



Subject: Cemetery By-Law Final Draft Update

Report Number: RCP 21-12

Department: Recreation, Culture and Parks

Submitted by: Christopher Baird, Director of Recreation, Culture and Parks

Meeting Type: Council Meeting

Meeting Date: Monday, May 10, 2021

RECOMMENDATION

THAT report RCP 21-12 Cemetery By-Law Final Draft Update, be received as information;

AND THAT Council agrees with the recommendations provided by the Parks, Beautification and Cemeteries Advisory Committee;

AND THAT the attached By-Law to govern the operations of the Tillsonburg Cemetery, and to repeal By-Law 3640, be brought forward for approval at the May 25, 2021 Council meeting.

BACKGROUND

At the Regular Council Meeting held on January 25, 2021, the new Cemetery Bylaw was presented to Council for discussion and adoption. Council had a few questions regarding the placement of shrubs and ornaments around gravestones. Prior to the Bylaw receiving third and final reading, the following Motion was approved:

Resolution # 2021-057

Moved By: Councillor Parker

Seconded By: Councillor Luciani

THAT a By-Law to govern the operations of the Tillsonburg Cemetery and to repeal By-Law 3640, be read for a first and second reading and that the by-law be brought forward with proposed amendments regarding

the placement of shrubs and ornaments around gravestones, and that options be provided to Council.

DISCUSSION

As directed by Council, the new Cemetery Bylaw was re-tabled at the April 1, 2021 Parks, Beautification and Cemeteries Advisory Committee meeting. The Committee was asked to review the specific items raised by Council. Those results and recommendations are as follows:

(Section 10.4) Boulder Memorials – shall be discouraged in favour of flat tablet style markers that are far better for seasonal and long-term maintenance.

(Section 12) Care of Lots: no person shall plant trees, shrubs, flowers – After discussion, the Committee agreed that this could be addressed with additional signage provided at various points in the Cemetery. Consolidation and clarification of Sections 12.3 to 12.6 will be completed.

(Section 12.10) Borders, fences etc. are not permitted – agreement by committee; Maurice emphasized how important is to train staff in sensitivity when discussing these rules.

(Section 12.11 and 12.12) Solar lights not permitted.

(Section 13.10) Potted plants for duration of specific times – The Committee agreed that it is important to include natural flowers as long as they are maintained. Artificial flowers can also be considered, but all shall be placed no earlier than May 1st and must be removed no later than October 31 annually.

General Comments for Council's future consideration – "Green Burials", Columbaria for cremains and designating an area of the Cemetery as a Flat Marker site only which produces a more park-like environment that is visually appealing and keeps maintenance considerable less. These can each be further reviewed at the next update of the Cemetery Master Plan.

The following Motion was tabled and approved:

Proposed Resolution #4

Moved by: Susan Saelens

Seconded by: Ken Butcher

THAT the Parks, Beautification and Cemeteries Committee recommend that Council approve amendments to the bylaw.

AND that a combination of fresh and artificial flowers be approved to be placed after May 1st and removed on October 31 annually.

AND that the Committee recommends investigating the future promotion of flat markers and green burial concepts.

Carried.

CONSULTATION

This report has been prepared in consultation with staff in the Parks and Cemetery's Team and Clerks Department. The Parks, Beautification and Cemeteries Advisory Committee has provided initial review and further recommendations.

FINANCIAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE

There are no financial impacts associated with the adoption of the new Cemetery By-Law.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN (CSP) LINKAGE

1. Excellence in Local Government
 - ☒ Demonstrate strong leadership in Town initiatives
 - ☐ Streamline communication and effectively collaborate within local government
 - ☐ Demonstrate accountability
2. Economic Sustainability
 - ☐ Support new and existing businesses and provide a variety of employment opportunities
 - ☐ Provide diverse retail services in the downtown core
 - ☐ Provide appropriate education and training opportunities in line with Tillsonburg's economy
3. Demographic Balance
 - ☒ Make Tillsonburg an attractive place to live for youth and young professionals
 - ☐ Provide opportunities for families to thrive
 - ☒ Support the aging population and an active senior citizenship
4. Culture and Community
 - ☐ Promote Tillsonburg as a unique and welcoming community
 - ☐ Provide a variety of leisure and cultural opportunities to suit all interests

- ☐ Improve mobility and promote environmentally sustainable living

ATTACHMENT

Attachment A – Mark up version – Final Draft of New Cemetery By-Law