Town of Yarmouth
REQUEST FOR DECISION
Deer Management Working Group
April 14, 2022

1.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that Council adopt a modified version of the Truro Deer Management Strategy Terms of Reference.

It is recommended that Council appoint {insert 2 councilors names} to the Deer Management Working Group

2.0 CAO Comments

Normally, recommendations go through an advisory committee, such as Committee of the Whole, but due to the level of concern at Council on this issue, I am presenting this Request for Decision directly to Council. Council may approve or reject the recommendations or refer the recommendations to Committee of the Whole for further deliberation before reaching a decision.

3.0 Report / Document

At the March 24, 2022, Committee of the Whole meeting, Mike Dolter, CAO with the Town of Truro gave a detailed presentation on the Town of Truro's journey in attempting to manage their urban deer population. The presentation, as well as the video, are available on our website.

Previously, at the February 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting, a representative from the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources appeared before Council and discussed the deer management issues facing the Town.

Much of the advice is consistent between both presentations, with the most recent presentation providing more up to date information.

4.0 Key Concept/Issue Defined

For nearly 10 years the issues created by deer living in our Town have been a regular agenda item of Town Council. The issues have primarily been destruction of landscaping, vehicular accidents as well as concerns about the introduction of ticks and coyotes.

There is no single answer to the complex challenge of managing wild animals in a Town environment. If there is to be a solution to the growing problem, it is through a strategy that we will find success. There are many tactics that could be employed, but a systematic approach, accompanied by

regular measurement of performance will match the use of resources with data that will aid in the evaluation and refinement of the strategy, over time.

We have been offered the advice and expertise of the Department of Lands and Forestry (formerly Natural Resources). We have had a success story from Truro recounted for council. It seems apparent that the best way forward is to embrace the assistance being offered and utilize the lessons learned from Truro to move forward with the development of a working group, a strategy and concrete actions to quantify and address the deer issue in Town

5.0 Strategic Relevance

Managing the Deer problem will contribute positively to the quality of life enjoyed by all Town residents. A reduction in vehicular collisions and landscape destruction would be welcome by many residents who have fallen victim in the past.

Many people are wildlife enthusiasts and value the abundance of nature that can be enjoyed in Yarmouth County. Finding an appropriate, acceptable, and effective strategy will have to balance the various interest of our residents.

6.0 Desired Outcomes

Staff are making this recommendation so that a concerted effort by a focused group of staff, stakeholders and council can begin developing a plan for urban deer control/management in the Town of Yarmouth

7.0 Response

a. Approve
b. Reject
c. Refer to staff with direction for more information
d. Refer to Committee of the Whole

8.0 General Implications of Recommendation

The formation of a Working Group will cause meaningful work to be put to the issue of deer in the Town of Yarmouth. A strategy will be developed and implemented, with the intention of creating conditions that will no longer have deer problems as a recurring council issue.

9.0 Organizational Implications

The deer issue will be with us for a long time. Addressing the issue to the point that deer are no longer an issue in the Town of Yarmouth will require a persistent effort over several years.

10.0 Financial Implications

Uncertain what the long-terms costs will be, but the initial steps in establishing a working group and beginning the data collection process should not be expensive, relative to the damage sustained each year through the abundance of deer in the community.

11.0 Follow-Up Actions

If approved by Council, the names will be changed in the Truro Terms of Reference>

2 members should commit to the working group

Staff will be recruited to the working group

NS Lands and Forestry will be recruited to the working group.

Outside stakeholders and experts will be identified and recommended for inclusion in the working group

Initial stakeholder meeting.

12.0 Communication

Mike Carter will be asked to ramp up communication on the urban deer issue.

Submitted By: CAO