



# Committee Report

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

**Meeting Date:** January 4, 2021  
**Meeting Time:** 9:00 a.m.  
**Location:** Town Hall, Council Chambers  
32 Mill Street, Thornbury, ON

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### Rural Access to Broadband Internet Task Force Recommendations

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**NOTE:** The following is a time-sensitive recommendation from the Rural Access to Broadband Internet Technology (RABIT) Task Force to be considered for adoption by Council

#### C. Matters for Discussion

##### C.1 Internet Service Provider Public Information Centre Planning

**Recommended** (Move, second)

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains approves the Rural Access to Broadband Internet Technology (RABIT) Task Force to hold a Task Force led Public Information Centre event on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. as outlined in the attached supplementary materials, and briefly outlined below:

- Agenda: RABIT Task Force Introduction, Community Profile and mapping, Short Presentations by Internet Service Providers

NOTE: the following documents are attached for ease of reference:

- draft minutes from the January 4, 2021 RABIT Task Force
- draft Public Information Centre agenda
- draft Invitation to Pre-Qualification and Public Information Session



# Minutes

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

**Meeting Date:** January 4, 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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Deputy Mayor Rob Potter called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. with Councillor Rob Sampson and Mayor Alar Soever present.

Town staff present was Chief Administrative Officer Shawn Everitt.

Regrets were sent by 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 (December 16, 2020)**

Minutes reviewed and deemed sufficient.

### B. Staff Reports and Deputations

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#### B.1 Deputations, if any

None

## **C. Matters for Discussion**

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### **C.1 Internet Service Provider Public Information Centre Planning**

- Public Information Centre date: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 3:30 p.m.
- Agenda Outline
  - RABIT Task Force Introduction by Deputy Mayor Potter
  - Presentation by Task Force outlining: map of serviced/unserviced areas and main truck lines throughout the Town, Community Profile, including demographic information and settlement areas
  - 5-minute presentations by Internet Service Providers
- Public Information Centre to be livestreamed and recorded
- Following the Public Information Centre, at a later date, Town to hold a public Task Force meeting to allow individuals from the public to attend and submit comments and questions regarding the RABIT Task Force initiative and the Public Information Centre
- Executive Assistant Committees of Council to circulate these draft minutes, complete a Committee Report with draft letter to Internet Service Providers and draft event agenda to Task Force members
  - Materials to be included on the January 11, 2021 Council meeting to seek Council's endorsement of the Public Information Centre session
- Deputy Mayor Potter will discuss SWIFT program with Grey County Warden Selwyn Hicks and follow-up with the Task Force

### **C.2 Branding Mock-Ups – Councillor Sampson**

- Councillor Rob Sampson previously circulated RABIT branding mock-ups and it was noted that a revised mock-up will be considered at a subsequent meeting

## **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 Next Meeting**

- Follow-up from January 11, 2021 Committee Report to Council
- Public Information Centre Presentation Material
- Revised Branding Mock-ups

## **F. Upcoming Meeting Dates**

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January 20, 2021

**G. Adjournment**

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Meeting was adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

DRAFT



# Agenda

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

**Meeting Date:** February 16, 2021  
**Meeting Time:** 3:30 p.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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- Task Force Member Attendance
- Additions to the Agenda

#### **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.

- Review of Minutes

### B. Public Information Centre

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#### C.1 Internet Service Provider Public Information Centre

### C. New and Unfinished Business

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#### E.1 Additions to the Agenda

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

### D. Upcoming Meeting Dates

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February 17, 2021

### E. Adjournment

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Time of adjournment

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

***RE: Invitation to Pre-Qualification and Public Information Session Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 3:30 p.m.***

The Town of The Blue Mountains is looking to assist competent and qualified internet service providers (CQISPs) who will provide broadband internet services to one or more underserved areas within the Town. To this end the Town has established the Rural Access to Broadband Internet Technology (RABIT) Task Force.

The Task Force's mandate is to identify ways in which the Town can assist in bringing Broadband technology to all parts of the Town. To this end it is inviting all CQISPs to the public information centre (PIC) on February 16, 2021, where they can introduce their capabilities to Council and the public.

This would be a virtual meeting. Format would be an introduction by the Town outlining the goals of the RABIT task force, the current situation, followed by a five minute presentation by each of the CQISP's on their capabilities and services, followed by questions from Council.

Attendance at this meeting is requested as the Town wishes to be introduced to suppliers and understand the opportunities that currently exist, opportunities that may be available in the future and to help inform the members of the task force, Council, staff, and members of the public. Proponents will be asked to provide suggestions to the RABIT task force on how the task force can promote the provision of broadband internet services to all the underserved areas within the Town. Ideally, this introductory session initiates a process that results in our rural areas being provided with internet in the near future.

Suggestions received will be used to formulate Requests for Proposals, which will be circulated to all pre-qualified CQISPs. (ie. those that have participated in the PIC and RFI process).

The Town of The Blue Mountains is a community located just west of Collingwood within the rolling landscape of the Niagara Escarpment on the sparkling shores of Georgian Bay. Our community is home to many unique towns, hamlets and villages along with over 11,000 hectares of productive agricultural land. The Blue Mountains is known for its world-class ski resorts, hiking and cycling trails, boating, fishing and paddling experiences, golf courses, rock climbing and of course, kilometers of pristine waterfront.

It is these features that make the Town of the Blue Mountains, a very popular place destination to visit and to live, work and play, and that have made us one of the fastest growing communities in Ontario.

We have become the retirement destination of choice for many in the GTA, and more recently for people who can work remotely from their secondary residence.

With the rapid growth we are seeing, comes the need for reliable high-speed broadband internet services.

The Town is committed to moving forward with making hi-speed broadband service available Town- wide as quickly as possible. Come work with us.

**PLEASE RSVP TO:**

Sarah Merrifield, Executive Assistant Committees of Council  
32 Mill Street, PO Box 310  
Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0  
519-599-3131 ext. 306  
[committeesea@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:committeesea@thebluemountains.ca)