



Subject: Follow-up report to 2023-143 amendments to the Discharge of Firearms By-law

To: Council

From: Community Safety & Enforcement Department

Report Number: 2023-175

Meeting Date: September 26, 2023

Recommendation:

That Community Safety and Enforcement Department - By-Law Services Report 2023-175 be received; and

That By-law 7026/63/22, Being a by-law to regulate the discharge of firearms and bows in the City of Port Colborne be amended to include the Port Colborne and District Conservation Club's Trap and Skeet Shooting Schedule as Schedule F; and

That By-law 7026/63/22, Being a By-law to regulate the discharge of firearms and bows in the City of Port Colborne be amended to allow for penalties under the Administrative Penalty System (AMPS) for non-parking offences; and

That By-law 6902/50/21, Being a By-law to establish a System for Administrative Penalties for Non-Parking Offences within The City of Port Colborne, be amended, to change Schedule 'B', as attached as Appendix C to this report, be approved.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to propose updates and amendments regarding the Discharge of Firearms By-Law as per the motions that were carried by Council at the August 15, 2023, Council Meeting.

Background:

In recent months several discussions and meetings have taken place between Council members, staff, and stakeholders from the community regarding the discharge of

firearms at approved sites and sanctioned events. The subject has also been raised at numerous Council meetings.

At the August 15, 2023, Council Meeting, staff recommended that Council adopt the most recent schedule used by the Port Colborne and District Conservation Club ("Club").

The Schedule provides trap and skeet shooting twice monthly on Sundays (no shooting permitted in July or August), from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Under the proposed Schedule, no shooting on any other dates will be permitted.

At the same Council Meeting, staff recommended that further amendments be added to the body of the By-law, to incorporate the option and to include Administrative Penalties for Non-Parking Offences.

Council directed staff to bring forward the amendments to the Discharge of Firearms By-Law at a future Council Meeting.

Discussion:

Staff reviewed the request of Council and noted that some By-Law amendments would be necessary to fulfill Council's request. Amendments include, adding a new section, new schedule, and Administrative Penalties. Appendices A to D of this report effectively implement the changes that Council directed staff to bring forward at the August 15, 2023, Council Meeting.

Internal Consultations:

The amendments to the Discharge of Firearms By-Law have been subject to discussions between the By-Law Enforcement Division and the Clerk's Office. The matter has also included discussions with the Fire Chief, Chief Administrative Officer, and the City Solicitor.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications.

Public Engagement:

The Port Colborne Conservation Club's most recent president and executives were advised via email that this staff report and proposed By-Law amendments would be

brought before Council on September 5, 2023. An email outlining the same information was also sent to the Port Colborne Conservation Club's general email inbox. On August 29, 2023, the City received correspondence from the Club (attached as Appendix C) requesting that the report to Council be deferred to the September 26, 2023 Council meeting. Fulfilling this request would allow the Club's executive to address the updated report and ensure that the goals of promoting conservation and strong partnership with the City of Port Colborne are maintained.

City staff, Ward 4 Council members and the mayor met on September 15, 2023, with the President and the Vice president of the Club. The meeting allowed the executive to address various concerns that may arise due to the approval of the amended by-law. Ward 4 Councillors also presented various complaints received from the residents and neighbours of the Club.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

The initiative contained within this report supports the following pillar(s) of the strategic plan:

- Welcoming, Livable, Healthy Community

Conclusion:

Staff recommend that Council approve the by-law amendment to include the schedule followed by the Port Colborne and District Conservation Club to By-law 7026/63/22, Being a By-law to regulate the discharge of firearms and bow in the City of Port Colborne. Additionally, further amendments be added to the body of the By-law, to include Administrative Penalties for Non-Parking Offences.

Appendices:

- a. Appendix A – By-law amendments – Discharge of Firearms By-law
- b. Appendix B – By-law amendments – Administrative Penalties for Non-Parking Offences
- c. Appendix C – Correspondence dated August 29, 2023 from the Port Colborne District Conservation Club
- d. Appendix D – Discharge of Firearms Amendment

Respectfully submitted,

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Report Approval:

All reports reviewed and approved by the Department Director and also the City Treasurer when relevant. Final review and approval by the Chief Administrative Officer.