

Rocky Mountain House Council highlights from the Dec. 4, 2018 regular meeting

DELEGATION: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Mountain Pine Beetle update

Rocky Forest Area Manager Kevin Gagne and Forest Health Officer Pam Melnick attended on behalf of the government of Alberta to explain the province's work on controlling the spread of mountain pine beetle.

There are currently 400,000 hectares affected by mountain pine beetle in Alberta. The province is aiming to slow the spread north and south along the foothills, and eastward, from the Edson area, with single-tree control.

In the Rocky Forest Area, about 700 trees infested with mountain pine beetle were cut and burned last year, up from 37 trees in 2017. For the first time, baited trees caught flights of beetles along Hwy. 11 west of Rocky Mountain House. Mountain pine beetle has also been confirmed on a private property near Cow Lake, and two properties north of Leslieville.

There are provincial grants available for landowners and municipalities looking to control mountain pine beetles on their properties.

Councillors also agreed to draft a [letter of support](#) for Alberta Forest Products Association's request for federal funding to continue mountain pine beetle control.

Related media and documents:

[*About Mountain Pine Beetle*](#)

[*About Mountain Pine Beetle cold weather mortality*](#)

[*Government of Alberta Mountain Pine Beetle Management Zones*](#)

[*#OperationReLeaf Alberta Mountain Pine Beetle initiative – grants for landowners*](#)

DELEGATION: Medical Equipment Lending Society

Medical Equipment Lending (MEL) Society Executive Director Morgan Dahmer attended to update councillors on the society's [recent activities and projected trends](#). The MEL Society is requesting \$80,000 in operational funding between the Town and Clearwater County.

Councillors will consider the request during budget deliberations.

Related media and documents:

[*The Medical Equipment Lending Society of West Central Alberta Funding Proposal*](#)
[*2017 MEL Society usage statistics*](#)

DELEGATION: Rocky Mountain Chuckwagon Association

Rocky Mountain Chuckwagon Association (RMCA) President Brad Smith attended to discuss the status of the North Saskatchewan River Park (NSRP) and future rent for the Battle of the Rockies chuckwagon event.

RMCA board members and councillors talked about possible future operational methods for the NSRP and the RMCA's participation in a Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP) grant application.

The NSRP is owned by the Town. The track and infield is operated by the Rocky Agriculture and Stampede Association (RASA) through a lease agreement that expires in 2020. The Town is considering all future management and operation options for the NSRP.

Related media and documents:

[*VIDEO: RMCA delegation and council discussion*](#)

[*RMCA Newsletter Sept. 2018*](#)

Rocky Mountain House recognition/memorial trees and benches policies

Councillors considered revisions to three policies that regulate memorial or recognition trees and benches in town.

Programs for celebrating a living and/or deceased Town of Rocky Mountain House friend and/or family member or past councillor or member at large have been in place since 2006. This week's revisions identify the type of tree, bench and plaques sponsoring parties can choose from, as well as possible installation areas and future maintenance costs.

The draft policies that appear below were approved as presented

Related media and documents:

[*VIDEO: Administration and Council discussion on all three policies.*](#)

[*Draft Council and Members at Large Service Recognition Program Policy 11/2018*](#)

[*Draft Recognition/Memorial Bench Program Policy 10/2018*](#)

[*Draft Recognition/Memorial Tree Program Policy 09/2018*](#)

[*Tree Availability List*](#)

Roadway Winter Maintenance Policy 12/2018

Councillors reviewed and accepted changes to the Roadway Winter Maintenance Policy as recommended by the Director of Engineering and Operations. The new policy clarifies compacted snow depth, enforcement and responsibility for ticketing and/or towing, and changes in snow plowing priorities to better match vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

Related media and documents:

[*VIDEO: Administration and Council discussion on policy updates*](#)

[Draft Roadway Winter Maintenance Policy 12/2018](#)
[Roadway Winter Maintenance Policy priorities map](#)

Council remuneration

Councillors again reviewed a draft new remuneration policy in advance of federal income tax changes coming in January.

Councillors will ask public members at large of Town committees to review elected officials compensation rates from comparable municipalities and make a recommendation.

Related media and documents:

[VIDEO: Council discussion](#)

[Municipalities comparison chart](#)

[Options under consideration](#)

If you have any questions on these or any other items, please contact:

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