

**RECEIVED VIA EMAIL**

Date: 7/24/2020

Subject: Support for Blue Mountains Attainable Housing Corporation's Thornbury Site & Upcoming Public Consultation Process

Dear Mayor Soever, Deputy Mayor Potter and Members of Town Council,

My name is Cortney Lush and I am the owner of Crock A Doodle, the paint your own pottery studio in the Blue Mountain Village. We employ approximately 8 people annually. Our staff are between the ages of 20 and 30, and are often unable to find adequate and affordable housing options within an easy commute to the village. This negatively impacts the numbers of available workers in the area. In 2019, we lost a significant amount of revenue due to lack of adequate staff – there were simply not enough people to do the job. I believe availability of attainable housing is a major barrier of entry for our specific employees.

Collectively, service-sector and tourism employers across the Town of The Blue Mountains drive local employment; support secondary businesses, consumer spending and business investment; provide world-class experiences for locals and visitors; and provide significant tax revenue to the municipality.

I am writing today to show my support for the Town of the Blue Mountains Attainable Housing Corporation's (BMAHC) work toward building its first attainable housing site in Thornbury. I am also in support of Town Council's plans to conduct transparent public consultation on the project including looking at the Official Plan and Comprehensive Bylaw in order to ensure that the project can be as impactful as possible while also respecting the surrounding community and its needs. During the last municipal election, candidates assured local businesses and residents alike that attainable housing would be a priority and we are grateful that our elected Councilors are following through on your campaign promises – because the need for attainable housing to support our growing workforce needs and community overall has only grown since the last election.

I look forward to learning more about: how this project will be supported by new local transit links, opportunities for all types of businesses and community groups in our Town to get more involved in supporting BMAHC's work, and plans for future sites across the Town of The Blue Mountains.

Please feel free to reach out to me directly as the consultation process begins. I will be sure to encourage my employees, colleagues and neighbours to participate.

Sincerely,

Cortney Lush

Email: [REDACTED]

Contact [REDACTED]