

Report to Council

Report Title: Walkerton East Ridge Business Park Leased Lands

Prepared By: Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer

Department: Economic Development

Date: January 21, 2020

Report Number: ED2020-01

File Number: C11ED

Attachments: East Ridge Lease Map

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number ED2020-01 - Walkerton East Ridge Business Park Leased Lands, prepared by Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer and in doing so authorizes staff to proceed with advertising the remaining lands for lease in the East Ridge Business Park.

Report:

Background:

Staff have been working diligently to finalize a renewed lease agreement for 50 acres of crop land in East Ridge Business Park. The lease agreement for this portion including a first right of refusal agreement will be brought forward in February once finalized. Based on the needs of the landowner there will be approximately 35 acres remaining to be leased and farmed.

Analysis:

The attached map shows approximately 35 acres of available land that would remain for lease in the East Ridge Business Park. Renting the lands will increase revenues and avoid the expense of maintaining these lands. If Council concurs with renting out the remaining lands they could only be leased for soybean crops. This would avoid a further Bobolink's study, which could result if other crops such as wheat or oats are planted, as they attract Bobolink nesting.

Staff recommend advertising the 35 available acres in local newspapers and online, and accepting bids for this land to reduce the ongoing maintenance costs of the current vacant land. Both lease agreements will include provisions should the lands be required by the municipality to proceed with development plans or in the case of purchase.

Sustainability Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Sustainable Strategic Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

- Do the recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to Environmental Integrity? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to the Social Equity? N/A

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer