff report will discuss the issues with traffic, parking concerns and water access and respond to the concerns made by a local resident in relation to Wards Road from Highway 26 to the water.

C. Background

On September 25, 2023, Council received a deputation of Lisa Dufraimont and Kathleen Gates regarding traffic and parking concerns along Wards Road. At that time, Council directed as follows:

“THAT Council receives the deputation of Lisa Dufraimont and Kathleen Gates regarding traffic and parking concerns along Wards Road;

AND THAT Council request a staff report in response to the deputation of Ms. Gates and Ms. Dufraimont regarding traffic and parking concerns, and water access at Wards Road.”

Wards Road is currently included in the Town’s Parking By-law 2022-49 as a street that parking is prohibited on.

D. Analysis

Staff have set out below the response directly to the Kathleen Gates and Lisa Dufraimont's deputation:

1. Allow for unrestricted parking along Wards Road, which as the status quo before the By-law was introduced. This is the option that the petitioners would favour.

Based on the current Parking By-law and the width of the road, Staff concurs that no parking continues to be implemented on this road as it does not provide sufficient space for parking. Pursuant to our Parking By-law 2022-49, Wards Road was established as no parking on either side of the road. At the time of implementation of the Parking By-law, a public meeting was held on March 7, 2022, and no comments were received in relation to Wards Road.

The road is only 6 meters wide from road edge to road edge and any parking on either side of the road may obstruct traffic. Staff believe that during COVID, 7 No Stopping signs were erected for the purposes of COVID distancing. There were also several complaints from the residents that live on Wards Road which indicated that some vehicles were blocking driveways, and some were parked on their property. In consultation with the Fire Department, they have confirmed that the emergency vehicles are 10 feet wide and any parking on the road would prohibit them for accessing the area

2. Allowing for limited parking, for example parking spots at the end of the road (paid or unpaid).

Wards Road is approximately 125 meters (410 feet) long with 304 driveways. It is 6 meters in width with a narrow turnaround and driveways at the north end of the road. The ability to have vehicles parked at the end limits the ability of vehicles who drive in to be able to turn around. This may force cars onto the private property of the residents who reside on the that road or into the ditch. The access is only as wide as the road allowance and is abutted on either side by private residences.

3. Introducing a loading area where vehicles could unload passengers and items and vehicles.

Staff have now replaced the No Stopping signs with the No Parking signs as set out on Attachment 1. This will allow loading and unloading, if necessary.

4. Prohibiting overnight parking, if the concern is night-time parties and the vandalism that can go with them.

Staff do not have the ability to patrol the night-time parking.

As identified in the Leisure Activities Plan, Ward Road is an open road allowance that also is used as a drainage outlet. It is not allocated as a public beach; it has no facilities and no available parking. If the public wishes to access this area, they are still required to park

elsewhere and walk to the access. With the No Parking signs now back in place, it allows for the ability to provide drop-off and pick-up only.

Staff recommends that the No Parking structure continue to be in place and that there will be the ability to be able to stop to load and unload only.

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

N/A

G. Financial Impacts

N/A

H. In Consultation With

Ryan Gibbons, Director of Community Services

Dax McAllister, Road and Drainage Supervisor

Fire Chief, Steve Conn

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 for By-law & Licensing bylawadmin@thebluemountains.ca.

J. Attached

1. Excerpt of Ward Road Open Road from the Leisure Activities Plan.
2. Google map indicating where No Parking signs are located.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Young

Interim Manager of By-law & Licensing

For more information, please contact:
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