

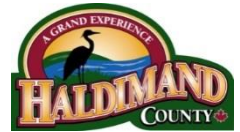
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# HALDIMAND COUNTY

## Report PED-COM-13-2018 Community Partnership Program – Fisherville Lions and Love Be'in Me Committee Track Installation

For Consideration by Council in Committee on June 5, 2018

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### OBJECTIVE:

To approve a community request to undertake the construction of an accessible, paved recreational track/trail approximately one (1) kilometer in length and an outdoor fitness area, at Fisherville Lions Park, and to approve related capital project funding from the Community Partnership Capital Reserve and the Community Vibrancy Fund.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Report PED-COM-13-2018 Community Partnership Program – Fisherville Lions and Love Be'in Me Committee Track Installation be received;
2. AND THAT the request from the Fisherville Lions and Love Be'in Me Committee to undertake the installation of (i) a paved track/trail and (ii) an outdoor fitness area on a rubberized pad in Fisherville Lions Park be approved;
3. AND THAT capital funding to an upset amount of \$78,000, representing one-third of the total anticipated budget for a paved track/trail and an outdoor fitness area on a rubberized pad, in Fisherville Lions Park, with related funding from the Community Partnership Capital Reserve, be approved;
4. AND THAT capital funding to an upset amount of \$78,000, also representing one-third of the total anticipated budget for a paved track/trail and an outdoor fitness area on a rubberized pad in Fisherville Lions Park, contributed from the Ward 2 Community Vibrancy Fund, be approved;
5. AND THAT project funding and approval are conditional upon compliance with Policy 2011-01 and County installation standards, permits and processes;
6. AND THAT the revised budget as outlined in PED-COM-13-2018 be approved.

**Prepared by:** Katrina Schmitz, Community Partnership Liaison

**Reviewed by:** Sheila Wilson, CPRP, Manager, Community Development and Partnerships

**Respectfully submitted:** Craig Manley, MCIP, RPP, General Manager of Planning and Economic Development

**Approved:** Donald G. Boyle, Chief Administrative Officer

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Fisherville Lions Park (Attachment 1) has long been the community's central hub for leisure, sports and socialization and is one of the most active parks in the County. Amenities on the site include a community centre, multi-purpose outdoor facility (used as an outdoor rink and for basketball, ball hockey, tennis and special events), pavilion, three ball diamonds with Marco Clay and a playground.

The property is operated and maintained by a number of community groups—Fisherville Lions Club, Fisherville Parks Committee and Fisherville Minor Sports—in partnership with Haldimand County.

In late 2017, the *Love Be'in Me Committee* approached the County with a Community Partnership Program (CPP) proposal to construct a one-kilometre walking/jogging track with a rubberized surface and install outdoor fitness equipment around the track. The project was planned in memory of a local resident who had recently passed away—Tracey Hoskin-Hartwick—and who had a passion for jogging and fitness. As *Love Be'in Me* is an ad hoc committee and not a formal organization, it was asked to find a partner group which could serve as the lead in the application. The Fisherville Lions Club offered to sponsor the CPP request, in collaboration with the *Love Be'in Me Committee*.

Staff spent significant time reviewing the proposal, including meeting several times on site with the proponents and the stakeholder groups which already operate on the property. Among the items considered was setbacks from existing amenities—including buildings, ball fields, the playground, trees, etc.—as well as the specifications of the track and outdoor fitness equipment construction.

### **Rubberized Track/Trail Surface:**

While everyone was generally supportive of the addition of the track/trail and outdoor fitness equipment to the Park, staff and stakeholder groups were not in support of a rubberized surface for the track. (The rubberized material is installed on asphalt or concrete. For the Fisherville project, the additional cost to rubberize the track is \$57,000.) Based on details provided by the manufacturer, the material cannot be driven on with any wheeled vehicles and is relatively fragile. Given Fisherville Lions Park is a rural park and the track is intended for recreational use only, staff and the community stakeholders (including the Fisherville Lions Club) were concerned about vandalism to the rubberized surface (intended or not, from ATVs, skateboards, BMX bikes or even lawn mowers) and related ongoing maintenance, repairs or replacement costs. Staff and the stakeholder groups, therefore, are not supporting the rubberized material for any portion of the track/trail.

