



To: Mayor Cornell and Members of Council

From: Tim Leitch, P. Eng., Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Office of the CAO

Report Number: CAO-024-20

Meeting Date: 10-19-2020

Subject: **Beach Enjoyment Strategy (BEST)**
Our File No: 69039

Recommendation

It is recommended that CAO-024-20, dated October 19, 2020 be received; and
That the Beach Enjoyment Strategy (BEST) be received as information only.

Background/Analysis

Council directed staff to investigate the current Beach Enjoyment Strategy (BEST) to provide clarity in the definition of BEST and how it relates to the Strategic Plan. In 2015 the Township of Tiny developed its Strategic Plan which dovetailed to our Recreation Master Plan for the objective to define and enhance our Recreational activities along with many other Strategic initiatives. Within these documents the terminology BEST program was introduced. Since that time many enquiries were made to the Township to define what BEST meant and entailed.

The intent of this report is to define the BEST objectives and how this relates to the many activities, objectives and goals within Tiny.

Although contained within the Strategic Plan, a defined definition was not provided. The terminology was meant in a broad term that involved many interrelated activities that would tie various departments and Council responsibilities together to provide responsible management of the Township beaches that are available to the public.

In order to ensure that we continue to support and manage the Strategic Plan as a driving force for the future planning of Tiny we have many items and objectives that define and provide leadership as it relates to the Township of Tiny owned beaches. The following systems and objectives are used to support the terminology BEST.

- 1- The Strategic Plan which is in its second revision to carry the Township into 2025. This overarching document will contain many objectives that affect all aspects of Tiny which include beach and recreational management.
- 2- Recreation Master Plan specifically looks at the Township recreational offerings and management which include facilities, beaches, green parks and programming that is offered to our municipality.
- 3- Parking Strategy was implemented to ensure that we manage the beach access and usage to avoid overcrowding, road safety and respect for residents. This has been a

very effective way to manage beach use and access to ensure beaches can be enjoyed by residents and also visitors to Tiny.

- 4- Official Plan (OP) will assist in ensuring we have the recreational spaces and activities noted in the Township long term planning for land use and rules surrounding land use. Beaches and all assets are involved in the Township OP.
- 5- Delineation of Municipally owned assets from non-municipally owned assets has been an objective in the past years to improve the identification of public lands through signage and delineation markers. This will enable users to identify and knowledgeable of what is public land for use. 2021 Budget planning has included and extensive plan to further improve the delineation and identification of public lands.
- 6- Council has also asked staff to review what offerings will be provided at the various public beach locations. This will include signage, fencing, garbage, washroom facilities and other key items for the public to be able to use the areas without causing issues due to the lack of defined offerings at public locations.
- 7- Beach access and open space management was addressed through public communication to ensure that temporary encroachments are not placed on Public beaches which would restrict open use by the public. This program identifies items that have been left on beach areas that would restrict the uninterrupted use by the public. This program has been successful and will continue to ensure we maximize the usable space at public beaches.
- 8- Safety is and has always been paramount at Tiny, whether it is in our staff and operations or for the residents and visitors to the Township. All departments support safe practices and all efforts are being made to continue this objective. Beaches are included in all our areas. Specifically, we do inspections, cleaning of dangerous items, 911 identification at beach parks with master plans. AED's at beach parks, extension of restricted speed on the water within 300 meters of shore and in 2021 will have life rings installed at the 5 beach parks. These items and the day to day managements ensure that we provide a safe setting for beach use.
- 9- Volunteer/Stewardship Programs for items like beach clean ups and invasive species removal/management to help preserve this resource we are so fortunate to have. Tiny has developed a large and successful volunteer program managed by our Recreation Department but more importantly is the support of our vast volunteer base which makes all these programs successful.
- 10- Wayfinding Master Plan for Municipal beaches which will assist people in education and directional assistance to lead people to Township Beach Parks with Master Plans that would have facilities and offerings for the public.
- 11- Trail Connectivity through the Active Transportation plan that provide connectivity from trails to Township beach areas.

There are many other systems and objectives that fall within all departments in Tiny knowing that beaches are a valuable and important resource for our residents and visitors alike.

Options/Alternatives

This report was presented for informational purposes. Use of this report/contents can be used for future reference or enquiries.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications specific to this report. All improvements, changes and planning are contained within individual departmental Operations and Capital budgets.

Relationship to Strategic Plan

- Deliver Exceptional Municipal Services to encourage outdoor activities and active living.
- Support Community Health, Safety & Well-Being through development and maintenance of active living objectives.
- Promote Environmental Responsibility & Stewardship by ensuring Tiny maintains objectives to encourage healthy and active living and activities plus respecting the environmental aspect of Tiny.

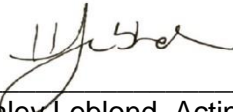
Conclusion

CAO-024-20 was developed as an informational report to define what BEST represents for the Township of Tiny.



Prepared and Submitted By:

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Financial Implications Reviewed By:

Haley Leblond, Acting Director of Finance



Report Approved By:

Tim Leitch, P. Eng., Acting Chief Administrative Officer