



Minutes

Rural Access to Broadband Internet Technology (RABIT) Task Force

Meeting Date: November 4, 2020
Meeting Time: 3:00 p.m.
Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting
Prepared by Sarah Merrifield, Executive Assistant Committees of Council

A. Call to Order

Deputy Mayor Rob Potter called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. with Councillor Rob Sampson and Mayor Alar Soever present.

Town staff present was Director of Operations Shawn Carey.

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

None

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 (October 14, 2020)**

Meetings reviewed and deemed sufficient.

B. Staff Reports and Deputations

B.1 Deputations, if any

None

C. Matters for Discussion

C.1 Discussion with Jeffery Campbell, Resident

Re: Internet at Christie Beach/Sunset Boulevard

- DSL system with outdated nodes, but high internet costs
- COVID-19 emphasized the need for reliable internet services in the Christie Beach/Sunset Boulevard area
- Residents advocating for enhanced internet services went door-to-door in the area and received significant interest from property owners in the area
- Bell will be installing fibre in late 2020, early 2021 to upgrade the services, according to information provided to Mr. Campbell

C.2 Update from Blair Almond, Bruce Street Technologies

Re: ICON Grant Application and Progress

- Received 1st round approvals, and currently working on second round application
- Summit View/Fawcett Lane services installed and functioning
- Stabtown area services requires road works, which has been approved by the Town's Operations Department – anticipated installation start date: week of November 9, 2020
- Discussed that potential timing of water line installation for fruit growers may not align with fibre installation

C.3 FCM Broadband Master Class Webinar – Deputy Mayor Potter

- Reviewed summary document provided by Deputy Mayor Potter regarding the FCM Broadband Master Class webinar
- Fibre offers the most potential for expansion
- Discussed that mapping which includes all known underground infrastructure will be needed – Shawn Carey and Blair Almond to investigate further

C.4 Follow-up to Discussion with Municipality of Grey Highlands and Municipality of Meaford regarding Potential Interest in Broadband Provision – CAO Shawn Everitt

- Sarah Merrifield, on behalf of Shawn Everitt, confirmed the Grey Highlands and Meaford Chief Administrative Officers are interested in the broadband work being undertaken and have been invited to the November 18, 2020 Task Force meeting

C.5 Proposed Schedule and Itinerary for Public Information Centre – Mayor Soever and Shawn Everitt

- The proposal for the style of the PIC has not yet been developed
- Mayor Soever provided a proposed letter that can be sent to internet providers to invite them to the PIC
- Sarah Merrifield to assist Shawn Everitt and Mayor Soever with developing the PIC proposal and the administrative functions associated with this action item

C.6 Status of ICON Press Release

- Deferred until January 2021, pending announcement of successful application of ICON Round 2

C.7 Hydro One Utility and Right-of-Way Use Research – Director of Operations Shawn Carey

- Franchise agreements in place with hydro providers to allow for right-of-way access, but no ability to leverage rental/occupancy fees
 - However, municipalities can collect fees associated with work permits, road closure fees, staff time costs, etc.

D. Correspondence

None

E. New and Unfinished Business

E.1 Additions to the Agenda

E.2 Items Identified for Discussion at Next Meeting

- Branding discussion
- Meaford and Grey Highlands CAOs invited to November 18, 2020 meeting
- Slabtown Project Update from Blair Almond
- Letter and PIC dates
- Notice of Motion from Deputy Mayor Potter regarding Broadband

F. Upcoming Meeting Dates

November 18, 2020

G. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.