

## Motion from June 3, 2019 regarding Single-Use Plastics

June 3, 2019

Moved by: Odette Bartnicki

Seconded by: Jim Uram

WHEREAS the Sustainable Path, 2010, includes the goal: “Become a community that supports a movement towards a zero-waste society” p.35, and:

WHEREAS 82% of Canadians are urging the Federal Government to tackle plastic pollution (Angus Reid Forum Poll March 14-17, 2019), and:

WHEREAS, the Ontario government released Preserving and Protecting our Environment for Future Generations and stated that “Plastics is a priority from our government’s point of view, particularly as we talk about plastics in our waterways” (Rod Phillips, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (November 29, 2018), and;

WHEREAS municipalities and cities across Canada, including tourist destinations such as Bayfield, Ontario, Vancouver, BC and world class resorts such as Whistler Blackcomb have already successfully implemented similar actions, and;

WHEREAS many retailers and food service operators in the Town of The Blue Mountains have indicated that they have or are moving towards alternatives to plastic shopping bags at point of sale, plastic straws and stir sticks, and recognizing that some businesses will require additional time to adapt to the elimination of single-use plastics and that the elimination of other plastics such as water bottles will require availability of other options such as filling stations, and;

WHEREAS the Town’s Solid Waste Solution, 2008 established targets of 60% waste diversion by 2015, 75% by 2025 and 85% by 2050, and that our current rate of waste diversion is limited to only 30% which unchanged will exhaust the landfill in half its intended life and is economically inefficient and unsustainable, and further that plastics clog drainage systems and can cause unnecessary flooding, and that discarded plastic bags and containers collect standing water and create a breeding ground for mosquitos which can carry West Nile or Triple E Virus, causing threats to public health and significant infrastructure costs for taxpayers, and;

WHEREAS it is recognized that some single-use plastics may continue to be permitted upon request for specific reasons such as accommodating special or health needs, and for food safety, and it is acknowledged that municipal bans do not prohibit visitors from bringing single-use items to the Town of The Blue Mountains, and;

WHEREAS, a previous motion brought on April 16th, 2019 was referred to the Sustainability Committee which has no meeting scheduled to date, and it is acknowledged that a permanent Town-wide ban will take considerable time, resources, education, publication and other work over a longer period, and;

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT COUNCIL adopt, support and encourage an interim voluntary ban on the use of single-use plastic shopping bags, plastic straws and stir sticks effective July 1st, 2019, and that Council direct staff to:

1. Promote a voluntary ban on single-use plastic bags, straws, stir sticks by publishing messaging in the upcoming tax bill mailing, on the Town's website home page and through all of the Town's commonly-used media beginning no later than June 15th 2019 that states that includes the following position:

"Council supports the protection of the environment of the Town of The Blue Mountains through the reduction and future elimination of single-use plastic bags, straws, stir sticks and water bottles, and encourages all businesses, community members and visitors to avoid the use of these products whenever possible. Council recognizes and appreciates the efforts of all stakeholders towards measures that support the sustainability of the natural environment in the Town of The Blue Mountains."

AND THAT Council refer the following items to the Sustainability Committee for consideration and recommendation to Council by August 26, 2019 to:

2. Phase out the sale of bottled water and the use of single-use plastic cups, straws and stir sticks at all Town-owned facilities and events by December 2019 in order to model good environmental practices;
3. Develop a three-year plan to increase the number of water bottle re-filling stations on Town-owned properties, to be included in the 2020, 2021 and 2022 budget cycles;
4. Develop recognition/reward signage (i.e. "We've gone green for a Blue future" or similar) for business operators who model good environmental practices by not supplying single-use shopping bags, water bottles, straws and stir sticks;
5. Investigate the development and costs of a Town of Blue Mountains reusable bag-for-life or fabric bag options with appropriate logo for possible purchase by retailers at cost, and to be used for various promotional events; by the Town;

AND THAT COUNCIL direct staff to work with the Sustainability Committee and all stakeholders through a public consultation process, to develop a plan for inclusion in the 2020 Budget to reduce and/or eliminate single use plastics effective July 1st, 2020.

Deputy Mayor Bartnicki requested a recorded vote:

Bartnicki, Odette	Yay
Bordignon, Peter	Yay
Matrosovs, Andrea	Yay
Potter, Rob	Yay
Sampson, Rob	Yay
Uram, Jim	Yay
Soever, Alar	Yay

The motion is **CARRIED**.

CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE COPY

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Corrina Giles, Town Clerk