



CORPORATE SERVICES – LEGISLATIVE SERVICES – CLERK'S
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May 1, 2017

CORPORATE SERVICES INFORMATION REPORT –LEGISLATIVE SERVICES REPORT –2017-08

TO: Mayor Tony Van Bynen and Members of Council

SUBJECT: Backyard Hens Pilot Project

ORIGIN: Florence DiPassio, Licensing Officer

In accordance with the Procedure by-law, any Member of Council may make a request to the Town Clerk that this Information Report be placed on an upcoming Committee of the Whole agenda for discussion.

COMMENTS

Background

On February 8, 2016 Council approved the implementation of the backyard hens 12 month pilot project for up to 5 residential properties in Ward 2, and requested that staff report back to Council regarding the outcome of the pilot project. On April 25, 2016, Council expanded the pilot project to include Ward 5.

Pilot Project

The Legislative Services Department received one (1) application for Ward 2 and two (2) applications for Ward 5.

- There are currently two (2) residents in Ward 5 that proceeded with the pilot project for backyard hens and continue to maintain coops;
- The resident from Ward 2 did not proceed;
- First inspection was done on the property to confirm that the applicants met the approved regulations prior to construction of the coop;
- Second inspection for compliance of regulations was done when the coop construction was completed;
- Staff has not received any complaints regarding the backyard hens pilot project;
- Staff has had enquiries regarding expanding the pilot project to other Wards.

CONSULTATION

Staff followed up with the residents for feedback on the pilot project and the responses were positive. Resident's provided the following feedback describing their experience:

“The social effect has been the most rewarding for the families and in addition many local children have visited to help with the collecting of eggs, feeding or just petting the hens.”

“Gifted with three (3) eggs a day and a family project enjoyed together.”

“Environmentally there has been minimal effort to maintain a clean, low odor and healthy coop for the hens. The waste from the coop has been easy to manage on the property and is being used for garden compost.”

Next Steps

Staff recommends that the approved regulations for the pilot program remain in place and be applied to all Wards.

- To effect this change, staff will amend the Animal Control By-law (By-law 2016-53) which currently prohibits the keeping of chickens to allow for chickens in residential areas, where regulations can be met;
- The amendment to the Animal Control By-law will come forward to the June 6th Council meeting, with notice given;
- The amendment will be advertised two weeks prior to the meeting.

BUSINESS PLAN AND STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGES

This report relates to the Well-equipped and Managed link of the Town’s Community Vision – implementing policy and processes that reflect sound and accountable governance.

HUMAN RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

There are no Human Resources considerations related to this report.

BUDGET IMPACT

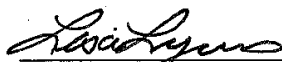
None

CONTACT

For more information on this report, contact Florence DiPassio, Licensing Officer, 905-953-5300, extension 2206 or via email at fdipassio@newmarket.ca.



Florence DiPassio, Licensing Officer



Lisa Lyons, Director, Legislative Services/ Town Clerk



Esther Armchuk, Commissioner of Corporate Services