



Staff Report for Council Meeting

Date of Meeting: July 9, 2018

Report Number: SRPRS.18.162

Department: Planning and Regulatory Services

Division: Policy Planning

Subject: **SRPRS.18.162 – Hidden Spring Burial Site – Cemetery Establishment**

Purpose:

The purpose of this staff report is to seek Council's approval to establish the existing cemetery known as Hidden Spring Burial Site.

Recommendation(s):

- a) That the establishment of the existing cemetery known as Hidden Spring Burial Site, consisting of an area of 4.599 metres from east to west and 4.599 metres from north to south, and legally described on Plan 65R-31626 as Part 1 & 2, Part of Lot 11, Registered Plan 1931, Town of Richmond Hill, Regional Municipality of York, Province of Ontario (the "Hidden Spring Burial Site") be approved and be found to be in the public interest; and
- b) That the Mayor, Town Clerk and the Commissioner of Community Services be authorized to execute any documents as may be required to implement the establishment and maintenance of the existing Hidden Spring Burial Site.

Contact Person:

Patrick Lee, Director of Policy Planning, phone number 905-771-2420

Antonio Dimilta, Town Solicitor, phone number 905-771-2513.

Report Approval:

Submitted by: Kelvin Kwan, Commissioner of Planning and Regulatory Services

Approved by: Neil Garbe, Chief Administrative Officer

All reports are electronically reviewed and/or approved by the Division Director, Treasurer (as required), Town Solicitor (as required), Commissioner, and Chief Administrative Officer. Details of the reports approval are attached.

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Background:

In August of 2008, the archeological consultant working on behalf of the Vogue Developments and Thornhill Village Estates subdivisions on Arten Avenue (D03-07001 & D03-07007 respectively) reported the discovery of an ancestral Huron-Wendat settlement, which included the remains of five persons along with numerous artifacts.

In order to pursue the D03-07001 subdivision, Thornhill Village Estates entered into a Site Disposition Agreement (dated September 12, 2008) with Six Nations of the Grand River pursuant to the Cemeteries Act. The Site Disposition Agreement describes an agreed upon process for removing, studying, temporarily storing and re-interring the human remains found at the burial site. With regard to re-interment, the agreement specifies the intent for the remains to be located within the “adjoining Park Block , or other location nearby approved by both the Town of Richmond Hill and Ms. Barb Harris [representative of the Six Nations of the Grand River].” The adjoining park block is Hidden Springs Parkette (see Attachment 1).

On February 17, 2009 Council agreed in principle to accept ownership of the First Nations Cemetery resulting from re-interment of the native remains within the adjoining park block (now known as Hidden Springs Parkette) (SRPRC.09.08). A Certificate of Consent to establish a cemetery known as the Hidden Spring Burial Site within the Town-owned Hidden Springs Parkette was re-issued by the Bereavement Authority of Ontario on May 14, 2018 (see Attachment 2). In order to complete the process, the certificate must be registered at the Ontario Land Registry Office. This report (SRPRS.18.162) seeks Council direction required to proceed with the registration of the cemetery and fulfill the agreement between Six Nations of the Grand River and Thornhill Village Estates. The proposed cemetery will occupy only a small portion of Hidden Springs Parkette (approximately 21.1 square metres). The burial location is shown on Attachment 3. There will not be any demarcation of the cemetery area within the park or any individual grave markings.

Discussion:

Registration of the cemetery and the actual re-interment of the remains are the remaining steps in the process to fulfill the requirements of the Site Disposition Agreement and finalize approvals for a small portion of the park to become a cemetery. The Six Nations of the Grand River plan to conduct a one-day ceremony to re-inter the remains in the near future.

Financial/Staffing/Other Implications:

There are no staffing or financial implications related to the approval of this report.

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Relationship to the Strategic Plan:

Approval of the registration of the cemetery would be consistent with Goal Two of the Strategic Plan which is “A More Vibrant Richmond Hill”. The cemetery will commemorate, honour and respect the remains of the earliest residents of the area.

Conclusion:

The registration of the Hidden Spring burial site as a cemetery is the final step in implementing the Site Disposition Agreement between Thornhill Village Estates and the Six Nations of the Grand River. The registration will provide for a registered formal cemetery

Attachments:

The following attached documents may include scanned images of appendixes, maps and photographs. If you require an alternative format please call contact person listed in this document.

- Attachment 1 Map of Hidden Springs Parkette
- Attachment 2 Bereavement Authority of Ontario Certificate of Consent re-issued May 14, 2018 for Hidden Spring Burial Site
- Attachment 3 R-Plan identifying location of Hidden Springs Parkette and the proposed burial site

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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	SRPRS.18.162 - Hidden Spring Burial Site - Cemetery Establishment.docx
Attachments:	- SRPRS.18.162 Attachment 1.pdf - SRPRS.18.162 Attachment 2.pdf - SRPRS.18.162 Attachment 3.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Jul 5, 2018

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Patrick Lee - Jul 5, 2018 - 9:57 AM

Antonio Dimilta - Jul 5, 2018 - 12:16 PM

Kelvin Kwan - Jul 5, 2018 - 3:06 PM

Neil Garbe - Jul 5, 2018 - 3:10 PM