



Municipality of Port Hope

Staff Report

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Report Title: Critical Mass Outdoor Arts Programming and Flex Space

Report to: Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee

Date of meeting: June 21, 2022

Report Author:

Leslie Murray, Manager, Community Recreation and Culture

Department responsible:

Parks, Recreation & Culture

Report Number: PRC-10-22

Recommendation:

1. That a resolution be presented to Council to authorize the request from Critical Mass to use 4 parking spaces at the east side of the Little Station in the Elias Street parking lot for outdoor arts programming for the months of July, August, and September 2022; and further,
2. That Council direct staff to initiate long term planning considerations for Lent Lane in consultation with the community.

Highlights:

- Critical Mass has submitted a request to use 4 parking spaces in the Elias Street lot to create outdoor arts programming space, as an immediate request.
- Also included is a request for longer term collaboration with Municipality of Port Hope and a potential working group to enhance space in Lent Lane and around the Little Station House.

Background:

Critical Mass has identified a vision to expand their usable outdoor footprint to provide outdoor spaces for covid-safe programming and opportunities to enhance public art offerings. Funds were received by Critical Mass from an Ontario Trillium Foundation Resilient Communities grant focused on adapting & re-imagining some of the outdoor spaces around the Little Station House for safe community arts programming. This funding made possible the purchase of a digital projector to be used for outdoor public art projections.

Critical Mass is one of many community groups with interest in activation of Lent Lane and the area surrounding the Little Station House. Critical Mass currently has a lease agreement with the Port Hope Branch of the Architectural Conservancy Ontario for use of the Little Station House. In addition to the immediate request for use of four parking

spaces, Critical Mass has included information on their long-term vision in the submitted proposal. Some funding has been secured by Critical Mass to support execution of these longer-term plans, and the organization has identified a desire to seek municipal approval and collaboration with the potential establishing of a Lent Lane Revitalization working group before proceeding.

Discussion:

Critical Mass has requested use of concrete jersey barriers to create a safe perimeter surrounding these four parking spaces. Staff will supervise and confirm the installation of these perimeter barriers. Additionally, a request to paint the parking spaces to animate the area has been made. Staff support allocating the temporary space for this request, but do not support painting of the parking lot for concerns relating to safety and long-term impacts. Staff will work with Critical Mass on other animating options.

PRC will establish a use of space agreement and permit for this request to ensure safe and adequate access, temporary art installations and other considerations as part of this booking request.

With respect to overall future considerations surrounding Lent Lane, staff have applied for a substantial grant for Lent Lane improvements and a report to Council is forthcoming regarding the status of that application and potential project.

Financial Considerations:

There are no noted financial considerations for this request.

Communication and Public Engagement:

Critical Mass would use social media, website, print and word of mouth to promote programs and opportunities taking place in this space.

A public notice and social post will be issued by the Municipality to communicate the temporary conversion of four parking spaces.

Conclusion:

Critical Mass is a key partner in cultural and art initiatives in the Municipality of Port Hope. This request supports identified priorities identified in the MPH Cultural Plan including increasing cultural participation and responding to current and future cultural space needs. This request also supports safe and accessible pedestrian friendly spaces in the downtown core.

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Proposal for Use of Parking Spaces for Outdoor Program Space