



# Minutes

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## Rural Access to Broadband Internet Technology (RABIT) Task Force

**Meeting Date:** March 3, 2021  
**Meeting Time:** 11:00 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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Deputy Mayor Potter called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. with Councillor Sampson and Mayor Soever present.

Town staff present were Chief Administrative Officer Shawn Everitt, Director of Operations Shawn Carey, and Manager of Communications and Economic Development Tim Hendry.

- **Task Force Member Attendance**
- **Additions to the Agenda**

#### E.1.1 Bruce Street Technologies Future Project

##### **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 (February 3, 12, 16, 17, 2021)**

Minutes were reviewed and deemed sufficient

### B. Staff Reports and Deputations

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#### B.1 Deputations, if any

None

## **C. Matters for Discussion**

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### **C.1 Internet Speed Test Campaign – Manager of Communications and Economic Development Tim Hendry**

- Reviewed proposal by Tim Hendry with respect to The Blue Mountains Internet Speed Test Campaign, which will be conducted in coordination with the Canadian Internet Registration Authority (“CIRA”)
- \$5,000 in 2021 for RABIT Task Force communications – noted a more substantial budget is required in the future

Mayor Soever joined the meeting at 11:36 a.m.

- Shawn Everitt providing a report to March 23, 2021 Committee of the Whole outlining the budget request for the RABIT TF and identifying the Internet Speed Test Initiative
- Speed Test to be run May 3 to 31, 2021, marketing to begin the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of April 2021

Manager of Communications and Economic Development Tim Hendry left the meeting at 11:43 a.m.

### **C.2 Review of RABIT TF Webpage**

<https://www.thebluemountains.ca/rural-access-to-broadband-internet-technology.cfm>

- Reviewed the revised RABIT Task Force webpage, which looks sufficient and no changes are needed at this time

### **C.3 Request for Information Update and Timeline for CENGn to meet with Task Force**

- Confirm whether CENGn can attend the March 17, 2021 RABIT Task Force meeting
- Deputy Mayor Potter to send note to SWIFT representative requesting a meeting

### **C.4 Internet Service Provider Requests for Letter of Support**

NOTE: These letters of support are being provided to Council for consideration March 8, 2021

- Eh!Tel
- GBTEL Inc.

A meeting will be held March 8, 2021 prior to Council to review the Eh!Tel and GBTEL Inc. requests. In future, any request for support related to provision of broadband should be brought through the Task Force

It was noted that these requests for support are a positive result of the Town hosting the February 16, 2021 Public Information Centre

## **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 Bruce Street Technologies Future Projects**

- Bruce Street Technologies has identified several projects for provision of broadband for 2021, but need to discuss installation methods
- Requested that this be added to a March 9, 2021 RABIT Task Force meeting for consideration

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

- Draft Report for March 23, 2021 Committee of the Whole

Deputy Mayor Potter requested that future RABIT Task Force agendas include an Action Item Tracking list

## **F. Upcoming Meeting Dates**

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March 8, 2021

March 9, 2021

March 17, 2021

## **G. Adjournment**

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Meeting was adjourned at 12:23 p.m.