



**The Corporation of the Municipality of Mississippi Mills
Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting**

MINUTES

December 1, 2020

3:45 p.m.

**Council Chambers, Municipal Office
3131 Old Perth Road**

Committee Present: Councillor Dalgity
Christine Andersen
Lyn Button
Scott Newton
Terry Ainsworth
Victoria James-Lafleur

Committee Absent: Councillor Guerard
Sherryl Smith
Vicki Lowe

Staff Present: Calvin Murphy, Recreation Manager
Dawn McDonald
Bonnie Ostrom

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Scott Newton, called the meeting to order at 3:48 p.m.

**B. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE
THEREOF**

None were declared.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Dalgity

Seconded by Christine Andersen

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Lyn Button

Seconded by Victoria James-Lafleur

THAT the minutes dated October 27, 2020 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

E. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

E.1 Laurel Cook, Off-Leash Dog Park

Laurel Cook presented a summary of the information compiled by her exploratory research group on Off Leash Dog Parks and distributed a handout on site options. She answered questions from the Committee pertaining to park usage, documented guidelines and municipal risk/liability.

Moved by Terry Ainsworth

Seconded by Councillor Dalgity

THAT the delegation by Laurel Cook re: off-leash dog park be received by the Committee.

Calvin Murphy, Recreation Manager, advised the Committee that the next step would be to obtain public consultation as per the direction of Council given at the August 25, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Laurel Cook confirmed that her group would be interested in being part of this next step.

Action: Public Consultation - Off Leash Dog Park to be added to the agenda for the January 26, 2021 Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting.

CARRIED

F. REPORTS

None

G. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES

G.1 Committee Members' Areas of Interest (verbal)

Each committee member spoke briefly on their areas of interest and expertise. Advancing the use of parks and facilities as well as enhancing recreational programming were identified by all members.

The Recreation Manager shared with the Committee the process for advancing items through Council and confirmed that a review of recreation programs has already been endorsed by Council.

Moved by Councillor Dalgity

Seconded by Christine Andersen

THAT a working group be established to review recreation programs and report back to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee;

AND THAT Victoria James-Lafleur, Lyn Button and Christine Anderson be appointed as members of the working group with the first meeting to held in January 2021.

CARRIED

H. ROUND TABLE

1. Budget - The Committee of the Whole passed the draft 2021 budget at a special meeting on November 24, 2020. The budget will be brought forward to Council for final approval on December 15th.
2. Program Directory - In the past, Mississippi Mills published an information guide which was distributed to new residents through the Welcome Wagon. With the discontinuation of this service, due to COVID-19, the main source of information is now the new Mississippi Mills municipal website. It was suggested, that in addition to the website, this information could also be included in the new home owners package, available through the Municipal office, and that consideration also be given to providing this to new home builders.
3. Outdoor Rink - The boards are up for the outdoor rink at the Augusta Street Park. With assistance from the Public Works department, the Parks and Recreation department, the Fire department and community volunteers there will be an outdoor rink in Almonte again this year.
4. Indoor Walking Group - The Walking Group is up and running at the Almonte Curling Club. Numbers are expected to increase as the weather gets colder.

I. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

None

J. OTHER / NEW BUSINESS

None

K. MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 @ 3:45 p.m.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Dalgity

Seconded by Lyn Button

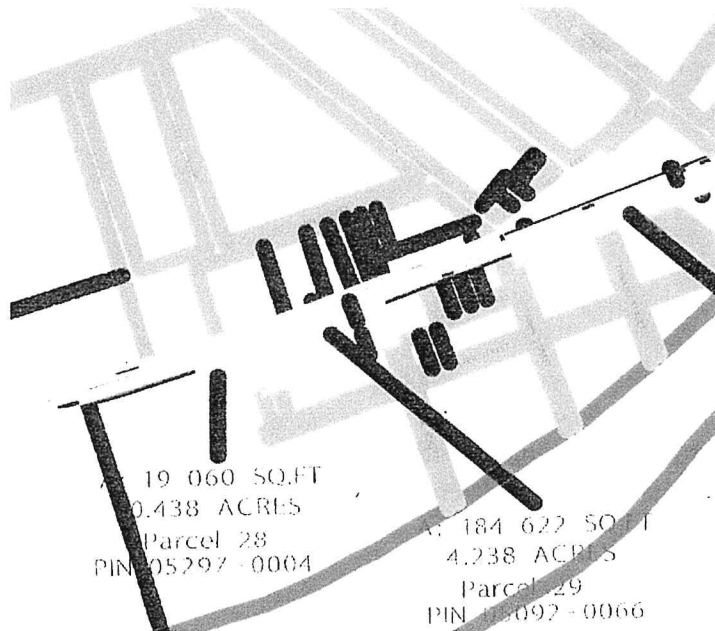
THAT the December 1, 2020 Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

