



Working together with our community

Council-In-Committee Meeting – March 08, 2022

Subject: Waterford Heritage Trail Asphalt Project
Report Number: OPS-22-006
Division: Operations
Department: Parks
Purpose: For Decision

Recommendation(s):

THAT the Waterford Heritage Trail Asphalt Project staff report be received as information;

AND THAT Staff include a project in the 2023 Capital Budget for the Waterford Heritage Trail Asphalt Project in the amount of \$450,000;

AND THAT funding for the Waterford Heritage Trail Asphalt Project be provided from Donations (\$350,000), and the Tax Levy (\$100,000);

AND THAT the Waterford Heritage Trail Asphalt project only proceed in 2023 if the Waterford Heritage Trail Association fundraises the minimum of \$350,000 for the project by January 1, 2023;

AND FURTHER THAT if the fundraising dollars exceed the \$350,000 target, the County Contributions be reduced by the additional fundraising amounts.

Executive Summary:

The purpose of Report OPS-22-006 is to provide Council with information and details regarding the Waterford Heritage Trail Association's proposed project to asphalt the Waterford Heritage Trail from Waterford, north to the Brant County border.

Discussion:

To continue to enhance the trail experience for trail users, the Waterford Heritage Trail Association (WHTA) committee would like to asphalt the sections of trail from Waterford, north to Jenkins Road ending at the Brant County border. The asphalt resurfacing project will cover approximately 11kms. One section of trail is owned by the Ontario Government, whom has already given approval to go ahead with the proposed upgrade. The group is now asking Norfolk County, owner of the remaining sections of trails for permission to move forward with the planning and fundraising for the project.

The estimated cost for the project is \$450,000 and the WHTA group would like to begin fundraising in 2022 with the goal of resurfacing the trail sections in 2023. The WHTA groups plan is to fundraise a total of \$350,000 from the local community and businesses.

The WHTA group is requesting that Norfolk County includes \$100,000 in the 2023 Capital Budget, to support this community project. It needs to be noted that no paving of the trail sections or contributions from Norfolk County will begin until the group has successfully fundraised the \$350,000.

Financial Services Comments:

The Approved 2022-2031 Capital Plan does not contain any allocation for the Waterford Heritage Trail Asphalt Project.

Should Council approve the recommendations as outlined in this report, a project will be added to the 2023-2032 Proposed Capital Plan at an amount of \$450,000, with work planned for 2023. Norfolk County's contribution for this project will be \$100,000, with the remaining \$350,000 coming from donations. As the Waterford Heritage Trail Asphalt Project would be considered an enhancement to the existing trail, staff are recommending that the \$100,000 to be provided from Norfolk County, be funded directly from the Tax Levy in 2023.

The asphaltting of this trail is not expected to increase the operating costs of trail maintenance, and no additional winter maintenance will be required. However, it should be noted future costs will be incurred for major repairs and replacement of the asphalt surface. As this project is planned to be managed by the Waterford Heritage Trail Association, there are also no additional staffing related costs for project management to be incurred by Norfolk County.

Interdepartmental Implications:

N/A

Consultation(s):

OPS staff have been in consultation with staff from Finance.

Strategic Plan Linkage:

This report aligns with the 2019-2022 Council Strategic Priority "Foster Vibrant, Creative Communities".

Explanation: The Waterford Heritage Trail Association has been doing great and creative things with the various sections of trails in the Waterford area for years. A few of the groups noted prior accomplishments include the recent successful fundraising and installation of a new pedestrian bridge at the east gap of the Black Bridge and the redevelopment of the Shadow Lake area. These projects have created many positive spin offs such as the Waterford Farmers Market and activities such as paddle boarding, canoeing & kayaking.

Conclusion:

It is through the cooperation and hard work of our volunteers, associations and service clubs, that Norfolk County is successful in managing our trail systems. The Norfolk County Trails Master Plans states that "Norfolk County's trail vision is an organized linear network of trails connecting our communities and the Trans Canada Trail. Norfolk County's trail mission is to support the creation of a network of trails and that the County will work together with groups and organizations to provide a quality service for diverse users".

Attachment(s):

Project map.

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