

THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAMBTON SHORES

Report CL 28-2021

Council Meeting Date: November 30, 2021

TO: Mayor Weber and Members of Council
FROM: Stephanie Troyer-Boyd, Clerk
RE: 2022 Community Vibrancy Fund Requests

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report CL 28-2021 regarding the “2022 Vibrancy Requests” be received; and

THAT the following 15 groups receive funding through the Community Vibrancy Fund for a total funding commitment of \$109,795.89:

- Arkona Improvement Association
- Centre Ipperwash Community Association
- Forest Agricultural Society
- Grand Bend Art Centre
- Grand Bend and Area Studio Tour
- Kiwanis Club of Forest
- Lakeshore Eco Network
- Lambton Centre
- Lambton Shores Farmers’ Market
- Lambton Shores Nature Trails
- Optimist Club of Ausable Port Franks
- Sunset Cinema Social Film Group
- Veteran’s Legion Memorial Brand 498 (Grand Bend)
- Westen Ontario Steam Threshers Association

SUMMARY

This report presents Council with a summary of the Community Vibrancy Fund requests for 2022. The total eligible amount requested is \$109,795.89.

BACKGROUND

The Community Vibrancy Fund is one of two funding streams administered through Lambton Shores Policy #066 Community Grant and Vibrancy Policy. In 2017, Council amended the policy to include 20% of the annual allocation received from Cordelio Power (formerly NextEra Energy) to the Community Vibrancy Fund. Based on this direction, the available funding amount for 2022 is \$94,122.

The Community Vibrancy Fund has now been in effect for five years. Over this time, Council has funded 66 community projects, amounting to over \$493,000.00.

For the 2022 funding year, fifteen eligible applications totaling \$109,795.89 in financial requests were received. Two applications considered ineligible were received. A summary of the applications is attached.

Staff recommends approval of the following applications:

1. Arkona Improvement Association - \$4,401.29

Funds are requested to purchase equipment for the Utter Park Pavilion, including a fridge and freezer to better equip the space for community events. The group's request to fund seasonal decorations has been removed from Vibrancy and is included with Council's seasonal decoration policy, which is consistent with similar requests of this nature.

2. Centre Ipperwash Community Association - \$9,999.00

Funds are required to purchase benches and garbage receptacles in accordance with the Ipperwash Community Design Plan. The group will be required to work with staff as the project will take place on municipal road allowances in Ipperwash.

3. Forest Agricultural Society - \$9,999.00

Requesting funds to assist with the renovation of the sheep barn at the Forest Fairgrounds to bring the building to current safety codes. The group will be required to work with the Lambton Shores Building Department to ensure all necessary permits are obtained.

4. Grand Bend Art Centre - \$9,481.15

Requesting funds to create a community pottery studio. Items to be purchased include a pugmill, stools and other pottery supplies.

5. Grand Bend and Area Studio Tour - \$9,000.00

Funds are requested for sound equipment rental, marketing and artist performance fees for the Sunset Summer Sounds concert series on the Rotary Community Stage.

6. Kiwanis Club of Forest - \$3,321.00

Funds are requested to build a donor wall for the Kineto Theatre renovation.

7. Lakeshore Eco Network - \$5,000.00

Requesting funds to plant a tree windbreak at the Klondyke Sports Park.

8. Lambton Centre - \$9,800.00

Requesting funds to build a shed on the Lambton Centre property to house canoes and kayaks. Programs at the Centre are accessible to area schools and youth.

9. Lambton Shores Farmers' Market - \$2,000.00

Funds are requested to replace an existing Farmers' Market signage in Grand Bend. The group will be required to work with staff to ensure necessary permits are obtained. Funds are also requested for promotional materials and advertising.

10. Lambton Shores Minor Hockey Association - \$2,130.45

Funds are requested to purchase supplies to support coaches, including tripod defenders, magnetic targets, white erase boards, glove whistles and cones.

11. Lambton Shores Nature Trails - \$8,900.00

Requesting funds to build a four-foot boardwalk from the west end of Huron Street in Port Franks to the edge of Mud Creek where there will be a dock/platform for canoes and kayaks. The group is also requesting funds to complete an engineering review of the foot bridge along the Forest Walkway Trail to properly plan for a proposed upgrade to the bridge in 2023.

12. Optimist Club of Ausable Port Franks - \$9,766.00

Requesting funds to build storage and update lighting in the upper hall of the Port Franks Community Centre. The group will be required to consult with staff as the project occurs in a municipal facility.

13. Sunset Cinema Social Film Group - \$9,999.00

Funds are requested to purchase new film equipment including a high-resolution projector and dropdown screen.

14. Veterans Memorial Legion Branch 498 (Grand Bend) - \$9,999.00

Requesting funds to remove and replace approximately 44 dead/overgrown trees on Legion property.

15. Western Ontario Steam Threshers Association - \$6,000.00

Requesting funds to extend hydro availability at the camping area of the Forest Fairgrounds (with permission from the Forest Agricultural Society) and to expand marketing efforts to the United States.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, many of the groups were unable to complete projects or events slated for 2020 and opted to carry funds forward to 2021. As a result, Council funded eight projects totaling \$60,375.44 in 2021, which was lower than the annual allocation of \$94,122. Since there are remaining funds from the 2021 allocation, staff are recommending that all eligible applications are funded in 2022, and that the surplus of \$15,673.89 is drawn from the remaining 2021 Community Vibrancy Fund allocation.

Given the recommendation to fund all eligible applications, the Municipal Review Team has not assigned points or prioritized the requests as was done in previous years.

There are several projects listed that will take place on municipal property. Staff will work with these organizations to ensure proper measures are taken prior to the project start. Staff will prepare a Memorandum of Understanding with each group that clarifies roles and responsibilities for the ongoing care and maintenance associated with the proposed projects on municipal property.

ALTERNATIVES TO CONSIDER

Council may choose to fund requests within the 2022 allocated Community Vibrancy Fund amount of \$94,122. There are two ways in which this option could be implemented:

- All eligible requests could be prorated by the same amount to fall within the allocated amount as described above; or
- The Municipal Review Team could prioritize requests based on established criteria from previous years, including projects on municipal property, contributing funds to project, new project/new group and community benefit.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

The recommendation is to fund the eligible requests in the amount of \$109,795.89.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The recommendation is to fund 15 eligible projects amounting to \$109,795.89. Policy #066 Community Grant and Community Vibrancy Fund includes an annual allocation of 20% of Cordelio Power's contribution (\$94,122 for the 2022 grant period) to the Community Vibrancy Fund. Staff recommends that the surplus of \$15,673.89 is drawn from the remaining 2021 Community Vibrancy Fund allocation.

CONSULTATION

Municipal Review Team
Cordelio Power
Janet Ferguson, Treasurer
Ashley Farr, Manager of Community Development

Attached:

1. 2022 Community Vibrancy Fund Summary