



CITY OF ORILLIA
COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE (CIP)

TO: Mayor and Members of Council
FROM: Laura Thompson, Senior Manager of Business Development
DATE: May 21, 2020
SUBJECT: **Forest Avenue South - Dock**

As Council is aware, the Grape Island Property Owners Association (GIPOA) has commenced litigation against the City of Orillia regarding encroachments over the municipally-owned Forest Avenue South road allowance and adjoining municipally-owned water lot.

The City has recently been advised that the GIPOA has placed its seasonal dock on the municipally-owned water lot at the foot of Forest Avenue South and has restricted the use of the dock to GIPOA members only (refer to Attachment "A"), notwithstanding that Policy 1.6.1.1. states that "the property owners of Grape Island be permitted each year to erect a temporary dock at the foot of Forest Avenue on the town water lot, such dock to be removed on or about September 1st".

It is staffs' interpretation that the restrictions that the GIPOA has placed on this dock means that this dock may no longer be maintaining the intent of this policy. The City therefore undertook a survey to understand how many residents the GIPOA restriction is impacting.

The survey was sent to all property owners who provided the City with an email address through the Forest Avenue South Mailing List last fall. The survey garnered only 14 responses and is therefore not fully representative of the current situation. Attachment "B" lists the survey questions and answers.

Since undertaking the survey, staff have been advised by residents of Grape Island that the Grape Island due date for membership fees (including fees for litigation) has been moved to June 30, 2020. Therefore, the City will have not an accurate understanding of how many Grape Island residents will remain as members of the association (and subsequently how many non-members will be impacted by the GIPOA dock restrictions) until after this date. Staff therefore propose to re-survey Grape Island residents in early July to assess the impact of GIPOA's restrictions.

In the meantime, staff has received a number of phone calls from residents seeking clarity on various matters related to these encroachments. Staff will therefore be creating a webpage for information related to the Forest Avenue South road allowance and encroachment matters to provide clarity to residents. It is staff's preference that these inquiries be referred to one source of

information in order to reduce the potential for the sharing of misinformation. Staff anticipate that this webpage could be launched by early June.

For more information on matters related to the Forest Avenue South encroachment matters, please contact Laura Thompson, Senior Manager of Business Development, at lthompson@orillia.ca or at 705-325-5818.

Attachment:

- Attachment "A" - Photo showing sign on GIPOA dock
- Attachment "B" - Survey results

Attachment "A" - Photo showing sign on GIPOA Dock



Attachment "B" - Survey Results

Question 1:

Are you a member in good standing of the Grape Island Property Owners Association?

Answers:

Yes - 8

No - 6

Question 2:

How do you access your property on Grape Island?

Answers:

Park in Forest Avenue South parking lot and use the dock at the foot of Forest Avenue - 8

Alternative city-owned boat launch site - 0

From a marina - 1

By water taxi - 0

Other - 5 (combinations of marina and Forest Avenue dock)

Question 3:

How often do you visit your property on Grape Island?

Answers:

Permanent resident - 3

Only on weekends from spring to fall - 2

A couple of times a month from spring to fall - 1

Other - 8 (weekends, some weekdays, vacation weeks)