

### **REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND CULTURE**

Re: Intercity Trails MOU with the XC Ski & Bike Club

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the report from the Director of Recreation and Culture be received;

And that Council approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Elliot Lake and XC Ski and Bike Club for Intercity Trails

And that the appropriate by-law be passed to enact this decision.

### **BACKGROUND**

The XC Ski & Bike Club has expressed interest in maintaining and operating the existing trails throughout the City, similar to their role with the Spine Beach cross-country ski trails.

On May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Council gave staff direction to prepare an MOU between the City of Elliot Lake and the XC Ski & Bike Club that outlines the club's plans to maintain and operate the City's trail system.

Currently, these trails are under maintained. The Municipality has relied on volunteer groups such as the Courier De Bois and others to perform minor maintenance on these trails, causing a potential liability issue due to the lack of time dedicated for trail upkeep/maintenance.

### **ANALYSIS**

Attached for Council's review is the prepared MOU that outlines the details of the agreement.

The Elliot Lake XC Ski & Bike Club has been able to secure an insurance policy through IMBA Canada's insurance provider that provides liability coverage for trails that the club operates and maintains. This policy coverage effectively lowers the City's liability in operating the Spine Beach trails and would do the same for the additional proposed trails under a new agreement.

Additionally, having an organized volunteer group to assist with trail maintenance would relieve some logistical pressure on Staff relating to care of the trail system. From a tourism perspective, having a group actively maintain, identify, and become stewards of the City's trails would only assist in establishing Elliot Lake as a premier walking/hiking/biking destination while greatly reducing the Municipality's capital investment to do so.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

Entering into the MOU with an outside group to formally take over care and maintenance of our trail systems would alleviate operational costs and insurance liability for the municipality.

## **LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

This project directly relates to the following key sections of the strategic plan:

- Development of strong partnerships
- Strong municipal corporate administration and governance
- Health and community wellness

## **SUMMARY**

Staff has prepared an MOU with the XC Ski & Bike Club that establishes a further working relationship with the club on maintaining our City trails. It is recommended that Council enters into the prepared MOU with the XC Ski & Bike Club so that the club can begin working on maintaining and operating our trails for our residents and tourists to benefit from.