Minutes
Community Recovery Task Force

Meeting Date: June 24, 2020
Meeting Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting
Prepared by: Sarah Merrifield, Executive Assistant Committees of Council

A. Call to Order

Mayor Alar Soever called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with Councillor Rob Sampson present.

Advisory participants present were Dr. Sabrina Saunders, Gillian Fairley, Carolyn Letourneau, Steve Simon, Diane Anderson, Derek Hammond, Reverend Dr. Grayhame Bowcott, Rob Cederberg, and Melissa Goldmintz-Shah.

Town staff present were Chief Administrative Officer Shawn Everitt, Director of Finance and IT Services Ruth Prince, Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons, and Manager of Communications and Economic Development Tim Hendry.

Regrets were sent from advisory participants Tim Newton, Lisa Burechails, Shawn McKinlay, Tom Kennedy, Cathy Innes, Andrew Siegwart, Sarah Filion, Tony Poole, George Matamoros, Paul Pinchbeck, Mark Woodburn, and Melissa Twist.

- Task Force Member Attendance
- Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Rob Sampson Seconded by: Alar Soever

THAT the Agenda of June 24, 2020 be approved as circulated, including any additions to the Agenda, being item E.1.1 Grey Bruce Graduation Celebration, 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 2019-56, Community Recovery Task Force members must file a written statement of the interest and its general nature with the Clerk for inclusion on the Registry.

None
B. Staff Reports and Deputations

B.1 Deputations, if any

None

B.3 Staff Reports, if any

None

C. Matters for Discussion

C.1 Tracking System for Businesses that have not Re-Opened, and Assistance the Town can Provide

- Town staff working with businesses on re-opening plans, though no formal tracking system has been initiated
- Business re-opening toolkits are being circulated

C.2 Jersey Barriers in Downtown Thornbury

- Jersey barriers installed on Bruce Street South between Louisa Street and Arthur Street West at the request of the Business Improvement Area
  - Objective of installation is to create space for social distancing while allowing businesses to have a street presence
- Survey circulated to downtown businesses regarding the jersey barriers: 9 in support, 14 in opposition
  - Dialogue with businesses is ongoing, and a decision will be made by Council
  - Councillor Sampson noted in the absence of barriers, chairs/flowers, etc. may have to be cleared from the street to ensure room for pedestrian access, per advice from the Medical Officer of Health
- Steve Simon noted the Chamber of Commerce Board believes a street closure would be appropriate, and pointed to the success of Elora and Fergus, Melissa Goldmintz-Shah noted members of the community believe closing the street to traffic would be appropriate
  - Mayor Soever noted a full closure would change traffic patterns and carries logistical challenges, but noted he has received the same feedback regarding a street closure from some members of the public

C.3 Meal/Food Grocery Delivery Update

- Meal delivery program need is increasing: Senior’s program has 48 recipients, and the school program serves 18 families
- Chef Gilles Hache is providing food delivery as well with a small number of seniors being served through both Chef Gilles’ program and the church’s program
C.4 Updates from Task Force Advisory Participants

- Councillor Sampson advised the Grants and Donations Committee is planning a Lobster Fest 2020 event with assistance from the Marsh Street Centre
- The intent is to raise funds for community groups in The Blue Mountains and will focus on a take-out lobster meal, with a small picnic option, if permitted

D. Correspondence

None

E. New and Unfinished Business

E.1 Additions to the Agenda

E.1.1 Grey Bruce Graduation Celebration

- Grey and Bruce Counties are holding a virtual graduate recognition celebration on June 24, 2020
- Discussed if a similar recognition could be done in The Blue Mountains
- The Grants and Donations Committee will consider if an opportunity exists to purchase local gift cards, or similar, for graduates
  - Melissa Goldmintz-Shah noted Lemonade Collective would contribute towards a graduation recognition initiative
  - Carolyn Letourneau noted Beaver Valley Outreach would contribute towards a graduation recognition initiative

E.2 Items Identified for Discussion at the Next Meeting

F. Notice of Meeting Dates

July 8, 2020

G. Adjournment

Moved by: Rob Sampson  Seconded by: Alar Soever

THAT the Community Recovery Task Force does now adjourn at 9:27 a.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair, Carried.