

COMMUNICATION 132024

Received From: Diane Smithson, Chief Administrative Officer
Addressed To: Committee of the Whole
Date: February 9, 2021
Topic: Temporary Patios

SUMMARY

In 2020, Council authorized a total of (6) six parking space(s) immediately in front of businesses or expanded interlock bricked areas adjacent to the sidewalk to be used as patio or retail space on Bridge Street to be determined between the Town and the Downtown BIA and permitted the use of owner-owned parking space(s) in front of businesses to be used as patios in other areas of Town.

A request has been received from the Downtown Carleton Place Business Improvement Area to allow for the temporary patios in 2021.

BACKGROUND

In 2020, COVID-19 has a major impact on restaurants and businesses in the Town of Carleton Place. When restaurants were permitted by the Province to open again in 2020, it was on the basis of meeting public health requirements and limiting seating capacities which continued to have negative impacts on the viability of many restaurants.

The Town assisted restaurants by allowing for temporary outdoor patios and other retail businesses by allowing for additional temporary retail spaces.

COMMENT

Staff has received a request from Kate Murray, BIA Coordinator to permit the use of temporary patios again in 2021 at least until Covid is over and then their merits can be re-evaluated at that time. With the uncertainty and ups and downs of requirements due to Covid, this gives the businesses an opportunity to use all the tools available to them.

It was further mentioned at the Downtown Carleton Place Business Improvement Area (BIA) Annual General Meeting held on January 25, 2021 that the patios were well received and it elevated the businesses' presence to the public.

Given that it will take some effort on the businesses' part to organize and pay for the temporary patios for another season and that we are unable to predict Covid's impact in 2021, staff recommends that the temporary patios be permitted in 2021 until October 31, 2021 under the same terms and conditions as were implemented in 2020.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with Staff's recommendation.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS Resolution 13-131-06 was passed on June 23, 2020 to allow a total of (6) six parking space(s) immediately in front of businesses or expanded interlock bricked areas adjacent to the sidewalk to be used as patio or retail space on Bridge Street to be determined between the Town and the Downtown BIA; and

WHEREAS the Town also permitted the use of owner-owned parking space(s) in front of businesses to be used as patios in other areas of Town; and

WHEREAS the completion date for the use of patio space was set as October 13, 2020; and was further extended until October 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS the Town has been approached to permit temporary patios in 2021;

NOW THEREFORE Council approves permitting temporary patios in 2021 until October 31, 2021 in accordance with the terms and conditions established in 2020.