

WHISTLER

REPORT ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT TO COUNCIL

PRESENTED: January 21, 2020 REPORT: 20-008

FROM: Infrastructure Services FILE: Crown File 2405094

SUBJECT: AMENDING SURVEY PLAN OF THE HELIPORT LEASE

COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

That the recommendation of the General Manager of Infrastructure Services be endorsed

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the proposed amended survey plan of the Heliport Lease area; and

That Council authorize the General Manager of Infrastructure Services to write a letter to the Surveyor General indicating that Council has supported the plan.

REFERENCES

Owner: Whistler Heliport Society
Address: 9960 & 9970 Heliport Road

Legal Description: Blocks D & E, of District Lot 3760 & 7772, Group 1 NWD

Zoning: CH1 (Commercial Heliport One)
Appendix "A" Survey of existing Heliport Leases

Appendix "B" Proposal to consolidate Blocks D & E into proposed Block K

Appendix "C" Letter of support from Whistler Heliport Society

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this Report is to inform Council about a proposed survey plan that has been prepared for the Whistler Heliport and ask that Council consider passing a resolution supporting the proposed survey plan. In addition, staff are seeking Council's authorization to have the General Manager of Infrastructure Services send a letter to the Surveyor General indicating that Council supports the proposed survey plan.

DISCUSSION

The Heliport is located on land that is leased by the Resort Municipality of Whistler from the Province of British Columbia. The Whistler Heliport Society leases the land from the Resort Municipality of Whistler, and the WHS in turn, sub-leases the land to individual helicopter operators. (Appendix "A").

Blackcomb Helicopters wishes to consolidate two of their existing lease areas in order to accommodate their expanding needs. A new survey plan has been prepared that consolidates existing Blocks D & E into one larger, proposed Block "K". (Appendix "B").

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The Whistler Heliport Society has discussed this proposal at their November 19, 2019 AGM and have provided a letter of support for Blackcomb Helicopters' proposed application to consolidate Blocks D & E (Appendix "C").

It is the intention of Blackcomb Helicopters to construct a large hangar building on the new Block "K". This building will allow Blackcomb Helicopters to store helicopters indoors, extend the service life of their equipment and improve working conditions. As part of this major capital improvement, Blackcomb Helicopters will be exploring a fire suppression system that could benefit all other heliport users. However, at this time, municipal staff are only seeking Council's approval of the proposed survey plan amendment.

WHISTLER 2020 ANALYSIS

W2020 Strategy	TOWARD Descriptions of success that resolution moves us toward	Comments
Visitor Experience	Visitors feel genuinely welcome	The provision of a new building with improved facilities are contingent upon the approval of the new survey plan.
Economic	Whistler's tourism economy is progressive and ensures the highest and best use of limited financial, social and natural resources in the long-term.	The proposed changes to the survey plan will likely provide economic benefits for Blackcomb Helicopters and the Whistler Heliport Society.

Amending the Survey Plan of the Heliport Lease does not move our community away from any of the adopted Whistler2020 Descriptions of Success.

OTHER POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Section 4.11.9 of the Official Community Plan (OCP 1993) states, "The Municipality will encourage the centralization of helicopter movements at the Whistler Municipal Heliport." Whistler's draft OCP has similar language in Policy 11.6.1.4., which states, "Maintain ownership/leasehold of the Municipal Heliport and continue to work with the Whistler Heliport Society to concentrate helicopter activity at this location, as a means of protecting the community from noise and other helicopter traffic impacts."

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

There are no budget considerations for this lease amendment.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

No community consultation has taken place, nor is any contemplated. The current helicopter flight paths are located away from residential areas in order to avoid noise complaints. When the Whistler Heliport Society does become aware of problems with helicopters, particularly noise issues, action is taken immediately to rectify the situation. The Whistler Heliport Society reports that it rarely receives complaints from the public.

The Whistler Heliport Society has discussed this proposal at their November 19, 2019 AGM and have provided a letter of support for Blackcomb Helicopters' intended application to consolidate Blocks D & E.

