



REPORT

REPORT TO: Chair and Members of the Planning, Public Works and Transportation Committee

REPORT FROM: Jennifer Spence, Sustainability Engagement Coordinator

DATE: May 29, 2019

REPORT NO.: PLS-2019-0047

RE: 2019 Community Sustainability Investment Fund

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. PLS-2018-0047, dated May 29, 2019, regarding requests for funding from the Community Sustainability Investment Fund, be received;

AND FURTHER THAT funding for the applications submitted to the Community Sustainability Investment Fund, as recommended by the Staff Sustainability Team, be endorsed subject to the applicants providing any required information in accordance with program requirements.

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council approval to provide funds to the groups and organizations who have applied to the 2019 Community Sustainability Investment Fund. The various applications referenced in the report have been reviewed by the Staff Sustainability Team (SST).

The Community Sustainability Investment Fund provides seed-funding to enable local community groups and organizations to take on local community-based actions that contribute to the implementation of the Town of Halton Hills' Community Sustainability Strategy. It is designed to help applicants leverage funding from other sources, and to establish partnerships between the Town and the community. This is the sixth year for the Community Sustainability Investment Fund since the Community Sustainability Strategy was approved by Town Council in 2013. The Community Sustainability Investment Fund aligns with Council's Strategic Plan.

COMMENTS:

Below, Table 1 displays a tally of the amount of requested and distributed through the Community Sustainability Investment Funding from 2014 to 2019.

Year	Number of Applications	Total Funding Requested	Total Funding Distributed	Total Combined Project Value
2019	13	\$22,425.00	\$15,000.00	\$158,458.53
2018	11	\$17,467.50	\$10,000.00	\$95,413.75
2017	9	\$14,021.49	\$15,940.00	\$95,691.84
2016	9	\$13,796.90	\$10,000.00	\$67,218.95
2015	15	\$25,500.00	\$10,000.00	\$209,372.62
2014	7	\$11,060.00	\$4,060.00	\$48,371.00
Total	63	\$104,270.89	\$65,000.00	\$674,526.69

A maximum of \$2,000.00 per project, per applicant, per intake period may be funded. In 2019, the Community Sustainability Investment Fund was increased to a maximum of \$15,000.00 to be funded per intake period which is once a year during the first week of April.

Between 2014 and 2018, the Town Sustainability Implementation Committee (TSIC) made recommendations of the Community Sustainability Investment Fund to Town Council. At the end of 2018, TSIC was sun-setted as a Committee of Council. In order to continue to offer funding to community groups and organizations, and for efficiency, the Staff Sustainability Team was recommended to review the applications using the same well-established process established by TSIC to make funding recommendations to Council.

The process of reviewing the applications has basically remained the same since the Community Investment Fund was established in 2014. Applications are submitted by community groups and organizations to the Planning and Sustainability Department before the due date. The applications are reviewed for completeness and to ensure they meet the criteria outlined in the Community Sustainability Investment Fund. This year, the Sustainability Team held a meeting on May 10, 2019, where the Sustainability Engagement Coordinator presented summaries of the applications to the Team. Then, each Team member received and reviewed the summaries of the all of the applications and completed a point system rating for each of the applications. This point system has

been used in previous years by TSIC. The next step involved tallying each of the Team members rating score for the applicant together. The applicants ranking score was listed in a table format from highest to lowest for all of the Team to view and discuss. The table had additional columns of the name of the group, the amount of money requested and the amount recommended by the Staff Sustainability Team. Using the point system and through discussions the Team determined the recommendations of funding to propose to Council.

Listed alphabetically below, in Table 2, are the community groups and organizations who applied to the 2019 Community Sustainability Investment Fund. A total of 13 applications were received. Collectively, the projects recommended for funding should make a meaningful contribution to Halton Hills' cultural vibrancy, economic prosperity, environmental health and social well-being. They will help implement the Community Sustainability Strategy and ultimately benefit the residents of Halton Hills. The Staff Sustainability Team recommends Council approves funding for the organizations and groups listed below.

