



TOWNSHIP OF SEVERN

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SEVERN

June 28, 2018

Don Jackson
hdjackson1@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Jackson:

RE: Fire Ban – Crown Land

Further to my letter, dated May 3, 2018, enclosed is a copy of Fire Report No. F18-007 with respect to the above-noted matter. The following is a copy of a resolution with respect to the above-noted matter:

“ *THAT Fire Report No. F18-007, dated June 14, 2018, with respect to Fire Bans on Crown Land be received;
AND FURTHER THAT the Township of Severn not implement a Fire Ban By-law on Crown Land;
AND FURTHER THAT the residents be encouraged to continue the placement of signage in consultation with the Fire Chief and MNR.*
CARRIED “

It would be appreciated if you would contact Tim Cranney, Fire Chief with respect to assistance in this regard – tcranney@townshipofsevern.com

Yours truly,

Sharon R. Goerke
Sharon R. Goerke, CMO, AOMC
Clerk

/srg
Encl.

REPORT

F18-007

TO: Chair & Members
Corporate Services Committee

FROM: Tim Cranney, Director of Fire and Emergency Services

DATE: June 14, 2018

RE: Fire Ban on Crown Land

Recommendation

THAT Report No. F18-007, dated June 14, 2018, with respect to a Fire Ban on Crown Land be received;
AND FURTHER THAT the Township of Severn not implement a Fire Ban Bylaw on Crown Land.

Background

At the April 25th, 2018 Corporate Services Committee meeting a motion was passed asking for a staff report to investigate placing a permanent fire ban on a piece of Crown Land near Lavis Lane. The land in question is located to the west of Lavis Lane known as 6920 Upper Big Chute Road.

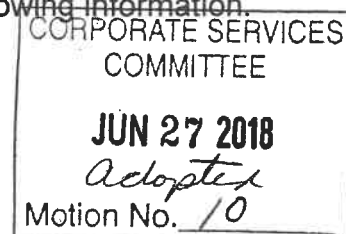
This motion was a result of correspondence received from Don Jackson, President of the Tea Lake Property Owners Inc.

In the correspondence Mr. Jackson indicated that there has been two fires on this piece of property in the past three years. He also indicated that he spoke with a representative from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry who mentioned that under Section 8 a permanent fire ban could be imposed by the Township through a Bylaw.

Further correspondence with Mr. Jackson indicated that section 8 was from the Public Lands Act. He also indicated that Municipalities have the lead in fire protection under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act. Staff have reviewed these acts and both have Section 8's but they do not refer to imposing bylaws.

Staff have investigated this matter further and provide the following information.

There have been two fires recorded for this piece of property.



One on August 25, 2013 which was approximately 2.5 acres and September 28, 2017 which was approximately 8 acres. The August 25th fire was investigated as possibly being caused by a camp fire. The September 28th fire was investigated but an actual cause was undetermined.

This address falls within the Northeast Fire Region and within the Municipal Forest Fire Management Agreement between the Township and Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. The MNR representative for this agreement is located at the Algonquin Highlands office.

In the agreement there is a section titled **Fire Prevention and Compliance**.

Sentence 2(a) (ii) states The Municipality at its expense shall:

control open air burning in a coordinated fashion in the Municipality through bylaws or a municipal Fire permit system consistent with the FPPA and applicable Ministry of Environment guidelines as may be amended from time to time and;

Sentence (iii) goes on to say

"and be responsible for the management and enforcement of any municipal Fire permit system enacted by it under the authority of a bylaw".

There is currently a Permit system for daytime burning of yard waste but this does not include camp fires. There is no Bylaw in place for controlling a camp fire.

Staff have contacted a representative from the Algonquin Highlands office of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to provide direction with this matter. The representative from Algonquin Highlands forwarded staffs questions to Grant Murphy, Regional Fire Advisor. Grant responded back confirming that a Bylaw could be put in place. He presented examples of Burning Bylaws. The examples of the bylaws were for open air burning, not for complete fire bans.

The piece of property in question is approximately 500 hectares in size. The agreement covers approximately 13,700 hectares. If a permanent fire ban was put in place for this area, it could have a ripple effect with the other areas with crown land and cottage associations.

If a permanent fire ban were put in place for this area, a decision would have to be made as to who would respond to deal with non compliance and enforcement of the Bylaw. If the Fire Department were to respond there would be up to 25 firefighters being paged out to a call. The average time to respond to this location and return to the station is about one and a half hours plus the additional time to deal with the situation.

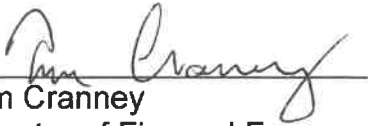
Financial Impact

Fire Department responses to contravention of the bylaw would be drawn from the firefighter Honorarium budget line.

Strategic Plan Impact

Does Not Impact Strategic Plan

Respectfully submitted,



Tim Cranney
Director of Fire and Emergency Services

In concurrence



Director of Corporate Services



Chief Administrative Officer