



Staff Report

Report Title: Year End By-Law Enforcement Status Report 2022

Prepared By: Heather Falconer, By-Law Enforcement Officer

Department: By-Law Enforcement

Date: Jan. 17, 2022

Report Number: BLE-2023-01-2

File Number: C-11 BLE21

Attachments: N/A

Recommendation:

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report Number BLE-2023-01-02 prepared by Heather Falconer, By-Law Enforcement Officer.

Background:

To update the Committee of the Whole on 2022 occurrences involving By-Law Enforcement.

Discussion:

Violations	2021	Current Year 2022
By-Law	77	76
Animal Control	73	42
Property Standards	68	64
Parking Violations	44	22
Beach Complaints	16	13
Lawn Watering	5	2

Feeding Wildlife and Feral Animal	15	1
Other	62	57
Total	360	277

Comments

By-Law related complaints continue to be at a higher volume compared to pre-Covid Pandemic years. Complaints are received by the Township and through third parties that include but not limited to the Ontario Provincial Police and Crime Stoppers. Contact information is rarely provided making investigating concerns difficult. Without hearing firsthand, questions cannot be asked to understand the scope of the situation including property hazards/dangerous people present. Hearsay complaints may affect outcomes of court proceeding. All complainant information, including who made a complaint to by-law enforcement is always considered and stays anonymous. This part of the complaint process is taken very seriously as it provides a safe way for residents to voice concerns and to feel comfortable in doing so.

Animal Control

There were 865 dog tags issued in 2022, which is an 8% increase from 2021. The Township is currently selling dog tags at: Country Depot, Kincardine, Hodgins' Home Hardware, Lucknow and Township Office, Ripley. Residents are also able to buy their dog tags online by submitting their application through the Township's website. There are different avenues to pay for the dog tags when submitting an application online such as: online or telephone banking, mail, place in Township drop box at the office and e-transfer.

The Township currently has 12 licensed dog kennels used for breeding and 1 kennel strictly used for boarding purposes.

A Dangerous Dog Order was issued for dog that bit and hospitalized a resident. Through the investigative process, it was documented that this was not a first-time occurrence. The Order places restrictions on the dog to ensure that the owners take all precautions to prevent further incidents. The Order reflects the precaution requirements of the Dog Owners Liability Act (DOLA). If there is a further incident, a fine can be issued and the Township can pursue court proceedings under DOLA.

Property Standards

Out of the 64 complaints for property standards, there were 28 regarding Ash trees that were in a dead, decaying or in a damaged state. Arborist have been working hard on both private and public property to remove hazardous trees. There is a delay for arborists attending properties due to the increased volume of work for Ash Trees. In many cases, compliance dates were extended as long as written proof was provided from an arborist that they had a projected tree removal date. Patience has

been asked for all parties involved as arborist are trying their best to meet their increased demand.

The prior Properties Standards Orders from 2021 have been remedied.

Four Property Standards Order's were issued in 2022. A request for an appeal to the Property Standards Committee was not received for 3 of the properties. Compliance also was not met by the written date on the Order; therefore, they were deemed confirmed. As a result, the Township must bring the properties into compliance in a manner that is prescribed in the Ontario Building Code Act. The properties are a Lucknow residential property with an unkept yard, a Ripley residential property with a dwelling requiring repair, and a Ripley downtown historic building that has not been maintained to prevent interior and exterior deficiencies. The planning to bring these properties into compliance with depend on weather and the availability of Ontario Provincial Police attending to keep the peace.

The fourth Property Standard Order was appealed by the property owner to the Property Standards Committee. At the Property Standards Hearing, the property owner requested an extension to the compliance date. That request was granted by the Committee and upon re-inspection, the property met compliance.

Parking Violations

This year the Policy for Public Access over Municipal One-Foot Reserves was adopted. This policy is to provide the public access to one-foot reserves through an application process. This policy has been useful to deter prohibited uses of reserves for parking and using them as a rear yard driveway.

Beach Complaints

The Township continues with the removal of built structures on the public beach. As this can be time consuming, the Township has aimed to have 5-6 structures be removed each year. In 2022, five structures were addressed and removed by the property owners adjacent to them. Two separate owners worked with Lake Huron Coastal Centre in Goderich to restore the affect beach.

Other

One claim was made under the Ontario Wildlife Compensation Program. After an investigation of the property and deceased Ewe, an application was submitted to the Ontario Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Rural Affairs for approval. The owners received financial compensation for the deceased Ewe.

Financial Impacts:

There are no financial implications at this time.

Strategic Alignment / Link:

We are an accessible community that offers opportunities for everyone by being open and transparent.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Heather Falconer, By-Law Enforcement Officer

Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer