

Report to Council

Report Title: Spring Ice and Permafrost Update

Prepared By: Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services

Department: Parks and Recreation

Date: August 11, 2020

Report Number: REC2020-10 **File Number:** C11REC

Attachments: Email from Black & McDonald – August 5, 2020

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report REC2020-10 - Spring Ice and Permafrost Update, prepared by Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services, and in doing so directs staff proceed with scheduling the testing in the spring and summer of 2021.

Report:

Background:

Council received Staff Report REC2019-28 on December 17, 2019 from then Parks, Recreation and Facilities Supervisor, Eric McDougall on the potential risk of damage from permafrost to arena floors from extended ice operating seasons. Since 2008 the Walkerton Community Centre and Arena has hosted the Quick Feet Hockey program until the third week of May. Prior, ice operations would run from third week in August to March 31st.

By Resolution number 19-26-09, Council directed staff to proceed with Option #4 as outlined “Continue the program and test for permafrost after the spring ice is removed understanding that there is an inherit risk that the floor could potentially heave.”

Analysis:

With the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the resulting closure of the facility and removal of the ice in mid-March of this year and the delay in contactors restarting their business services, Staff have not had the opportunity to implement this directive. As such staff have sought the further opinion of Black & McDonald regarding the viability of conducting the testing for permafrost this far into the summer with the ice being removed early in 2020. Attached for Council’s information is an email dated August 5, 2020 from Black & McDonald updating their opinion and recommendation regarding the testing.

As such, staff recommend that the testing be scheduled to occur in the spring and summer of 2021 pending the operation of the 2020/21 ice season with a report back to Council.

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? Yes
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy? Yes
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity? Yes
- Do the recommendations contribute to Environmental Integrity? Yes
- 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

As noted in Staff Report REC2019-28 repair costs for a frost heaved floor could exceed \$500,000. Spring ice revenues typically generate about \$31,000 and operating costs for staff and utilities in the range of \$29,000.

The cost to perform the testing would be in the range \$5,000.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services

Reviewed By:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer