Minutes

Rural Access to Broadband Internet Technology (RABIT) Task Force

Meeting Date:	**February 3, 2021**
Meeting Time:	**11:00 a.m.**
Location:	**Microsoft Teams Meeting**
Prepared by	**Sarah Merrifield, Executive Assistant Committees of Council**

A.   Call to Order

Deputy Mayor Rob Potter called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. with Councillor Rob Sampson and Mayor Alar Soever in attendance.

Town staff in attendance were Chief Administrative Officer Shawn Everitt, Director of Operations Shawn Carey, Manager of Information Technology Cathy Bailey, and GIS Specialist Steve Aldred.

▪ **Task Force Member Attendance**

▪ **Additions to the Agenda**

None

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, Rural Access to Broadband Internet Technology (RABIT) Task Force members must file a written statement of the interest and its general nature with the Clerk for inclusion on the Registry.

None

▪ **Review of Minutes (January 20, 2021)**

Minutes were reviewed and deemed sufficient.

B.   Staff Reports and Deputations

B.1   Deputations, if any

None

C. Matters for Discussion

C.1 ICON Application Update, Blair Almond – Bruce Street Technologies

- Blair Almond, Bruce Street Technologies attended the meeting for Item C.1 to provide an ICON Application Update
- Blair has not received confirmation that the most recent ICON application was successful yet
- Noted the recent increase in government funding for broadband has increased lead time and competition for resources/fibre supply/equipment/staff
- 50/10 service mapping available is not current
- Confirmed that Internet Service Providers are aware of the location of dark fibre

C.2 Town of The Blue Mountains Mapping Update – Manager of IT Cathy Bailey and GIS Specialist Steve Aldred

- Reviewed updated mapping that includes a broader reach (Meaford and Grey Highlands) and density mapping
    - All mapping provided to date is public information and can be shared
    - Mayor Soever will present the mapping during the Internet Service Provider Information Centre with GIS staff on hand in case questions arise that require additional clarification
- Discussed amendment to the RABIT Task Force webpage that includes a link to the CIRA Internet Speed test
- Manager of Information Technology Cathy Bailey noted some dark fiber is not available for internet connection

C.3 Internet Service Provider Public Information Centre Update

- Invitation provided to 21 ISPs
- 5 ISPs registered as at February 2, 2021
- Deputy Mayor Potter to provide Introductory remarks and welcome other municipal stakeholders in attendance
- RABIT Task Force meeting to be scheduled for Friday, February 12 – should be treated as a planning session
    - Maximum 16 speakers – if 12 agree to present, Executive Assistant to circulate notice to all ISPs that were contacted to advise that only a few speaking spots remain

Manager of Information Technology Cathy Bailey and GIS Specialist Steve Aldred left the meeting at 12:14 p.m.

C.4   **ROMA Conference Takeaways regarding Broadband Internet, including Potential Funding Sources – Deputy Mayor Potter and Mayor Soever**

- The Task Force reviewed ROMA notes as compiled by Mayor Soever
- The Task Force members need to review current available internet funding sources

D.   Correspondence

None

E.   New and Unfinished Business

E.1   **Additions to the Agenda**

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

F.   Upcoming Meeting Dates

February 16, 2021 Public Information Centre – Internet Service Providers

February 17, 2021 Regular RABIT Task Force meeting

G.   Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:18 p.m.