

From: Lorraine Sutton <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 11:24 AM
To: Corrina Giles <[REDACTED]>; Sarah Merrifield <[REDACTED]>;
Alar Soever <[REDACTED]>; Andrea Matrosovs <[REDACTED]>; Rob Potter
<[REDACTED]>; Kim Harris <[REDACTED]>
Subject: draft - Letter re Trees in TBM

To ICSP - Rob Potter, Kim Harris
Mayor Alar Soever and Council
cc C Giles , Sarah Merrifield
cc Tree Subcommittee - Andrea Astrovos
Travis Sandberg

Hello All,

Thank You for hosting the **Tree Preservation Open House on March 24, 2021** and providing the survey to TBM residents.

I am following up with a number of basic principles and activities that I would like to see TBM dopt and incorporate into Tree planning and policy in 2021.

Tree Planting, Preservation and Maintenance in the Town of the Blue Mountain in 2021

The initial report from Intelligent Futures Consulting Group, to the ICSP committee, listed as the top two themes, Watershed Health and Greenhouse Gas emissions and energy. Watershed health is all about the status of the natural environment. International best practices, local policy and local experts, support the protection and maintenance of ecological resources, while enhancing biodiversity, wildlife environments, and improving water quality. **Trees play an essential and important part in all of this.**

Trees

- provide shade from the sun's UV rays...they reduce heating and cooling costs
- offer shelter and habitat for birds and other wildlife
- purify the air we breathe
- sequester carbon and can be an offset for Climate Change actions
- prevent soil erosion
- help to protect the water cycle by filtering "grey" water into the Beaver River, Indian Brook and the Bay.

- block unattractive views and noise and are a part of the beauty of rural and semi rural landscapes
- green spaces are widely seen as a way to reduce air pollution and illnesses caused or aggravated by air pollution.
- help combat Nature-Deficit Disorder, a condition becoming more prevalent in children.

The TBM needs to do much more.

- Demonstrate that "green infrastructure" is part of the asset planning in TBM, as trees only increase in value, an exponential factor, with time and size.
- Use every existing by-law and policy (in the TBM Official Plan and Grey County Official Plan) to protect trees and require that any trees cut down by development or individuals, are replaced within 1 year by a 5 to one ratio of trees of the same size. Enforce compliance!
- Incorporate the best practices on Urban Forestry and Canopy protection, enhancement and management from other municipalities. Council needs to direct staff to research the best tree practices and policy in southern Ontario and the path to implementation over the next 3 years.
- Tree Preservation and Enhancement is the responsibility of governments, owners of private property (large and small) as well as commercial, agricultural and business landowners.
- TBM needs to sign on for the Nature Canada 2 billion Tree Planting Initiative and plant more trees in all parks and by-laws and public properties and along TBM roads.

Do not let our common inheritance of forests, wildlife and natural landforms, which we love, be taken for the profit of a small number of individuals and their personal benefit.

The famous ecologist E.O.Wilson calculates that we need half of the surface of the earth to provide the life giving services we receive from nature. These are not the present goals of our Federal Government to protect 30 % by 2030.

The Town of the Blue Mountains, can make this an opportunity to be a leader in municipal ecological management in 2021.

Sincerely

Lorraine Sutton

