



Staff Report CL2020-026

Title of Report: CL2020-026-Maple Grove Cemetery Request for Placement of Bench
Department: Clerks
Council Date: September 2, 2020

Recommendation:

Be it resolved that Council receive Staff Report CL2020-026 as information; and **That** Council provide feedback to staff and approve the received request for the placement of a bench in the Maple Grove Cemetery with a bench responsibility agreement.

Background:

Staff have received a request from a plot holder in the Maple Grove Cemetery to have a bench placed on their single plot. A photo and the dimensions of the proposed bench has been received (Attachment #1), and our Cemetery Caretaker has measured the area and confirmed that the bench would fit at the foot of the grave.

Staff Comments:

The current [Maple Grove Cemetery By-law No. 103-2013](#) does not specifically speak to prohibiting any kind of bench to be placed in the Cemetery. There is one other bench located in the Cemetery that was placed quite a few years ago, that staff believe may have been approved pre-amalgamation. There are a few benches dotted throughout the cemetery that have been owned and maintained by the Township.

We have researched area Cemetery by-laws and spoken to a few different operators and the majority of Cemeteries do not allow for the placement of benches or other similar items. Some cemeteries do allow Granite Memorial Benches, with optional plaques for dedication, with concrete foundations. These are sourced and installed through monument suppliers with all costs covered by the purchaser.

Staff are recommending approval of the request and propose that an agreement be entered into with the plot holder to define the parameters of allowing the installation of the bench, liability and risk taken on by the plot holder of damage to the bench, installation requirements, maintenance and safe condition of the bench, and the Township's right to remove, etc.

If the request is denied, staff will bring forth an amendment to the current Maple Grove Cemetery By-law to better define that placement of benches or other similar items are prohibited in the Cemetery.

Financial Implications:

If the placement of the bench is approved, the plot holder would be responsible for covering the cost of the installation of the bench for materials and staff time and future maintenance of the bench. Maintenance around the bench (grass cutting/trimming) would be completed by the Township as part of the regular Cemetery grass cutting.

Communications & Community Action Plan Impact:

This report has been written and presented to Council to communicate accurate information to the public.

Concluding Comments:

That Council provide feedback to staff and approve the received request for the placement of a bench in the Maple Grove Cemetery with a bench responsibility agreement.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dept. Head: *Original Signed By*
Lindsey Green, Clerk

Dept. Head: *Original Signed By*
Jim Ellis, Public Works Manager

CAO Approval: *Original Signed By*
Dave Milliner, CAO

Attachment #1 – Illustration of Proposed Bench