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## Community Recovery Task Force

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**Meeting Date:** December 16, 2020  
**Meeting Time:** 9:00 a.m.  
**Location:** Microsoft Teams Meeting  
**Prepared by:** Sarah Merrifield, Executive Assistant Committees of Council

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### A. Call to Order

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

Advisory participants present were Cathy Innes, Diane Anderson, Mark Woodburn, Melissa Twist, Rob Cederberg, and Melissa Goldmintz-Shah. Sarah Fillion and Shawn McKinlay joined the meeting at 9:06 a.m., Andrew Siegwart joined the meeting at 9:10 a.m., Dr. Sabrina Saunders joined the meeting at 9:23 a.m., and Tim Newton, and Reverend Dr. Grayhame Bowcott 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 Operations Shawn Carey, and Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons.

Regrets were sent by advisory participants Gillian Fairley, Lisa Burechails, Tom Kennedy, Carolyn Letourneau, Steve Simon, Tony Poole, Derek Hammond, and Paul Pinchbeck. Manager of Communications and Economic Development Tim Hendry also sent regrets.

- **Task Force Member Attendance**
- **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by: Peter Bordignon

Seconded by: Rob Sampson

THAT the Agenda of December 16, 2020 be approved as circulated, including any additions to the Agenda, being: Item E.1.1 Ski Resorts out West and Lessons Learned, and Item E.1.2 Motion from Town of Collingwood Council regarding Letter to Premier about Visitors, 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**

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### **B.1 Deputations, if any**

None

### **B.2 Staff Reports, if any**

None

## **C. Matters for Discussion**

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Note: Item C.2 discussed prior to C.1

### **C.2 COVID-19 Update – Mayor Soever**

- Mayor Soever reviewed COVID-19 trending with the group, and noted there has been a downward trend recently in the number of cases in Grey Bruce
- Mayor Soever reviewed the Collingwood Today article, “Private gatherings to blame for recent COVID spike in Grey, says health unit”
- Mayor Soever noted the importance of remaining within household units over the holidays

Andrew Siegwart joined the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

### **C.1 Mandatory Mask By-law – Mayor Soever**

- Council passed the Mandatory Mask By-law on December 14, 2020
- The By-law does not change anything about the Provincial Order, but does speak to responsibility of individuals with respect to mask-wearing
- Andrew Siegwart noted his thanks to the Town for passing the Mandatory Mask By-law
- It was noted that if an individual refuses to wear a face covering, and cites an exemption, businesses can try to accommodate the individual (i.e. face shield, alternate mode of service)
- An Emergency Order was signed to provide an exemption to the Sign By-law so businesses can post notice of the mask by-law – By-law officers will be visiting retail locations and providing the signs for posting, along with providing some education to business owners with respect to the by-law

### **C.3 “Give the Gift of Blue” Update – Manager of Communications and Economic Development Tim Hendry**

- Executive Assistant to Committees of Council Sarah Merrifield provided the following update on behalf of Manager of Communications and Economic Development Tim Hendry:
  - Over 400 submissions received to date, with demonstrated retail spending ranging between \$20,000 to \$30,000

- Week 1 and 2 winners were from Kimberly and Thornbury
- Thanks to partners who have assisted in communicating the campaign

#### **C.4 Christmas Dinner and Video Sub-Committee Update – Councillor Bordignon and Councillor Sampson**

- Councillor Bordignon noted the video is very professional and well-done, and commended Town staff and community participants for a job well-done
  - The video is being released on the exploreblue.ca website December 19, 2020
- Councillor Matrosovs and John White are coordinating volunteers and food logistics
  - December 18, 2020 – Food distribution through St. George’s Cares recipients (250 meals)
  - December 19, 2020 – Food distribution at Beaver Valley Outreach (250 community meals)
    - The program has received donations from community members and organizations

#### **C.5 Updates from Task Force Advisory Participants**

##### **Cathy Innes**

- Seniors Centre Without Walls – well-received by Community, with 10-15 participants on each call
- Holiday Hamper Day – 100 hampers being distributed with an emphasis on local businesses, along with 25 Christmas meals available

##### **Derek Hammond**

- Update provided by Executive Assistant to Committees of Council Sarah Merrifield at the request of Derek Hammond
  - Noted thanks to the Town for extending the Thornbury Cidery patio into December 2020 which has helped the business

##### **Tim Newton**

- Digital Main Street – grants are closed, but the service will continue to end of February 2021

##### **Reverend Dr. Grayhame Bowcott**

- Meal service through the Beaver Valley Community School is finished for 2020, and will be re-established the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January 2021

### **Sarah Fillion**

- Clarksburg Tour of Lights – 160 participants, well-received by the community
- Noted her thanks to the Community Recovery Task Force members for their hard work to date during the COVID-19 pandemic

### **Shawn McKinlay**

- Legion is open 3 days/week
- Noted his thanks to the Community Recovery Task Force members for their hard work to date during the COVID-19 pandemic

### **Andrew Siegwart**

- Noted an announcement is forthcoming regarding the opening of ski season at Blue Mountain Resort
- Noted his thanks to the Community Recovery Task Force members for their hard work to date during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Mayor Soever expressed his thanks to Andrew, and stakeholders at the Village for all the safety protocols and plans in place to keep people safe
  - Mayor Soever confirmed there's no record of documented community spread from visitors in the village, which is a testament to the health and safety protocols in place

## **D. Correspondence**

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None

## **E. New and Unfinished Business**

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### **E.1 Additions to the Agenda**

#### **E.1.1 Ski Resorts out West and Lessons Learned**

- Mayor Soever reviewed correspondence he received about some difficulties ski resorts are experiencing in Western Canada with respect to apres-ski activities
- Andrew Siegwart noted the regional ski resorts have strict operating protocols with respect to dining, gatherings, and accommodations

#### **E.1.2 Motion from Town of Collingwood Council regarding Letter to Premier about Visitors**

- The Task Force reviewed the twitter feed from Town of Collingwood with respect to a motion carried by Collingwood Council to request the Premier of Ontario to be more forceful in calling Ontario residents (i.e. GTAers) to limit travel, especially to our area
- It was noted that a majority of spread is coming from private gatherings
- The communications by the Town of The Blue Mountains to date do not encourage unnecessary travel, but instead, request individuals to adhere to health and safety protocols in place, which provides a more collaborative model

- Andrew Siegwart noted the Grey Bruce Health Unit has been supportive of the direction taken by Town of The Blue Mountains and its stakeholders and noted this underscores the need for community members to be able to afford to live in the community

Councillor Sampson left the meeting.

## **E.2 Items Identified for Discussion at the Next Meeting**

- Review of Holiday Operations in The Blue Mountains

## **F. Notice of Meeting Dates**

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January 6, 2020

## **G. Adjournment**

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Moved by: Peter Bordignon

Seconded by: Alar Soever

THAT the Community Recovery Task Force does now adjourn at 9:55 a.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair, Carried.