### **Outdoor Fitness Equipment:**

In the original CPP application, the proponents intended to install outdoor fitness equipment on concrete pads along the track/trail route. In further discussion, it was agreed by all (the proponents, the stakeholder groups and County staff) to place the outdoor fitness equipment on a rubberized pad on the west side of the Park, just south of the septic bed. This would create a concentrated workout area; as well, the west side of the Park—the southwest corner of which will be the 'official entrance' to the track/trail—could be used as a 'circuit', including the track/trail for jogging or walking and the fitness equipment for strength training.

Staff and the community volunteers feel this use of the rubberized material is acceptable, as maintenance/grass cutting around a large rubberized surface will be easier than around the entire track/trail throughout the Park. As well, given the pad is designed at a size to accommodate the six pieces of outdoor fitness equipment installed on it, it might be less likely that any wheeled vehicles will have room to ride on the surface.

At this time, staff and the stakeholder groups currently operating on the property are recommending approval of a paved track/trail and the outdoor fitness area on a rubberized pad.

## **BACKGROUND:**

Haldimand County's Community Partnership Program (CPP) is intended to encourage and enhance strategic partnerships to the benefit of community stakeholders and the municipality, offering a simple, streamlined and customer-focused approach. The Program is intended to balance the rigor of the review process—necessary to ensure legitimate public interest issues are addressed—with flexibility and respect for the volunteer commitment of the groups.

Since 2011, more than fifty CPP projects have been approved and more than forty completed, leveraging almost \$1.8 million in community-raised funds to construct \$3.2 million in County enhancements.

The *Fisherville Lions Club* has a track record of community engagement and the ability to complete capital partnership projects, and is spearheading this proposal in collaboration with the *Love Be'in Me Committee*. The request from the groups is for:

- (i) Approval to undertake this project, with an estimated budget of \$234,000, on Haldimand County property; and
- (ii) Three-way funding for the project, including one-third each from the community group (\$78,000), the CPP Community Capital Projects Reserve (\$78,000) and the Ward 2 Community Vibrancy Fund (\$78,000).

## **ANALYSIS:**

### **The Proponents:**

*Fisherville Lions Club* and *Love Be'in Me Committee* are presenting this proposal for consideration.

The *Fisherville Lions Club* has been an engaged service group in the community for decades, supporting many activities and projects for the betterment of residents, families and visitors. The Club and its partners—such as the Fisherville Lions Community Centre Corporation and the Fisherville Parks Committee—have developed much of Fisherville Lions Park and its many amenities. Most recently, the Club spearheaded the development and construction on the property of the \$600,000 Multi-Purpose Outdoor Facility (MPOF), including raising almost \$300,000 towards that project. This covered, engineered pavilion is operated and maintained by the Club as a full-sized outdoor rink and multi-court amenity (basketball, ball hockey, tennis) and is also used to host special events for the community.

The *Love Be'in Me Committee* came together in fall 2017 following the untimely passing of Fisherville resident Tracey Hoskin-Hartwick, and is named in honour of the fitness business she operated in the community. The Committee—comprised of many of her friends—developed the plan to create a track/trail and outdoor fitness area in Fisherville Lions Park in Tracey's memory and in recognition of her passion for jogging and physical activity. Shortly after Tracey's passing, the group organized the first memorial run in her name, which attracted more than 500 participants and raised funds towards the proposed project. To date, the Committee has raised approximately \$70,000 towards a memorial project to honour Tracey, and has worked with the Cayuga Improvement Foundation to manage those funds. If the track/fitness area is approved, the Committee will continue to work with the Lions Club and other site partners to maintain the assets, including through an annual Love Be'in Me Walk/Run each fall.

### **Project Details:**

The goal of the partners is to construct:

- A one kilometer walking/jogging track—six feet (1.8m) wide—around the perimeter of Fisherville Lions Park. The *Love Be'in Me Committee* would like to see the paved surface rubberized to mitigate injuries, while the *Fisherville Lions Club* would prefer the track/trail only be paved; and
- An outdoor fitness area on the west side of the Park, west of the track/trail and south of a septic bed on the property.

### **Need and Benefit:**

Fisherville Lions Park is the community's hub for recreation, leisure and socialization, and is used by local residents as well as visitors from around and beyond the County. The proposed track/outdoor fitness activity complements the existing assets at the Park and helps promote no cost/low cost, safe

physical activity for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities. It is anticipated the Rainham Central Public School (an elementary school just a block from the Park) may use the new amenities.

