



# Minutes

## Community Recovery Task Force

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**Meeting Date:** April 13, 2021  
**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 9:01 a.m. with Councillor Rob Sampson present.

Advisory participants present were Carolyn Letourneau, Cathy Innes, Pamela McDermid, Andrew Siegwart, Sarah Filion, Tony Poole, Diane Anderson, Derek Hammond, Reverend Dr. Grayhame Bowcott, Melissa Twist and Rob Cederberg.

Town staff present were Chief Administrative Officer Shawn Everitt, Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons, Director of Finance and IT Services Ruth Prince, and Manager of Communications and Economic Development Tim Hendry.

Regrets were sent by Councillor Peter Bordignon, advisory participants Dr. Sabrina Saunders, Tim Newton, Gillian Fairley, Shawn McKinlay, Tom Kennedy, Paul Pinchbeck, and Mark Woodburn. Regrets were also sent by the Town's Director of Operations Shawn Carey.

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

Moved by: Rob Sampson

Seconded by: Alar Soever

THAT the Agenda of April 13, 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**

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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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### **C.1 Grey Bruce Vaccination Update – Mayor Alar Soever**

- **Progress**
  - Clinic held in Thornbury on Saturday, April 10 with 320 doses allocated
  - Thank you to community volunteers, Town staff, and Dr. Remillard
  - Email address [vaccine-interest@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:vaccine-interest@thebluemountains.ca) has been set up to collect emails of those individuals in The Blue Mountains who would like to express interest in receiving the vaccine – **this does not replace the need to be added to the Public Health or Pharmacy listing**
  - Thornbury Pharmasave has 2,500 individuals on the vaccine waiting list at last check
  - Ontario is experiencing a shortage in vaccine availability, which has been the largest barrier to vaccination efforts to date
  - For the week of April 12, vaccine clinics will focus on clients 60+, those in the highest risk category, First Nations communities, congregate settings, participating pharmacies, the immunocompromised, school and childcare staff, among other identified priority individuals
  - Province is prioritizing vaccine availability based on hotspot areas
- **Seniors' Experience and Feedback**
  - Seniors Centre Without Walls is assisting to register seniors
    - Reporting that seniors are feeling vulnerable given the higher case rates in The Blue Mountains
    - Generally the registration and vaccination appointment process has been getting simpler
    - Some concern that a few seniors who have attended a clinic for their appointment time are not registered within the system which casts concern about whether they are successfully registered for their second doses

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

- Grey Bruce case numbers are trending upwards and as such, the public must be hypervigilant

### **C.3 South Georgian Bay Tourism Recovery Task Force Update – Councillor Sampson**

- Task Force is providing valued input to the Provincial Tourism Recovery Task Force for consideration
- The regional Task Force may continue once the recommendations report is submitted to the Province to help manage and implement tactical regional tasks

### **C.4 Updates from Task Force Advisory Participants**

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

- 135 meal recipients through the St George's Community Cares program
- Developing extended programming that will support parents at home with their children during the Provincial shut down

#### **Sarah Fillion**

- Approximately ½ of businesses in Clarksburg are temporarily closed due to the Provincial announcement regarding shut down and are preparing for the transition to the summer season
- A primary concern is that, should the shut down extend into May or June, businesses will need access to funding
- There are new businesses in the process of opening in Clarksburg

#### **Tony Poole**

- As this is the second shut down for businesses in the 2021 calendar year, businesses may experience detrimental impacts with respect to inventory management and cashflow
- Restaurants continue to pivot to allow for takeout services
- Curbside pick up activity seems to be less than during prior lockdowns
- If the lockdown extends past the initially-identified 28-days, it will be more difficult for businesses to meet the demands expected during the summer months

#### **Carolyn Letourneau**

- Many of Beaver Valley Outreaches' childcare staff have received their appointments for vaccination
- Childcare services will continue, even with schools being closed
  - Mayor Soever enquired whether there is ability to extend childcare services offering through the shut down – Carolyn noted it is a matter she would need to give additional consideration before responding – child care services are very regulated

## **Andrew Siegwart**

- Andrew agreed with comments made previously regarding the business climate, and added that the current business volumes have led many business owners to pause, pending further guidance from the Province
- Participating on the Province's Signature Destinations Task Force, which includes recommendations such as: continued funding, infrastructure and capital funding, ambassador programming, crowd management, robust itineraries, traveler distribution for consistent visitation sharing across destinations, among others

## **Mayor Alar Soever**

- Call with Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on April 15, 2021 to discuss recent funding that does not allow municipalities to qualify based on COVID-19 costs, but instead based on number of households – previous programs were based on demonstrated need

## **D. Correspondence**

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None

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

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

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

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

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April 28, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

## **G. Adjournment**

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Moved by: Rob Sampson

Seconded by: Alar Soever

THAT the Community Recovery Task Force does now adjourn at 9:35 a.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair, Carried.