



Notice of Public Meeting (Virtual)

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

Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Town Hall, Council Chambers
32 Mill Street, Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

What is being proposed?

The Town's Rural Access to Broadband Internet Technology ("RABIT") Task Force is a Task Force of Council for matters related to the development, implementation and progress monitoring of sustainable solutions for rural access broadband internet in the Town of The Blue Mountains.

On February 16, 2021 the RABIT Task Force held a Public Information Centre open to Internet Service Providers in order to better understand their existing capabilities. To view the meeting video and review materials submitted by the Internet Service Providers, please visit: <https://www.thebluemountains.ca/rural-access-to-broadband-internet-technology.cfm>. This webpage also includes previous meeting minutes and additional detail about the work of the Task Force.

The Task Force was granted permission through the April 6, 2021 Council meeting to hold a statutory public meeting as a Special Meeting of Council on **May 5, 2021**. The intention of this Public Meeting is for Council to meet virtually with members of the public and discuss the following:

- Task Force Purpose and Mandate
- Work Undertaken to Date
- The Blue Mountains Internet Speed Test Challenge
- The Blue Mountains Rural Internet Needs

The comments received at the Public Meeting will also be provided to Planning and Development Services staff as they develop the Protocol for Establishing Telecommunication Facilities for The Blue Mountains.

Questions? Want more information? Ask a Staff Member!

Shawn Everitt, Chief Administrative Officer
519-599-3131 ext 234
cao@thebluemountains.ca

Under the authority of the Municipal Act, 2001 and in accordance with Ontario's Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA), all information provided for, or at a Public Meeting, Public Consultation, or other Public Process are considered part of the public record, including resident deputations. This information may be posted on the Town's website. and/or made available to the public upon request.

This document can be made available in other accessible formats as soon as practicable and upon request.

When will a decision be made?

The purpose of this meeting is to receive feedback from the public regarding the provision of rural broadband. Comments received will be considered as the Task Force furthers its Mandate.

Comments will also be provided to Planning and Development Services staff as they undertake development of a Protocol for Establishing Telecommunication Facilities in The Blue Mountains.

Virtual Public Meeting Information

To help limit the spread of COVID-19, this Public Meeting will be held in a virtual (online) format. You are encouraged to provide your comments or questions in writing using email, fax or regular letter to the Town Clerk in advance of the Public Meeting.

Written comments will be circulated to Council. Comments received at least one (1) business day in advance of the Public Meeting (by **Tuesday, May 4, 2021 - 1:00 p.m.**) will be read by the Town Clerk at the Public Meeting.

Anyone wishing to speak on this matter at the Public Meeting is encouraged to pre-register early, and not later than five (5) business days in advance of the Public Meeting (by **Wednesday, April 28, 2021 – 1:00 p.m.**). For this without a computer, a dial-in phone number is available.

Please contact the Town Clerk to pre-register or submit comments to townclerk@thebluemountains.ca or by calling the Town at 519-599-3131 ext. 232 or by fax at 519-599-7723.

Please note that any submitted comments become part of the **public record**, including names and addresses.