Minutes
Community Recovery Task Force

Meeting Date: August 26, 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 with Councillor Peter Bordignon and Councillor Rob Sampson present.

Advisory participants present were Dr. Sabrina Saunders, Gillian Fairley, Cathy Innes, Derek Hammond, Melissa Twist, Rob Cederberg, and Melissa Goldmintz-Shah. Carolyn Letourneau joined the meeting following the call to order.

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.

By invitation, Attainable Housing Corporation Executive Director Sharon McCormick was present.

Regrets were sent by advisory participants Tim Newton, Lisa Burechails, Shawn McKinlay, Tom Kennedy, Andrew Siegwart, Sarah Filion, Steve Simon, Tony Poole, Diane Anderson, Reverend Dr. Grayhame Bowcott, Paul Pinchbeck, and Mark Woodburn. Director of Operations Shawn Carey also sent his regrets.

• Task Force Member Attendance

• Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Peter Bordignon Seconded by: Rob Sampson

THAT the Agenda of August 26, 2020 be approved as circulated, including any additions to the Agenda, being Item E.1.1 Provincial Funding Update, and Item E.1.2 OPP Patrols on Beaver River, 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.
B. Staff Reports and Deputations

B.1 Deputations, if any
None

B.3 Staff Reports, if any
None

C. Matters for Discussion

C.1 Attainable Housing Corporation Initiatives – Executive Director Sharon McCormick

Executive Director Sharon McCormick provided an overview on Attainable Housing Corporation Initiatives and led the group through a presentation.

Sharon clarified the attainable housing definition, and the need for attainable housing given the community’s market conditions. Sharon reviewed the attainable housing eligibility criteria and next steps, provided an overview of the planning review process currently underway, and further advised how members of the Task Force can get involved or registered for updates on the Gateway Site.

Councillor Bordignon requested the estimated timeline for when initial designs will be available to the public. Sharon explained the Attainable Housing Corporation is initiating a pre-qualification process in Fall 2020 and noted any design would be put forward following the planning review process and the Request for Quotation/Request for Proposal procurement process, likely Spring 2021.

Councillor Sampson requested that the presentation made by Sharon be available on the Attainable Housing Corporation’s website and confirmed no decisions have been made about any size/design.

Mayor Soever thanked Sharon for the presentation.

C.2 What’s New / Town Updates

- Paid Parking Pilot Project – Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons
  - Town still in soft opening phase, with $7,500 in fees received to date
  - License plate intake at Town Hall is underway
  - Discussed additional communication measures required around the paid parking initiative
- Leisure Activities Plan – Ryan Gibbons
  - Currently seeking members for the Leisure Activities Plan Steering Committee, Councillor Bordignon was appointed as the Council representative to the Committee;
Interviews have been initiated, roadside signs installed, postcards have been mailed out
Dr. Sabrina Saunders advised that paper copies of the survey can be returned to the library

- Residency Study – Mayor Soever
  - Information on residency study was circulated with the Tax Bills, with the goal to understand population changes due to COVID-19
  - According to census, there are 3,500 seasonal residences in the Town, but have heard anecdotally that many previously part-time residents are making The Blue Mountains their permanent residence
  - This has an impact on infrastructure, service delivery, etc.
  - Manager of Communications and Economic Development Tim Hendry noted preliminary results of the study support that many people are planning to spend more time than normal in The Blue Mountains and will not be travelling in winter 2020/2021

C.3 Rural Access to Broadband Internet Technology (RABIT) Task Force Overview

NOTE: included for reference is a summary from Deputy Mayor Potter to guide the discussion.

- Mayor Soever reviewed the summary document with the Task Force group
  - COVID-19 has heightened the need for reliable, high-speed internet
  - Reviewed ICON and work being done by Bruce Street Technologies
  - Work being undertaken by staff and the Task Force with the apple grower community – potential for water irrigation line installation to create efficiencies for installing conduit for fiberoptic cable installation
  - Project estimated to start mid-2021

C.4 Updates from Task Force Advisory Participants

Carolyn Letourneau, Beaver Valley Outreach

- Treasure Shop open a few days a week, has been well-received by the community
- Stopped donations to the Treasure Shop temporarily as less product is being moved compared to normal, due to reduced operating hours and less individuals being permitted in the store
- Will be posting a request for additional volunteers
- Preschool is open
- Before-school program not starting up in September
- Breakfast Club will be very different, pre-packaged food only
Dr. Sabrina Saunders, L.E. Shore Memorial Library

- Library reopened the week of August 17, 2020 with a slightly different schedule than normal
- Craigleith Heritage Depot reopening Fall 2020
- When using facilities, everyone must wear a mask or face covering
- The library is offering face shields for individuals who have pre-existing medical conditions
- Materials being quarantined for an average of 3 days
- Continuing online program delivery

D. Correspondence

None

E. New and Unfinished Business

E.1 Additions to the Agenda

E.1.1 Provincial Funding Update

- $493,500 received by Province of Ontario to support COVID-19 related expenses, funds were provided to every municipality based on the number of households
  - Assists with added Community Services and By-law staff
  - Mayor is writing to Province to note that expenses and pressures related to additional tourism are not covered

Derek Hammond left the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

E.1.2 OPP Patrols on Beaver River

- Received reports of increased tourism activity at Beaver River
- Experiencing garbage, broken glass, noise, and unruly behaviour
- OPP is executing joint patrols on the river, and has issued 30 alcohol-related tickets

E.2 Items Identified for Discussion at the Next Meeting

- September 19, 2020 Oktoberfest Dinner, with funds going to Marsh Street Centre

F. Notice of Meeting Dates

Meetings are being moved to monthly.
G. **Adjournment**

Moved by: Rob Sampson  
Seconded by: Peter Bordignon

THAT the Community Recovery Task Force does now adjourn at 10:09 a.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair, Carried.