CARRIED

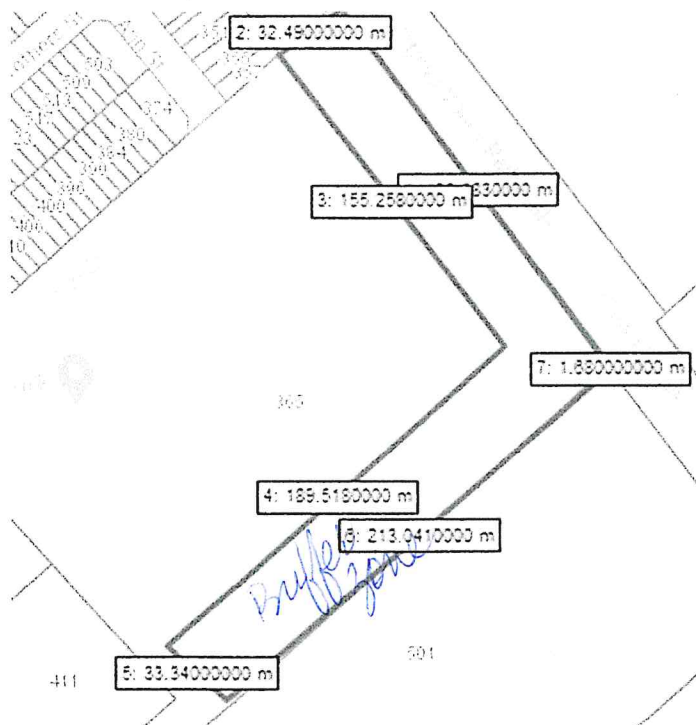
Dawn McDonald, Recording
Secretary

Site Options

1. Multiple neighbourhood parks – Two or three neighbourhood parks in locations such as Gemmill Park, Snedden- Casey and Riverfront Estates.
2. Community park consisting of OVRT property combined with two fenced areas (one for large dogs and one for small dogs). This area on the OVRT is where the train sidetracks were located. The area is 4.6 acres. The perimeter of where the dog park area would be located measures 552.31.

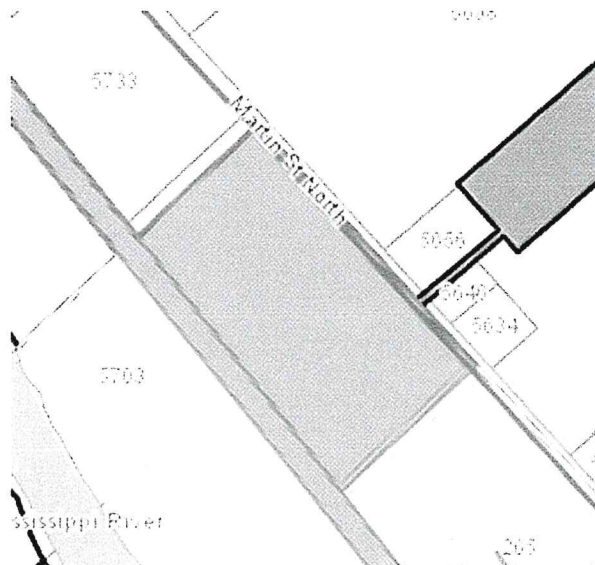


The Snedden Casey fenced areas would be as follows:



The OVRT side track would remain forested with trails created within the off leash area. Owners would have to leash their dogs on the OVRT trail if they were transiting from the Snedden-Casey fenced areas to the off leash trails in the OVRT

