

Request for Decision United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria Council

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, September 11, 2015				Report Date	Tuesday, September 8, 2015			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	X	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed

Veteran's Memorial Changes - Report #11/09/15/1207

Subject:

Council approval of use of funds raised and changes to the Veteran's Memorial.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council consider the suggestions of residents to make changes to the Memorial, provide direction and authorize the use of funds.

WHEREAS the Veteran's Memorial was created to honour Head, Clara & Maria's veteran's by a dedicated group of residents who raised funds and created the memorial in 2008;

AND WHEREAS no long term plan was arranged for maintenance of the surrounding garden with the current resulting weeds detracting from the memorial;

AND WHEREAS another group of volunteers in 2015 have worked to raise funds to make changes to the memorial and have brought forward recommendations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does hereby authorize the use of the funds raised for the purposes of:

- ____ Removing existing plants and replanting with shrubs;
- ____ Replacing the plastic edging with pressure treated lumber;
- ____ Replanting every spring with annuals;
- ____ Incorporating a self-sustainable water system tied into the garage downspout;
- ____ Extending the width of the walkway;
- ____ Installing a path to access the flags during winter months;

BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The resolution is quite self-explanatory. Staff do have some concerns with the suggested recommendations and have included some other suggestions for Council consideration as well. The following are notes provided to Ken after he submitted his plans to remove all existing plant materials and replace them. Please see the attached.

- Council approved the Fish Fry to raise funds for improvements to the memorial. Any changes and spending of funds must still be approved by Council.
- We can create a plan and make suggestions to Council who will meet in September but ultimately it is their decision as it is municipal property.
- Funds raised - \$771.79
- Considerations in creating a report to Council:
 - Re-use of existing plants – the challenge is not that the current plants are not appropriate but that they are not being properly taken care of;
 - Well thought out perennials could provide colour that annuals would but would be a one-time purchase, not annual.
 - Request from members of the community for plants that they may have that could be used – perennials always need to be thinned; Cost savings is always a consideration when using municipal funds.
 - Extension of stone paths? Has the issue of snow removal and salt killing the grass been resolved with this plan?
 - We need to consider access to the flag poles – a brick walkway should pass around the rock and behind the flag poles to facilitate this.
 - Incorporation of the bench already purchased into the overall plan.
 - Could we not incorporate a soaker hose that would provide more effective watering? Barrel for water from garage roof connected to buried drip line to conserve water and reduce labour over the long term?
 - Labour for changes? Volunteers? Staff? costs?

Options/Discussion:

Staff have concerns that the newly suggested plan does not meet the current challenges. The challenges are not with the existing plants but with regular maintenance. During discussions, the point was made that the original design was created by a group of residents and their efforts should be given some consideration. It was unfair to simply remove all that they have created and re-do it.

The existing plants need to be thinned and/or moved; perhaps some removed completely. What is really required is regular watering and weeding.

In consideration of any changes, extending the width of the paved section should be considered to prevent the salt kill in the spring. Perhaps a wider row of brick or stone to shovel snow on to?

A walkway to be shovelled/cleared during Remembrance Day ceremonies and to access the flags during the winter should be considered.

Upon the renewal of the Grounds Maintenance Contract which will not occur now for 3 years; amendments will be made so that maintenance of this garden will be included.

Financial Considerations/Budget Impact:

Ken had volunteers lined up to help him to remove the existing garden and replant. Funds would be used mainly for a solid barrier/edge, new planting material and new plants. The plan would also include the purchase of annuals to add colour.

In the staff recommendations, existing plants would be re-used; there are perennials in there that are quite self-sufficient. Costs would include mainly an extension of the width to prevent salt kill after winter snow removal, a walkway to safely access the flags and a watering system tied into the downspout from the garage.

Policy Impact:

As per policy.

Others Consulted:

Ken Giroux, June Vaughan, Springhill Nursery

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,
Municipal Clerk

Melinda Reith