



# Staff Report

## Legal Services

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**Report To:** Committee of the Whole Meeting  
**Meeting Date:** April 12, 2022  
**Report Number:** FAF.22.075  
**Title:** Follow-up to Public Meeting Options to Regulate Fireworks  
**Prepared by:** Will Thomson, Director of Legal Services

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### A. Recommendations

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THAT Council receive Staff Report FAF.22.075, entitled "Follow-up to Public Meeting Options to Regulate Fireworks" for information;

AND THAT Council direct Staff to pursue Option \_\_\_\_, as discussed at the March 7 Public Meeting, and prepare a draft by-law for Council's consideration.

### B. Overview

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This report provides a follow up to the March 7, 2022, Public Meeting regarding the Options to Regulate Fireworks.

### C. Background

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At the November 29, 2021, Council meeting, Council approved the recommendations from Staff Report [FAF.21.195](#) that included the recommendation to proceed to a Public Meeting to consider the Options to Regulate Fireworks.

The Public Meeting was scheduled for March 7, 2022, and notice was provided in accordance with the town's Provision of Notice and Manner of Giving Notice to the Public Policy, [POL-COR-07-03](#) with notice being posted on the Town website on January 24, 2022, and advertised in the Collingwood Connection on February 17, 2022 and February 24, 2022.

### D. Analysis

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Town Staff provided a brief presentation at the March 7, 2022, Public Meeting which outlined 5 options to regulate fireworks:

1. Status Quo
2. Enhanced Noise By-law
3. Permit System
4. Partial Prohibition (permitted on/around certain holidays)

5. Complete prohibition

Below is a summary of the relevant/applicable public comments received by the Town.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- Should be no sales and no residential usage
- Limited authorized usage for commercial/official events
- Calling the OPP on many occasions for irresponsible usage
- Support strict regulation and/or prohibition.
- A common interest in the area is the natural resources including the small-town feel, the bay, Escarpment, trail systems and access to nature
- Hear the “booms” coming from firework celebrations and can be felt in the ground
- The impact on pets such as dogs under furniture and lost dogs
- Hopefully a “Greener” method can be considered
- Happy that this issue is being considered by council.
- Fireworks are very detrimental to people, wildlife and pets which causes stress
- In a climate crisis now and we need to curtail any unnecessary combustion activities that may increase forest fires
- Impacts war veterans with PTSD due to loud bangs and flashes of fireworks
- Many communities across Ontario are looking to regulate and possibly ban fireworks
- Fireworks are very loud and disturbing
- They scare wildlife and pets
- Interrupt people’s sleep
- Fire hazard
- Waste of money, natural resource and pollute the air and ground below
- Find other way to celebrate
- Ban fireworks forever
- A ban on fireworks is generally ineffective, recommend permitting fireworks on certain holidays, and requiring permits for all other days.
- The Town should not interfere and should let residents use fireworks.

**E. Strategic Priorities**

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**3. Community**

We will protect and enhance the community feel and the character of the Town, while ensuring the responsible use of resources and restoration of nature.

**4. Quality of Life**

We will foster a high quality of life for full-time and part-time residents of all ages and stages, while welcoming visitors.

## **F. Environmental Impacts**

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N/A

## **G. Financial Impacts**

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Regulating and enforcing fireworks would require additional staff time and resources.

## **H. In Consultation With**

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Wayne Dewitt, Supervisor, By-law Services

## **I. Public Engagement**

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The topic of this Staff Report has been the subject of a Public Meeting and/or Public Information Centre which took place on **March 7, 2022**. Those who provided comments at the Public Meeting and/or Public Information Centre, including anyone who has asked to receive notice regarding this matter, has been provided notice of this Staff Report. Any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Will Thomson, Director Legal Services [directorlegal@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:directorlegal@thebluemountains.ca).

## **J. Attached**

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None

Respectfully submitted,

Will Thomson  
Director Legal Services

For more information, please contact:  
Will Thomson, Director Legal Services  
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### Report Approval Details

Document Title:	FAF.22.075 Follow-up to Public Meeting Options to Regulate Fireworks.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Mar 29, 2022

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

**No Signature - Task assigned to Wayne DeWitt was completed by assistant Debbie Young**

**Wayne DeWitt - Mar 29, 2022 - 4:08 PM**

**Will Thomson - Mar 29, 2022 - 4:09 PM**