

Committee of the Whole

NEW BUSINESS

MAY 2, 2022

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

New Business

1. Memorandum from Parks & Open Spaces Manager Cory Halvorsen dated May 2, 2022 relative to James Whalen Tug.

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Memorandum

TO: Krista Power, City Clerk

FROM: Cory Halvorsen, Manager, Parks and Open Space, Infrastructure and Operations

DATE: May 2, 2022

SUBJECT: James Whalen Tug Update

This memo was requested by Council to provide current updates in regards to the James Whalen Tug that broke free from its moorings and sank some time on the morning of May 1, 2022.

After the 2021 incident where the James Whalen unexpectedly took on water, a submersible pump was installed to manage potential leaks/infiltration. During the summer of 2021 the pump did not have to run very much, therefore there were no signs of significant leakage and the ship appeared to be docked securely.

At the beginning of the winter 2021 we had to take out the pump system before freeze up to avoid damage. The plan and direction was to install the pump as soon as possible in the spring once it thawed. Parks had tried to install the pump once earlier this spring, but the sump in the tug was still frozen and persistent cold temperatures meant it could not be installed.

The recent warming temperatures and rain appear to have resulted in a quick transition from frozen to taking on a significant amount of water. Site observations from Friday, and Saturday evening at 7:30pm reported the boat appeared to be upright and not out of position, however by Sunday morning the boat had sank and detached from the moorings, resting on its side.

Administration has contacted Transport Canada and the Coast Guard to inform them of the incident. Since the boat had previously been emptied of engine components there is not environment risk perceived at this time, however floating booms have been installed as a precaution. Administration will continue to provide regular updates to these agencies as required.

Administration is currently working with local companies and will be receiving proposals with options to raise the boat out of the water and have it moved to a dry land storage location where it can be assessed for damages. The plan is to store it in that location until a decision can be made with respect to a permanent use/location on dry land.

cc.: Norm Gale, City Manager
Kerri Marshall, General Manager, Infrastructure and Operations
Kayla Dixon, Director, Engineering & Operations