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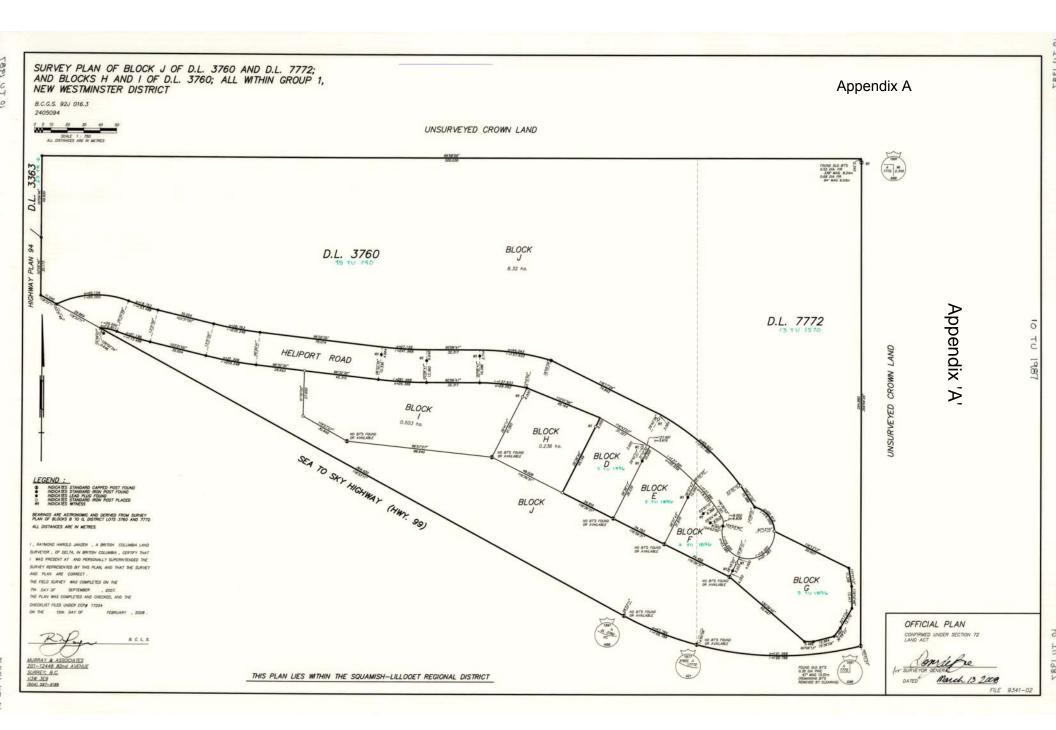
SUMMARY

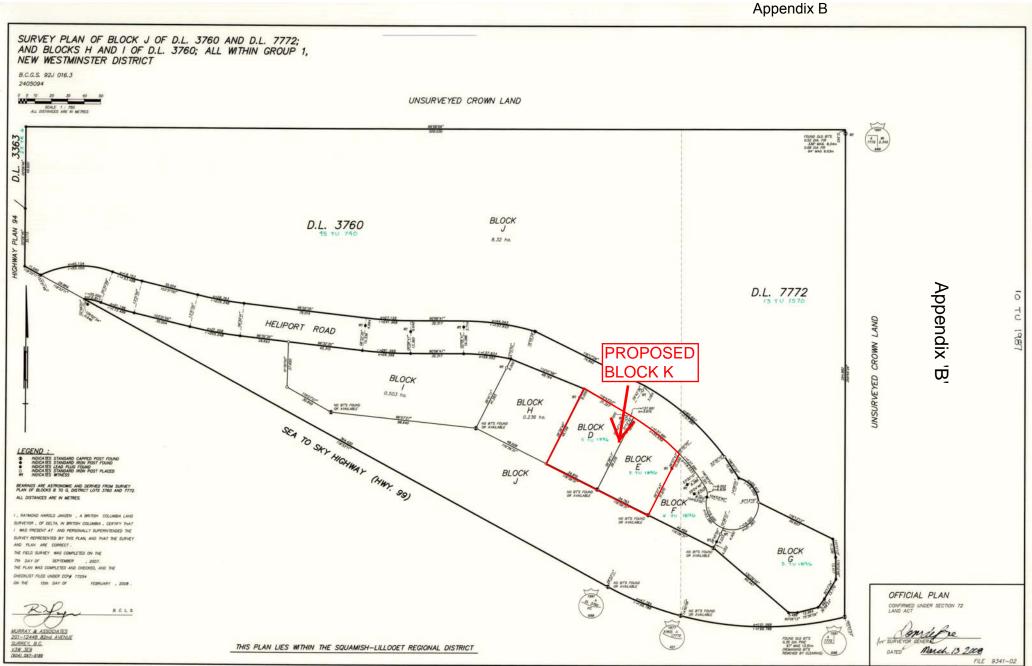
Staff recommend that Council pass a resolution to approve the proposed survey plan of the Heliport Lease and that Council authorize the General Manager of Infrastructure Services to write a letter to the Surveyor General indicating that Council has supported the amended survey plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Ertel
MANAGER OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

for James Hallisey GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES





Whistler Heliport Society Box 7, Whistler B.C. V0N 1B0

Nov 20, 2019

Jeff Ertel AScT RESORT MUNICIPALITY OF WHISTLER 4325 Blackcomb Way Whistler, B.C. V0N 1B4

Re: Request for Head Lease, Lease and Sub-Lease extension.

This letter is provided at the request of Blackcomb Helicopters Limited Partnership ("Blackcomb Helicopters"), which is the subtenant of the following lands at the Heliport, which lands are subleased by the Whistler Heliport Society from the Resort Municipality of Whistler, and leased by the Resort Municipality of Whistler from the Province of British Columbia:

Civic address:

9960 Heliport Road, Whistler, BC

Legal description:

Block D, D.L. 3760 and D.L. 7772, Group 1, New

Westminster District

("Block D")

Civic address:

9970 Heliport Road, Whistler, BC

Legal description:

Block E, D.L. 3760 and D.L. 7772, Group 1, New

Westminster District

("Block E")

We understand that Blackcomb Helicopters intends to apply to the relevant authorities to consolidate Block D and Block E in connection with its plan to build a new hangar at the Heliport. This letter shall confirm that the Whistler Heliport Society has reviewed and voted on this request at our latest AGM. The Whistler Heliport Society is in support of Blackcomb Helicopters' intended application to consolidate Block D and Block E.

Sincerely,

Whistler Heliport Society

Per:

Dylan Thomas, President