

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Stephan Poulin, Director of Economic Development and Community Services

DATE: June 15, 2021

RE: **COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION REPORT**

The community volunteer beautification initiative dates back to 2004. The allocated budget was initially based on a per capita basis for each ward. Volunteer committees were established in each ward and the volunteers would work at maintaining community gardens and common municipal areas. This initiative has evolved over time, some volunteer groups remain active while some are no longer participating. Over the last couple years we have done volunteers recruitment in order to re-activate some of the beautification volunteer groups in different communities. We have seen some new groups being formed recently and we are working with them to plan and implement their vision.

Our Community Services Coordinator is our key point of contact for all community volunteer groups. On an on-going basis she works closely with each volunteer group to assist with planning and to ensure they have all required materials/supplies, etc. The year-to-year budget for beautification is based on repairs/maintenance of existing infrastructure, proposed new projects and materials and supplies required. This year a request for \$17,500 was submitted as part of the 2021 budget. To date a total of \$2,500 has been spent for work completed in the Verner, Lavigne and Sturgeon Falls areas. In addition, there is approximately another \$9,500 committed for repairs and maintenance, materials and supplies for other community volunteer groups and projects.

There currently is no policy or formal process to receive proposals/plans from volunteer groups and to approve projects. We are recommending that moving forward, a formal process be established for community beautification. The Community Services staff would assess and determine the Municipality's priorities/needs and would establish a budget amount accordingly. In addition, a formal process would be established where proposals from volunteer groups would be received for review each year before Nov. 1st. All eligible requests would be then form part of a budget submission for Council's review and approval. Once a budget has been approved, we would notify all community groups and work with them to implement their projects.

Joie de vivre



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