



The Corporation of the Township of King Report to Council

From: Corporate Services Department – Clerks Division
Report Number: COR-CLK-2024-009
Date: Monday, October 28, 2024
Title: **Dog Appeal Committee Composition and Appointment**

Recommendation

1. That Council receive Report COR-CLK-2024-009; and
2. That Council amend Animal Control By-law Number 2016-085, being a By-law to regulate and govern animals within the Township, to amend the Dog Appeal Committee composition to three (3) Members of Council; and
3. That Council appoint the following three (3) Members of Council to the Dog Appeal Committee for the remainder of the current 2022-2026 Term of Council:
 - a. Councillor _____; and
 - b. Councillor _____; and
 - c. Councillor _____.

1. Report Highlights

- Recommending a change in the Dog Appeal Committee composition to three (3) Members of Council.
- Appointing three (3) Members of Council will help schedule the current and future appeals for the remainder of the 2022-2026 Term of Council.

2. Purpose

This report recommends amending the Dog Appeal Committee to include three (3) Members of Council and also seeks to appoint these members to handle a newly filed dog appeal.

3. Background

The Township’s Dog Appeal Committee (the Committee) is a quasi-judicial body that reviews appeals from dog owners who have received orders from officers authorized under [Animal Control By-law 2016-085](#) (the Animal Control By-law) classifying their dogs as dangerous or potentially dangerous. When an officer is informed upon complaint or receives a declaration from another municipality regarding a biting dog, and confirms that a dog is a menacing dog or has bitten a person or domestic animal, an order is issued. The Committee, which meets

as needed, currently includes two (2) Members of Council and the Manager of Animal Control (from Vaughan Animal Services), as outlined in the Animal Control By-law.

Hearings are held at the King Township Municipal Centre and are open to the public. During these hearings, both the officer who issued the order and the dog owner can present their case and evidence. The Committee then makes a final decision on the appeal.

Since 2008, the Township has conducted five (5) Dog Appeal hearings, with the most recent in 2022.

4. Analysis

Staff have been reviewing and identifying several updates for a future report to Council regarding the Animal Control By-law. Due to the timing of a recently filed Dog Appeal, this report is being brought forward immediately to recommend a change in the committee composition and appoint committee members in order to facilitate the scheduling of the hearing.

4.1. Committee Composition

Staff are undertaking a review of the Animal Control By-law and future administration of dog and cat licencing with a potential partnership with Vaughan Animal Services. As a part of that review, it was identified that a Committee composition update was needed. Staff are recommending removing the Manager of Animal Control and replacing them with a Member of Council. This change is considered for the following reasons:

- A jurisdictional scan revealed no other municipalities in York Region have their Manager of Animal Control (or any other staff) appointed to their committee;
- Other Dog Appeal Committees are typically composed either of the public or Council Members;
- Ensuring all appointed members are residents of King and that “local” decisions are being made; and,
- Upholding the principles of impartiality and fairness for all parties involved.

Staff are therefore recommending that the Committee be comprised of three (3) Council Members.

Vaughan Animal Services, the contracted service provider for the Township, is supportive of this recommendation.

4.2. Appointments

Subject to Council's approval of the composition change, three (3) members are requested to be appointed to the Committee. Members should be informed that an active Dog Appeal has been filed with the Clerk's Office, and a hearing will be scheduled at the earliest convenience.

5. Financial Considerations

The fee to file a dog appeal is \$228.15 paid by the appellant and collected under the Corporate Services Clerk's division operating budget.

6. Alignment to Strategic Plan

The 2023-2026 Corporate Strategic Plan (CSP) was adopted by Council on June 12, 2023. The CSP reflects the priorities of utmost importance to the community and defines the obligations and commitments of the Township of King to its citizens and to the public. The CSP is aligned with the Township's long-term vision defined in the "Our King" Official Plan. The CSP also aims to ensure that staff initiatives focus on and work towards supporting King's Vision, Mission and Values.

This report is in alignment with the CSP's Priority Area(s), and/or associated Objective(s) and/or Key Results(s):

Priority Area: Service Excellence

Objective: Enhance Citizen Service Experiences.

The change of the Committee composition ensures all appointed members are residents of King and that "local" decisions are being made in the best interests of its citizens, potential appellants, and the community at large.

7. Conclusion

The proposed amendment to the Animal Control By-law proposes to change its composition to three (3) Members of Council. At the same time, staff are requesting Council appoint members to this Committee so a hearing can be scheduled for a recently filed dog appeal.

8. Attachments

Not applicable.

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