Table 2: Recommended Funding – 2019			
Name of Organization	Amount Requested	Total Value of Project	Amount Recommended
Cancer Assistance Services Halton Hills	\$2,000.00	\$103,403.00	\$2,000.00
Community Living North Halton	\$2,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$2,000.00
EcoFilm Fest	\$500.00	\$1,500.00	\$950.00
Halton Hills Chapter of the Toronto Bruce Trail Club	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$500.00
Halton Hills Concert Band	\$2,000.00	\$14,945.16	\$500.00
Halton North Peel Naturalist Club	\$2,000.00	\$2,400.00	\$500.00
Halton Environmental Network	\$2,000.00	\$2,200.00	\$500.00
Halton Environmental Network/St. Andrew's United Church	\$2,000.00	\$2,250.00	\$1,750.00
Old Seed House Garden	\$1,725.00	\$1,925.00	\$800.00
Norval Community Association	\$2,000.00		\$500.00
Rotary Club	\$2,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$2,000.00
Toastmasters	\$4,000.00	\$5,635.37	\$2,000.00
Upper Credit Humane Society Thrift Store	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1000.00

All funding recipients are required to submit a one-page report on their project's results within 14 months of receiving funding. These reports will include information on the results achieved, how any profits were reinvested into Halton Hills to support the implementation of the Community Sustainability Strategy, level of community engagement, lessons learned, final budget, next steps and measures to ensure that the project will be sustained without additional Town assistance.

Schedule 1 to this report provides a brief overview of the 2019 funding applications, staff comments and SST's recommendations. Additional information regarding the applications is available from the Planning and Sustainability Department.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

Sustainability is a key component of the Town's Strategic Plan and is one of Council's priorities. By supporting the implementation of the Community Sustainability Strategy, funding provided via the Community Sustainability Investment Fund will advance the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

This is the sixth year of approved funding for the Community Sustainability Investment Fund. This is the first year of providing a total of \$15,000.00 funding for applicants to apply for to help implement the Community Sustainability Strategy. The 2019 Community Sustainability Investment Fund will collectively leverage \$158,438.53 that will be invested in the community through the groups and organizations and their projects.

CONSULTATION:

Town staff is available throughout the year to organizations interested in submitting applications to the Community Sustainability Investment Fund. Town staff is consulted to ensure applicants are not duplicating their funding requests from other Town departments.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

No public engagement is required for this report.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

The Town is committed to implementing our Community Sustainability Strategy, Imagine Halton Hills. Doing so will lead to a higher quality of life.

The recommendation outlined in this report advances the Strategy's implementation.

This report supports the cultural vibrancy, economic prosperity, environmental health and social well-being pillars of Sustainability and in summary the alignment of this report with the Community Sustainability Strategy is excellent.

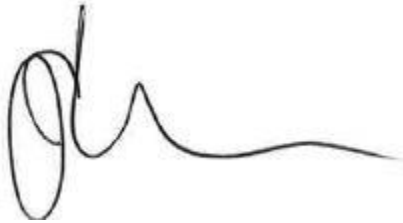
COMMUNICATIONS:

Upon authorization, Town staff will notify all applicants in writing with the outcome of Council's decision. Staff will also guide applicants to complete their obligations with receiving grant money from the Community Sustainability Investment Fund.

CONCLUSION:

The Town appreciates and recognizes the value and benefits of working in collaboration with community stakeholders to advance the implementation of the Community Sustainability Strategy, focusing on raising quality of life for Halton Hills' residents. The Town appreciates the quality and wide variety of projects submitted to the Community Sustainability Investment Fund. The Community Sustainability Investment Fund supports the community's participation in shaping the future of Halton Hills.

Reviewed and Approved by,

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John Linhardt, Commissioner of Planning and Sustainability

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Brent Marshall', with a stylized, flowing script.

Brent Marshall, Chief Administrative Officer