



Staff Report

Community Services – By-law Enforcement

Report To: COW- Admin, Corp and Finance, SI, Comm. Services
Meeting Date: October 6, 2025
Report Number: CS.25.040
Title: Update to Municipal By-laws
Prepared by: Debbie Young, Manager of By-law and Licensing

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report CS.25.040, entitled “Update to Municipal By-laws”;

AND THAT Council direct staff to prioritize the review and updating of the following selected by-laws as follows:

- 1) Comprehensive Parking By-law 2022-49 (commence 4th quarter 2025)
- 2) Animal Control By-law 2006-32 (as amended); (commence 3rd quarter 2026)
- 3) Long Grass and Noxious Weeds By-law 2003-25 (as amended) (commence 1st quarter 2027).
- 4) Noise By-law 2002-9 (as amended) (commence 3rd quarter 2027);
- 5) Sign By-law 2016-71; (commence 1st quarter 2028).

B. Overview

This report recommends that Council authorize a comprehensive review and update of selected municipal by-laws. The purpose of this review is to address internal municipal changes, ensure alignment with current legislative standards, changes in technology and better reflect the evolving needs and expectations of the community as well as provide clear guidance for residents. These selected by-laws were chosen based on complaints received from residents from 2024 and 2025 to date as well as public safety.

C. Background

Over time, municipal by-laws can become outdated due to changes in organizational structure, amendments to provincial or federal legislation, technological advancements, and shifts in community priorities. A number of existing by-laws have not been substantially reviewed in several years and no longer reflect best practices, current enforcement standards, or the operational realities of the municipality.

Furthermore, various departments have identified inconsistencies, unclear language, and enforcement limitations in several by-laws. In addition, community feedback has indicated a desire for more modern, inclusive, and responsive by-law provisions.

D. Analysis

The proposed review will focus on ensuring that the identified by-laws based on complaints and calls for service include the following:

Comprehensive Parking By-law 2022-49

- Review parking restrictions on narrow streets and crescents to ensure access for emergency services and municipal operations such as snow clearing.
- Amend inconsistencies in the by-law with the signage.
- Administrative issues to be corrected.
- Provide clear, enforceable language to support compliance
- Respond to feedback received from the community and key stakeholders
- In 2024, 112 parking complaints were received and in 2025 to date, staff have received 95 parking complaints. This does not include complaints in relation to parking infractions issued.

Animal Control By-law 2006-32 (as amended)

- Refine leash and animal control provisions to enhance safety.
- Update standards of care.
- Address service animal's accommodations in public spaces.
- There has been an increased number of dog bites in 2025 to date a total of 9 dog owners have been charged under Dog Owners Liability Act (DOLA) and some dog bites have not being formally reported.
- Requires some administrative updates.
- In 2024, 80 animal control complaints were received and in 2025 to date, staff have received 55 complaints.

Long Grass and Noxious Weeds By-law 2003-25 (as amended)

- This by-law regulates property maintenance related to grass, weeds and invasive species. Updates are recommended to improve public safety, control of invasive and harmful species and provide guidance and compliance timelines to residents.
- In 2024, 71 Long Grass and Noxious Weeds complaints were received and in 2025 to date, staff have received 65 complaints.
- Staff would recommend that this by-law be brought forward through the Administrative Monetary Penalty System for compliance and enforcement

Noise By-law 2002-9 (as amended)

- Update permissible noise levels and timeframes to account for residential and commercial equipment, including such things as HVAC systems and outdoor generators.
- Include a measurable standard of noise by decibels or maintain the time-based standards of no decibels (looking for council recommendations).
- Looking to balance the enforcement process of noise complaints within the municipality.
- In 2024, 146 noise complaints were received and in 2025 to date, staff have received 66 noise complaints (excludes OPP noise calls but includes Short-Term Accommodation calls).

Sign By-law 2016-71

- Address new sign technology such as digital, LED or illuminated signs that were not common when the by-law was last updated.
- Ensure compliance with updated provincial or federal legislation.
- Simplify definitions, standards, and permitting processes to make enforcement more consistent and efficient.
- Provide clear guidance to residents, businesses, and staff on what is permitted, reducing complaints and conflicts.
- In 2024, 44 sign complaints were received and in 2025 to date, staff have received 18 complaints.

This process will include internal departmental consultation, a legal review, and where appropriate, public engagement to ensure transparency and inclusivity.

Option 1: Proceed with Comprehensive Review (Recommended)

This option ensures that the municipality's regulatory framework is current, enforceable, and responsive to community needs.

Option 2: Defer Review

Deferring the review of the identified by-laws may result in ongoing confusion, gaps in enforcement, and limits on the municipality's ability to respond proactively to emerging issues. Several by-laws, including the Comprehensive Parking By-law, require updates to address administrative alignment (e.g., consistency between the by-law provisions and municipal signage). Without timely review, enforcement may remain inconsistent, leading to reduced compliance, increased complaints, and diminished public confidence in the municipality's regulatory framework.

E. Strategic Priorities

1. Communication and Engagement

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

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

None

G. Financial Impacts

Staff time and internal resources will be required to conduct the review. Where necessary, external legal or consulting services may be retained. Costs will be managed within existing operating budgets or brought forward for consideration during the next budget cycle.

Any By-laws transitioned from POA to AMP will generate additional revenue and provide a more expeditious process for resolution.

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

If a By-law is substantially changed it may require a public meeting. This will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

J. Attached

None

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Young
Manager of Bylaw and Licensing

For more information, please contact:
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Report Approval Details

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

Ryan Gibbons - Sep 25, 2025 - 4:24 PM