

March 4, 2025

To: Town Council

From: Directors of The Thornbury Pickleball (TPC) on behalf of its members

Re: 2025 Draft Budget

We were very disappointed to hear that by a vote of 4 to 3, Council decided to continue with the proposed 2025 budget, particularly concerning the rate increase and subsidy reduction for pickleball at BVCC.

We would like to reiterate that TPC is a community based club unlike the other user groups that are private rentals and closed to the general public. Our mandate is to serve the community and the Club is run by a volunteer Board of 5. Through the Board and with volunteers we organize various social events such as an annual tournament and pot luck dinner, an open house with a picnic at the outdoor courts, get togethers and our Thursday training sessions. Our program is different from other clubs. As the population grows here in The Blue Mountains and pickleball becomes ever more popular we welcome all ages and all levels of players. We have set aside some of our contracted time and with club facilitators we teach newcomers how to play the game or improve their skills until we can absorb them into the club. They want to play locally with fellow community members. In fact one newcomer said they have not seen such a program anywhere and how unique it was. We currently have 150 active members, 54 on our previously mentioned Thursday practice roster and another 59 waiting to get on the Thursday sessions.

We hope that we have established that this is a community club. So we are confused on two fronts. If other community groups have maintained or increased their subsidy, why is our community group facing a subsidy reduction? We then read that town staff is doing a full review on the subsidies and will provide guidance to Council. If a full review is being done on subsidies, why have we been singled out and have had ours reduced before the review is done?

We fully understand that basic rate increases are needed and this will be our second large increase in three years. We had a 50% increase in 2023 and the proposed 33% increase this year. If this is a catch up increase to bring us to market rates then we would expect minor increases in the future, similar to the 3.125% the ice rental is going up in 2025.

So our request is to treat our community club like the other community groups and hold our 30% subsidy until the review is completed and then treat all community groups equally.

Thank you.

TPC Board of Directors