May 18, 2023

Deputation to Town of the Blue Mountains Council meeting on May 29, 2023

From: Tom Kritsch & associate

To: Mayor and Council, Town of the Blue Mountains

Cc: Corrina Giles, Clerk

For the Town of the Blue Mountains' Council meeting of May 29, 2023, at the request of Corrina Giles, please find attached:

- March 24th, 2023 Letter to Mayor Matrosovs outlining the Recreation and Sports Complex on proposed land donation for attainable/affordable housing.
- 2. Map of 74 acres Tomahawk farm proposal
- Map of 89 acres Beaver Valley Apple Orchard Inc.??? property adjacent to Tomahawk Golf
 Course
- 4. Copy of land donation proposal to Mayor Soever and Council dated April 15, 2020.

Mayor Andrea Matrosovs:

Thanks for the opportunity to meet. Tom's purpose of this meeting is to solicit the interest, guidance, support and vision of the Town of the Blue Mountains council and administration for my wife and family's interest in a legacy project that would be beneficial to the TBM and the wider community.

Ruth and I are aware of the TBM interest in attainable/affordable housing and sports and recreation infrastructure but we are not current on the many other needs of our community.

1. Recreation/Sports Complex:

Previous council and administrators were included in my proposal of April 2020 wherein my wife and I offered to donate 50 acres of land beside the Tomahawk Golf complex for a possible world class recreational facility involving the TBM. Meaford and other interested organizations such as the Meaford Tank Range. There was no response, follow up nor apparent vision or interest from the TBM. The donation offer was rescinded in April 2021.

A comprehensive Recreation Complex study contracted by the TBM was not publicly discussed and was not implemented. We have no idea where this project fits in with the priorities of this administration.

Should council and TMB show interest and vision, this donation offer is open. My wife and I would welcome your expertise and input. My April 2020 proposal was confidential to council and staff but in retrospect should have had community input.

We would appreciate all new members of council being given a copy of our donation offer of April 2022 and have returning counsellors reread our donation offer.

2. Attainable/Affordable Housing:

Council and the community press has kept my wife and I partially up to date on the fiasco and problems experienced by council and TBM staff on the Gateway Project.

Should council and various committees (Attainable Housing Corp and Blue Mountain Village Association, Thornbury Ratepayers etc.) see the merits, my family would be pleased to be part of the attainable housing solution.

One of my companies (Tomahawk Farms Inc.) owns the 74 acres adjacent to the TBM and the Clarksburg side road (map attached) proximity to services and transportation.

Should the TBM or their committees define their needs, vision and time table, we would favourably consider donating whatever land is required to get the project operational and to ensure future expansion projections

3. Commentary:

The caveat to all this is timing, vision, interest and community commitment.

From our perspective we can only comment on timing. My wife and I are seniors and time is of the essence.

Many other possible projects will surface for the TBM as well as for Ruth and I. Should the TBM and its committees be interested, a confidential preliminary sharing of their vision, questions and timing would be appreciated by May 31, 2023. We suggest a copy of this letter, which I shared with you on March 24th, be given to all councillors and interested staff.

We suggest a closed meeting with all councillors, planning, housing and recreational personnel be held in the near future.

There are issues to be resolved, zoning is critical. However, with vision and leadership from the TBM council, administrative staff and the community, these issues will be solved and attainable/affordable housing could be realized in a timely manner.

In our meeting of March 24th you indicated that the TBM will arrange a meeting with myself by April 22nd and provide details of their plans and interest regarding the donation offers.

I look forward to this meeting.

Thank you for your interest. I look forward to continuing our discussions.

Sincerely,

Tom Kritsch

May 29, 202

Addendum to Recreation/Sports/Agricultural Proposal of April 2020

In April 2020 one of my companies Beaver Valley Apple Orchard, Ltd offered to donate 50± acres to land adjacent to the Tomahawk Golf Complex. Every previous councillor, together with the CAO, Praks and Recreation Director, Chief Planner perceived a copy of my proposal of April 2020 (copy attached) and follow up letters were sent to CAO and Mayor Alar Soever. I received no follow up nor acknowledgement of this donation offer from any member of council or staff and my offer was rescinded in April 2021. This offerwas recently reinstated as per my letter to Mayor Matrosovs of March 24, 2023.

