



Minutes

The Blue Mountains, Special Meeting of Council

Meeting Date: January 7, 2019
Meeting Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Town Hall, Council Chambers
32 Mill Street, Thornbury, ON
Prepared by Corrina Giles, Town Clerk

A. Call to Order

Mayor Alar Soever called the meeting to order with all members in attendance.

Also in attendance Interim Chief Administrative Officer Shawn Everitt, Director of Planning and Development Services Nathan Westendorp, Director of Infrastructure and Public Works Reg Russwurm, Communications and Economic Development Coordinator Tim Hendry and Municipal Law Enforcement Officer/Prosecutor Wayne DeWitt.

- **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by: Rob Sampson

Seconded by: Odette Bartnicki

THAT the Agenda of January 7, 2019 be approved as circulated, including any items added to the Agenda, Carried.

- **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and general nature thereof**

NOTE: In accordance with the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* and the Town Procedural By-law 2018-20, Council Members must file a written statement of the interest and its general nature with the Clerk for inclusion on the Registry.

None

B. Deputations / Presentations / Closed Session

Under the authority of the *Municipal Act, 2001* and in accordance with Ontario's *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (MFIPPA), The Corporation of the Town of The Blue Mountains wishes to inform the public that all information including opinions, presentations, reports and documentation provided for or at a Public Meeting, Public Consultation, or other Public Process are considered part of the public record. This information may be posted on the Town's website and or/ made available to the public upon request.

B.1 Public Meeting: Consideration of Cannabis Consumption and Cannabis Retail Stores

Mayor Alar Soever read the Notice of Public Meeting and Information Sessions regarding Consideration of Cannabis Consumption and Cannabis Retail Stores. Mayor Soever noted that the two Public Information Sessions and a Public Meeting are held to provide information to the public and to allow the public the opportunity to provide comment on both the consumption of Cannabis and whether Cannabis retail stores should be permitted within Town boundaries.

Mayor Soever noted that notice is hereby given that the Council of The Corporation of the Town of The Blue Mountains, at its regularly scheduled Council Meeting on Monday, January 14, 2019, will consider a follow-up report. On Wednesday, January 16, 2019, Council intends to review the recommendations from the January 14, 2019 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Mayor Soever further noted that a decision on this matter will be made by Council on January 16, 2019. A decision on this proposal has not been made at this point and will not be made at the Public Meeting.

The Town Clerk spoke, noting that notice of the Public Meeting was given in accordance with Town Policy, POL.COR.07.03 Provision of Notice and Manner of Giving Notice. The Town Clerk noted that comments received will be included in a Staff Report at the January 14, 2019 Committee of the Whole meeting, with the recommendation considered by Council at the January 16, 2019 Special Meeting of Council.

Director of Planning and Development Services Nathan Westendorp spoke, noting that the Town has received over 600 responses to the survey, further noting that the survey will close at 12:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 8, 2019 with responses to be reported on at the January 14, 2019 Committee of the Whole.

June Porter, 85 Lakeshore Drive, spoke, expressing her concern over the clinical impact of Cannabis. Ms. Porter noted that Grey County has an existing opioid and alcohol problem, without the medical and professional resources to handle the impact of Cannabis. Ms. Porter noted she is concerned with Cannabis being readily available in the Town, noting that retail stores may increase the likelihood of youth having access to Cannabis. Ms. Porter noted that the Town should "Opt Out".

Armand Attar, small business owner at Blue Mountain Resort, spoke, noting that there is an opportunity to control Cannabis retail and provide an educational component. Mr. Attar noted he is prepared to retrofit his business for the sale of Cannabis.

Catherine French, wife of Armand Attar spoke, stating that the real question is how the therapeutic aspects of Cannabis consumption can be best utilized. Ms. French noted she encourages Council to "Opt In" to Cannabis retail stores, noting that the legal age for consumption will stop young people from purchasing. Ms. French further noted that allowing Cannabis users to purchase the drug in a store is a better, safer way to control the substance.

Julie Tipping, Thornbury resident, spoke, noting that she moved to The Blue Mountains for the healthy, active lifestyle available. Ms. Tipping noted she is concerned with setting up Cannabis retail stores in The Blue Mountains. Ms. Tipping further noted that allowing individuals to smoke Cannabis on the street is not appropriate.

Andrew Siegart, President of the Blue Mountain Village Association and Board Member of The Blue Mountains Chamber of Commerce spoke. Mr. Siegart noted the Federal and Provincial Governments have established regulations which address the concerns noted at the Public Meeting. Mr. Siegart noted that there will initially be 25 communities chosen for retail stores, with a population threshold above 50,000 people. Mr. Siegart noted that, by opting in now, the Town may benefit from future grant opportunities and has an opportunity to plan for the possibility of a Cannabis retail store in the future. Mr. Siegart noted that the legislation imparts safeguards which facilitate education and make it difficult for youth to purchase Cannabis in a retail store environment. Mr. Siegart noted there is an economic risk if the Town chooses a restrictive approach to Cannabis, further noting that the legislation follows the *Smoke Free Ontario Act*. Mr. Siegart noted that Cannabis may become part of the Town's agricultural growth, similar to the emerging wine, beer and spirits industry. Mr. Siegart noted that if a more restricted approach to public consumption is taken, enforcement costs will increase.

As no one further wished to speak, the Mayor declared the Public Meeting to be closed.

C. Public Comment Period

C.1 Public Comment Period (each speaker is allotted three minutes)

NOTE: In accordance with the Town Procedural By-law 2018-20 fifteen minutes is allotted at the Council Meeting to receive public comments regarding Town matters. The speaker shall provide their name and address, and shall address their comments to the Chair. Comments shall not refer to personnel, litigation or potential litigation matters, or regarding matters that are a follow-up to a Public Meeting.

C.1.1 June Porter, 85 Lakeshore Drive

June Porter spoke, requesting clarification on the timeline for Town staff to receive comments regarding "Opt In" or "Opt Out". Town Clerk Corrina Giles confirmed that the Public Meeting was scheduled to receive the public's comment on Cannabis consumption and Cannabis retail stores in The Blue Mountains. The Town Clerk noted that if anyone wishes to send comments in to Town staff, they are due January 8, 2019 at 12:00 p.m. and can be directed to the Town Clerk.

D. Adjournment

Moved by: Rob Sampson

Seconded by: Rob Potter

THAT this Special Meeting of Council does now adjourn at 7:36 p.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair, Carried.

Alar Soever, Mayor

Corrina Giles, Town Clerk