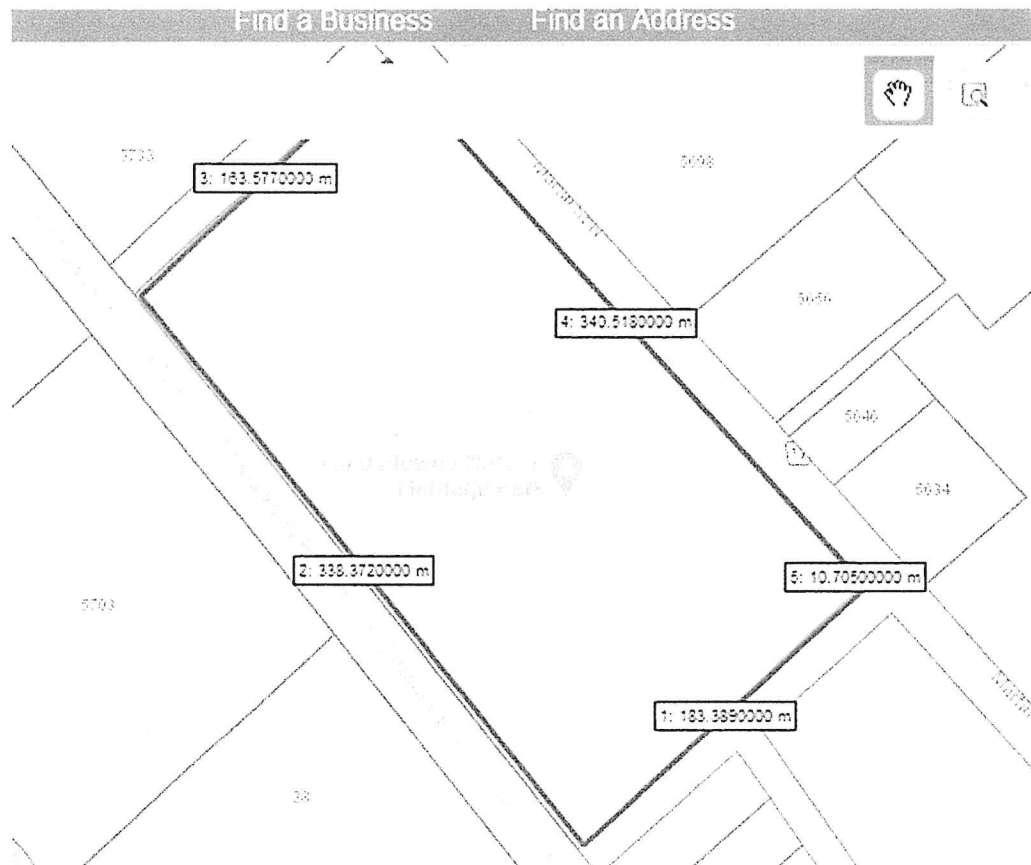
3. Regional Park - Landsdowne Natural Heritage Park/Martin St N.



This area is 15.5 acres and was transferred to the Town of Almonte in 1884/09/02 for the price of \$2. It is believed that it was donated by the Tosh family to be used in perpetuity as parkland. At some point,

the Town designated the area as Landsdowne Natural Heritage Park although we have been unable to determine when or the rationale behind this decision. Lacking funding and reason, the municipality has made no investment in this park and it is barely utilized.

The Official Plan land use designation of this area is as Parkland, not as a Natural Heritage Area. IAW the OP, parklands are valued as natural areas and passive areas for leisure and nature appreciation. Also IAW the OP, given the size of the area, it should provide specialized facilities for a wide segment of the population. The use of the area as an off-leash dog park in the proposed design configuration would fall within the guidelines of the OP and allow leisure activities and nature appreciation.



The perimeter of the entire area measures in total 1037.4m.



As can be seen from the above satellite picture, there are several open areas in the southeast corner that could be developed into fenced separate open spaces for small dogs, large dogs and mixed use and parking. Trails throughout the remainder of the park would be established.

This project would be ideal to meet all objectives of a regional off-leash park to serve all of Mississippi Mills and if implemented, it is anticipated that it would become quite an attraction. It is in keeping with the MM economic plan wherein people visit MM, enjoy what they see and then are incentivised to move to the area.

4. Conversion of other municipal lands

5. Purchase of private property