My offer was non-conditional but I proposed/suggested several possible usages that the TBM and community could utilize the 50 acres of the donation: Recreational trails, multi-use agricultural buildings, baseball diamonds, future site of expanded community centre, etc. The site offered ease of highway access, parking and at no cost to the Town of the Blue Mountains. A tenant farmer would continue to pay rent on the unused part of the donation.

To me and my family, it was a win-win situation. My family would have made a legacy donation and our community would benefit long into the future.

At my March 24, 2023 meeting with Mayor Matrosovs, I asked her to reconsider my April 2020 50± acre donation offer. I also sent all members of Council a copy of my original 2020 proposal and a copy of the March 24 2023 letter to Mayor Matrosovs. However, I stated and personally think the TBM ratepayers should be aware of this offer and have an opportunity to share their thoughts and input.

3

My wife and I are approaching our mid 80's and although in good health, we wish to clear up some loose ends. Our family is convinced this 50± acre donation plus the availability of a further 39 acres should the interest if the need arises for safe, much-needed land acquisition opportunities for the future planning

and needs of our community.

There is no need for another consultant! My wife and I wish for direction from Council as soon as

possible.

Thank you.

Tom Kritsch Thornbury

3

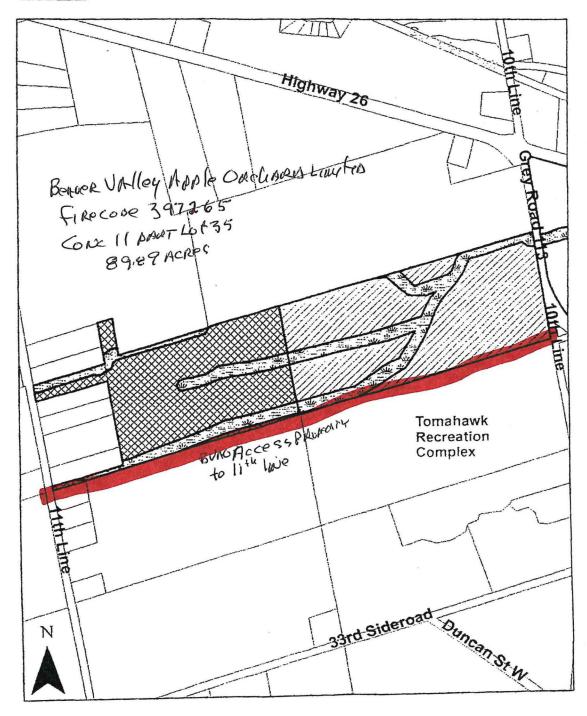
Town of The Blue Mountains Key Map Schedule A-1

By-Law No. 2011 - 79

Area To Be Rezoned To
General Rural Exception 231 (A1-231)

Area To Be Rezoned To Hazard (H)

Area To Be Rezoned To General Rural (A1)



Addendum:

Donation of land for Attainable / Affordable Housing

In my meeting with and letter to Mayor Matrosovs on March 24, 2023, through one of my companies,

Tomahawk Farms, I have offered to donate 25:± acres to the Town of the Blue Mountains to complement kickstart a much-needed attainable/affordable housing project to attract a younger workforce in our municipality. A map of the proposed 74-acre property is attached.

I can envision 80-100 small, single-family, semi-detached housing units as well as whatever professional developers and planners suggest. Once the first stage is completed, a further 25 acres is available dependent on the success of the first stage.

I think once TBM has the land, a competent experienced developer would be interested in a multi-use project. This could be accomplished at no out-of-pocket cost to TBM ratepayers save for Council and municipal staff's encouragement, openness to process expediting and building fee for review. Future municipal tax revenue will recoup any initial expenditures made by the Town.