As well, the proponents point to the success of the recently-constructed Jarvis Lions Park Trail/Pathway, which has been a great addition to that community and attracts up to 100 users per day. It is hoped the Fisherville track/trail, which is modelled on the Jarvis project and has the added outdoor fitness equipment feature, will be equally successful.

### **Project Review:**

The proposal was reviewed by an interdepartmental team of County staff (the CPP Staff Review Team) and was favourably received as it meets the following CPP priorities and objectives:

- (i) Community Vibrancy and Healthy Community;
- (ii) Corporate Image and Efficient Government;
- (iii) Creates or maintains public infrastructure;
- (iv) Reduces the cost of government services by optimizing partnership resources; and
- (v) Capitalizes on the collective energies and expertise of participating groups.

The proposal was also reviewed by Haldimand County's Accessibility Advisory Committee, which was supportive of the efforts to make the track/trail and outdoor fitness area accessible to persons with physical limitations.

The *Fisherville Lions Club* and the *Love Be'in Me Committee* have gone to considerable work and preliminary expense to present a complete and detailed plan of the project, including undertaking a property survey and engineered site work (Attachment 2) for both the track and outdoor fitness area (Attachment 3). The proposed installations must take into consideration the volume of users related to the many other amenities at the Park including the Fisherville Lions Community Centre, the Multi-Purpose Outdoor Facility, three ball diamonds, a playground and pavilion. The location of the track has been designed to minimize potential conflict between the users of the track/trail and other activities on the property including the active ball diamonds, the community centre and related parking areas on the site and the location of emergency access requirements for both the Park and the lands to the north of the Park within the settlement limits, etc.

The proponents have met repeatedly in the last six months with County staff, conducting several visits to the site to assess the ideal location for the track and outdoor fitness area in relation to amenities, trees and other site considerations.

Staff in the Facilities and Parks Operations Division prepared an **Arborist Report** (which had already been planned for the location but which was expedited as part of the review of this proposal) to identify any risk management issues related to trees on the property. A few areas of concern were highlighted and addressed early on in the application process, including:

- In some areas, the track/trail installation was shifted away from trees and vulnerable root systems; and
- There are two locations where existing healthy trees may have to be removed to accommodate the track/trail. In this case, the proponents are required to plant at least two trees for every one tree removed. The project budget includes almost \$10,000 for tree removal and planting, which is more than adequate to address this matter.

(Concurrent with the above-noted review of trees, the County was approached by neighbours whose homes are directly adjacent to the east side of the large ball diamond and Park property—and who have complained for many years about stray balls landing in their yards—with a request for the County to consider installing netting to help address this safety issue. County staff met with the neighbours and reviewed the matter on-site; it is anticipated this risk management issue will be addressed through the County's 2019 capital budget process. In the meantime, the track/trail installation in that area—if

approved by Council—can take into consideration, with minimal issue, the possible future addition of netting to minimize foul balls landing on the neighbouring private properties.)

### **Track/Trail Considerations:**

Meetings to discuss the track/outdoor fitness proposal were also undertaken with the other volunteer groups operating on the property—including the Fisherville Lions Community Centre Corporation, Fisherville Parks Committee and Fisherville Minor Sports—to determine any implications for the long-term activities which these groups conduct. All groups currently operating on the property are supportive of a **paved** track/trail; not a track/trail with rubberized material. (The rubberized material is installed on asphalt or concrete; in Fisherville, the additional cost to rubberize the track/trail is \$57,000.) This is due to concerns with the fragile nature of the rubber, and the fact no wheeled vehicles (e.g. lawn mowers, ATVs, BMX bikes, skateboards) should be used on the surface as it may cause damage. The volunteers are concerned that the extra work and time—when cutting grass—to avoid the rubberized track/trail surface, as well as additional costs to maintain/repair, were not warranted given the rural setting of the Park and the fact the track/trail is for recreational use only.

### **Outdoor Fitness Equipment:**

The proposal to install the outdoor fitness equipment on a rubberized pad on the west side of the Park, just south of the septic bed, is supported by all community stakeholders, as well as staff.

More recently, in May 2018, Haldimand County's Planning and Development Division was presented with a proposed development north of Fisherville Lions Park. Among the items for consideration related to the development is the need for dual access to the street; to achieve this, a secondary access—for emergency vehicles only and limited with a gate or knockdown bollards—will have to be created through the Park. This will have to be considered when finalizing the track plan. Among the other recommendations from staff related to this development project is the installation of privacy fence between several of the lots and the Park.

