



Minutes

Community Recovery Task Force

Meeting Date: February 19, 2021

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 9:01 a.m. with Councillor Peter Bordignon and Councillor Rob Sampson present.

Advisory participants present were Dr. Sabrina Saunders, Carolyn Letourneau, Cathy Innes, Andrew Siegwart, Reverend Dr. Grayhame Bowcott, Rob Cederberg, and Derek Hammond following the call to order.

Town staff present were Chief Administrative Officer Shawn Everitt, Director of Finance and IT Services Ruth Prince, and Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons.

Regrets were sent by Lisa Burechails, Shawn McKinlay, Tom Kennedy, Sarah Fillion, Tony Poole, Diane Anderson, Paul Pinchbeck, Mark Woodburn, Melissa Twist, and Melissa Goldmintz-Shah. Town staff who sent regrets were Director of Operations Shawn Carey, and Manager of Communications and Economic Development Tim Hendry.

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

Moved by: Councillor Bordignon

Seconded by: Councillor Sampson

THAT the Agenda of February 19, 2021 be approved as circulated, including any additions to the Agenda, 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.2 Staff Reports, if any

None

C. Matters for Discussion

C.1 COVID-19 Update – Mayor Soever

- Grey and Bruce Counties are currently straddling the green and yellow regions
- 1 variant case that does not pose a risk to the public has been identified
- Councillor Sampson questioned whether Public Health or the Province has identified a clear COVID-19 exit strategy, and it was noted that no such strategy has been confirmed – Councillor Bordignon noted it is important to have a sense of hope regarding a return to normalcy
- Mayor Soever reviewed the vaccine arrival and distribution in Grey/Bruce – noted the need to prioritize vaccination of elderly residents and also advised that he has requested a vaccination hub in The Blue Mountains
 - Andrew Siegwart offered conference space if necessary during this process

C.2 Food Security Discussion – all members

- Noted general increase in community meals demands, and visits to the Beaver Valley Outreach
- Mayor Soever noted that if any organization in The Blue Mountains distributing meals requires face shields or Personal Protective Equipment, to reach out to the Town
- Beaver Valley Outreach is also providing themed bags for pick up (i.e. breakfast, chili, baking, condiment, etc bags)
- Beaver Valley Outreach has been assisting with food needs and also rent and utility payments, and has plans to expand the community garden
- St. George's Anglican Church has also provided housing assistance to families and is noticing an increased need
- Councillor Sampson noted that perhaps The Blue Mountains Attainable Housing Corporation would be able to assist with short-term housing needs

C.3 Updates from Task Force Advisory Participants

Andrew Siegwart

- Slow return to Blue Mountain Village operations with ambassador teams set up onsite to reinforce safety controls and protocols
- Operating numbers are approximately ½ of what they would normally be
- General consumer is still cautious about indoor dining, but safety protocols and consumer education is helping
- Noted there is not the same volume of out-of-area guests

Derek Hammond

- 300% increase in revenues over the previous week
- Outdoor “igloo” seating is proving popular with most individuals uncomfortable still with indoor seating

Carolyn Letourneau

- Seniors Centre Without Walls message shared, which highlighted the need to safely engage seniors, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic
 - 5 programs per week, with 10-12 people calling in every day
 - Mayor Soever to speak to the Seniors Centre Without Walls programming during weekly meeting
 - Mayor Soever noted that in a Police Services Board meeting, mental health needs are increasing in the region
 - Beaver Valley Outreach is starting an Elder Abuse Prevention Podcast

D. Correspondence

None

E. New and Unfinished Business

E.1 Additions to the Agenda

- A note will be circulated to Task Force members requesting feedback regarding meeting frequency/relevance of agenda topics, etc.

E.2 Items Identified for Discussion at the Next Meeting

- Housing and Food Security

F. Notice of Meeting Dates

March 3, 2021

G. Adjournment

Moved by: Councillor Bordignon

Seconded by: Councillor Sampson

THAT the Community Recovery Task Force does now adjourn at 9:56 a.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair, Carried.