



Municipality of the District of Argyle

Item: Community litter clean up

Date: June 22, 2022

VISION

We see Argyle as home to a healthy and thriving rural population. Our municipality promotes and supports economic and social opportunities for the region and engages in the active expression of our unique Acadian heritage. We are a place of choice for rural living and are widely recognized for our warm hospitality and joie de vivre. Surrounded by fresh air and cool ocean breezes, we work and play in the great outdoors. People choose to live in Argyle because of our commitment to each other, to our community and to our neighbors. Argyle is a place we are proud to call home.

Background:

As a follow up on a public presentation on community litter issues, I would submit the following information to ensure Council is aware of the current initiatives underway.

First, I would note that this is the first year we have reinitiated the community litter clean up policy since before COVID-19 restrictions, which would account for observed increases in community litter and the unattractive nature of our ditches and properties.

So far, we have had 17 kilometers cleaned under this revised program, and \$3,400 distributed to non-profit organizations. Almost every district has had a group so far. There are 2 more groups to complete the work in this season. We have a fall season clean up organized and shall be advertising accordingly. Total budget for the project is \$18,000. Seeing as the spring is the major season for clean up, the program appears undersubscribed a bit.

This is not surprising, coming out of COVID19 restrictions, as well as the time we took to revamp the policy may have delayed initial responses.

This program was well received by both Council and the community.

In examining what other municipalities may do to reduce this type of littering, most focus on education as a deterrent to the nasty habit. Unfortunately, many do not pick up on this education and decide littering is a better option for them. We are not legally responsible for the littering fines that may occur off provincially owned highways or roads, and we all know that even if we did, catching someone in the act of littering is simply not practical.

MGA considerations:

Section 65 has enabling legislation to allow for solid waste management, including community litter.

CAO's Recommendation:

Seeing as the current community litter policy supports non-profit organizations in fundraising and also makes our communities cleaner, I would recommend that this policy and process continue, with Council responsible for increasing or decreasing the financial investment as they see fit,

Second, seeing as we are a party to Waste Check, it would be to formally request that an education profile be developed for Argyle and other partner communities to increase the profile and negative aspect of community litter, and promote the pride of community and a clean environment.

Future considerations may include the development of alternative options other than littering, including but not limited to community bins, which bring both pros and cons to the situation at hand. This would be for your information at this time, as further consideration would have to be put into any additional plans of this nature, and possibly consider other solid waste issues we may see in our communities.

Suggested motion:

Move that the Municipality request, via letter that Waste Check develop an educational plan on the promotion of clean communities and the cons of community littering in our communities.