### **Construction Considerations if Approved:**

Should the proposal be approved, staff and the stakeholder groups have asked to remain involved in the development of the project and construction in order to address the following items:

- Timing of construction start in relation to other activities on the site (baseball, Hall events, etc.);
- Confirmation of the actual track/trail course in relation to trees, root systems and other amenities (e.g. play equipment); and
- Installation of the outdoor fitness equipment area in a manner that maximizes accessibility (e.g. includes a pathway from the track/trail to the equipment area).

### **Ongoing Operations:**

The proponents have agreed to remain involved in the operations and maintenance of the track and outdoor fitness equipment, agreeing to join the Fisherville Parks Committee for continuity. As well, the *Love Be'in Me Committee* will continue to host an annual run in the fall in memory of Tracey Hoskin-Hartwick, with funds raised going towards the ongoing maintenance of the track and outdoor fitness area as well as other projects to honour Tracey's memory.

## **FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Policy No. 2011-01 states the Community Partnership Program (CPP) will encourage and actively support partnerships with not-for-profit community groups. Within the Community Capital Projects Grant Program, Council has the responsibility to approve community capital projects with an overall budget of greater than \$10,000.

The overall proposed budget for this project is \$234,000. The Ward Councillor has indicated his desire to contribute one-third (\$78,000) of project funding from the Community Vibrancy Fund given the initiative complements County recreation and tourism strategies. The groups have also requested one-third project funding from the CPP (\$78,000), which is in keeping with the Community Capital Projects Grants Program funding limitation of 35% of the total project value, although the project will be 67% funded in total from County sources.

Based upon approved/recommended projects to date requiring funding from the Community Partnership Capital Reserve, there are sufficient funds available in the Reserve. Should this initiative be approved, there remains approximately \$43,597 in the Community Partnership Capital Reserve which is unallocated.

The CPP policy (2011-01) requires all community funding for Council-approved projects must be in place with the County or secured/confirmed with the applicable community group prior to the start of any construction. The groups have already secured significant funding towards the project and hope to be able to begin construction in fall 2018.

As a result of the proposed project, the following capital budget amendment is required:

	<b>Current Approved Budget</b>	<b>Proposed Revised Budget</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Fisherville Lions/Love Be'in Me Committee Trail/Track Project	\$0	\$234,000
<b>Total Expenditures:</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$234,000</b>
<b>Financing:</b>		
Community Contribution (33.3%)	\$0	\$78,000
Community Partnership Capital Reserve (33.3%)	\$0	\$78,000
Ward 2 Community Vibrancy Fund (33.3%)	\$0	\$78,000
<b>Total Financing:</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$234,000</b>

In addition to the funding required for the requested installation, the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) reporting standards require the County to record the fair market value of contributed assets. This enhancement will be amortized over the estimated life of the associated asset for accounting purposes.

Ongoing additional operating costs related to the Track/Trail and Outdoor Fitness Equipment (inspections, maintenance and repairs) will be the responsibility of the Fisherville Parks Committee, which will include additional membership from the *Love Be'in Me Committee*. Haldimand County's Facilities and Parks Operations Division staff will be available to provide consultation (primarily related to the track/trail and tree management). Future capital repair or replacement of the asset—through a partnership with the community groups—will impact the County's existing long-range capital funding plan.

## STAKEHOLDER IMPACTS:

This application was assessed and supported by the Community Partnership Program's Staff Review Team, which is comprised of staff from all County Divisions. Staff from the Facilities and Parks Operations Division conducted multiple site visits/inspections of the location to assess the condition of the Park in relation to the proposed track/trail and outdoor fitness installation. As well, a detailed Arborist

Report was completed to identify any required risk management mitigation given the number of trees on the site and in proximity to the proposed route.

The proposal was further reviewed by the County's Accessibility Advisory Committee, which was supportive of the amenity and the efforts made to address enhanced accessibility for users.

Lastly, a new development proposal being vetted through the County's Planning and Development Division raised matters for consideration when finalizing the design of the track and outdoor fitness area.

## **REPORT IMPACTS:**

Agreement: No

By-law: No

Budget Amendment: Yes

Policy: No

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Location Map – Fisherville Lions Park.
2. Site Plan – Proposed Trail/Track and Outdoor Fitness Area.
3. Detailed Plan – Outdoor Fitness Area.