



Report to Council

Department: Community Services
Division: Parks and Facilities
Date: March 21, 2022
Prepared by: Rodney Klie, Acting Assistant Manager, Parks and Facilities
Report Number: Parks and Facilities-2022-05
Subject: Colchester Harbour Maintenance Dredging Update
Number of Pages: 3

Recommendation(s)

That Parks and Facilities-2022-05 entitled Colchester Harbour Maintenance Dredging Update prepared by Rodney Klie, Acting Assistant Manager, Parks and Facilities dated March 21, 2022 be received.

Purpose

To Update Council on the Colchester Harbour Maintenance Dredging project.

Background and Discussion

Since 2016 administration has not requested dredging services due to higher water levels in the Great Lakes. In 2021 water levels started to lower leaving less clearance for boats. Due to this reduced water level, administration conducted "sonar soundings" in the Harbour which read the depth levels and indicated problematic areas. With this report, administration determined there was a need for maintenance dredging. The Town put out a request for tender for the Colchester

Harbour Dredging and Council awarded the tender to Cobby Marine at the August 23, 2021, Regular Council meeting.

Administration has been working with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for the permitting process for the dredging project. Unfortunately, since it has been over five years since the Town of Essex has had to dredge, a more thorough review needed to be completed before work could commence.

The Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program found that there are now two types of fish species at risk in the surrounding area of the Colchester Harbour, the Silver Chub (Endangered; Critical Habitat) and the Eastern Sand Darter (Threatened). With these new Species at Risk, administration was asked to provide more information with additional steps to minimize any potential danger to these species. After developing a plan with Cobby Marine that addresses all concerns, the Town of Essex was given a permit on December 23, 2021, which was set to expire on March 15, 2022. Unfortunately, the Harbour froze shortly after receiving the permit which prevented work from commencing. The Ministry has approved an extension until March 31, 2022 to complete the work which will allow additional time for the ice to melt. Cobby Marine is set to begin the project and complete within the extended permit period.

Administration is providing this update to Council as they can expect to see dredging operations taking place anytime between March 21, 2022 and March 31, 2022.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact.

Consultations

Doug Sweet, Deputy CAO

Jake Morassut, Manager, Parks & Facilities

Link to Strategic Priorities

- Manage, invest and plan for sustainable municipal infrastructure which meets current and future needs of the municipality and its citizens.
- Create a safe, friendly and inclusive community which encourages healthy, active living for people of all ages and abilities.
- Provide a fiscal stewardship and value for tax dollars to ensure long-term financial health to the municipality.
- Manage responsible and viable growth while preserving and enhancing the unique rural and small town character of the community.
- Improve the experiences of individuals, as both citizens and customers, in their interactions with the Town of Essex.
- Improve the Town's capacity to meet the ongoing and future service needs of its citizens while ensuring the corporation is resilient in the face of unanticipated changes or disruptions.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Colchester Harbour Maintenance Dredging Update - Parks and Facilities-2022-05.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Mar 14, 2022

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Sweet". The signature is stylized with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Doug Sweet, Chief Administrative Officer - Mar 14, 2022 - 2:49 PM