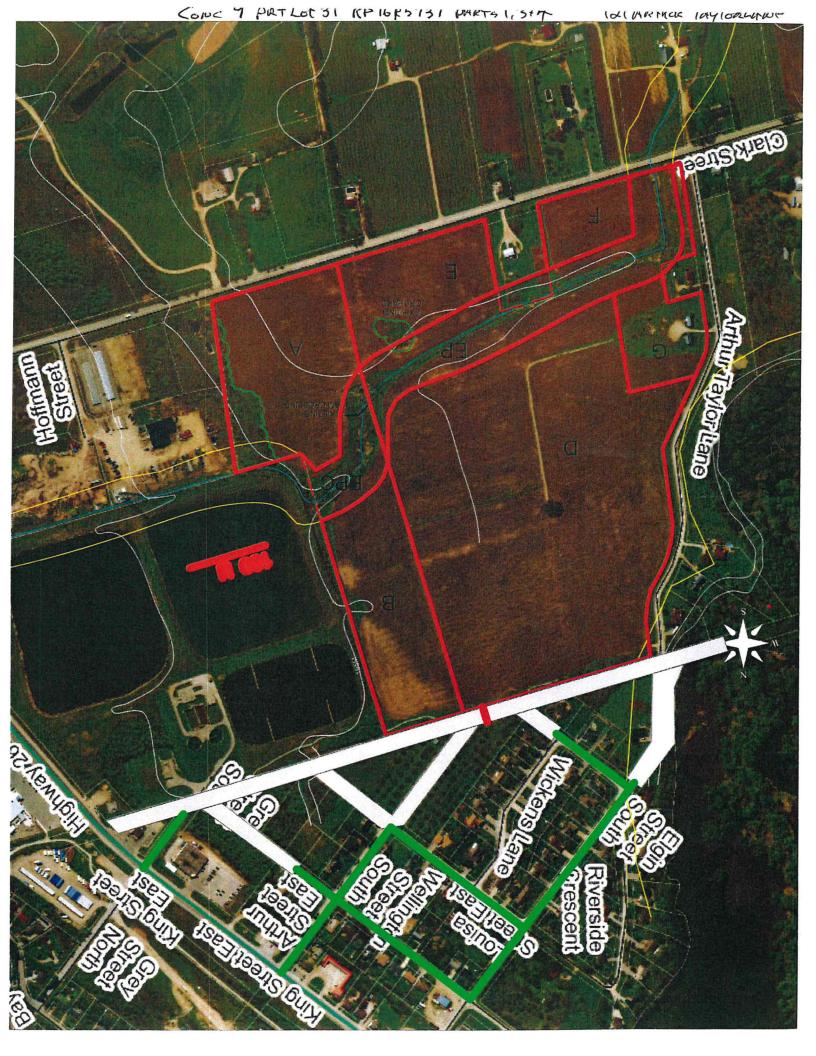
Council, municipal staff, ratepayers and our local MPP could expedite a ministerial exemption order to ensure zoning compliance. Subject to surveys, municipalities can divide and create lots, etc. at will.

The Gateway project continues to be a \$3.5 million fiasco ongoing money pit not feasible under existing conditions. I suggest selling Gateway for whatever and invest the proceeds in this new project and begin to reclaim some of the taxation losses incurred by TBM buying the property and demolishing the old Foodland building.

This proposal will require input and decisions by municipal staff, ratepayers and Council but should not require outside consultants.

My input today has been a simplification of what's necessary to get the job done should Council have the vision and desire to proceed and the fortitude to make a decision.

My wife and I are asking for direction from Council as to their interest or lack of interest in this opportunity. I will accept either of these choices, but not indecision. After three years, it is time for the Town as well as my family to move forward. I respectfully ask for your immediate decision on my proposed donation.



A Proposal to The Town of the Blue Mountains

Tom Kritsch Thornbury, Ontario April 2020 April 15, 2020

His Worship, Mayor Alar Soever and Members of Council The Town of the Blue Mountains 32 Mill Street, Box 310 Thornbury ON NOH 2P0

Dear Mayor Soever and Council,

Attached is a proposal my team and I would like to submit to the Town of the Blue Mountains for a complex that could include an Agricultural Society Building, a Community and Recreation Centre and outdoor sports and community amenities. This is, of course, contingent on the Town of the Blue Mountains approval and subject to our community's interest and support of this project. It will also be vital to have the support of the Beaver Valley Agricultural Society (BVAS).

I would have liked to discuss this potential project in more detail with municipal staff and elected officials, however the recent Covid pandemic has made all but basic communication difficult.

I know that a project of this sort has been part of the Town's vision for our community for many years and I share and support that aspiration. Should the TBM, the BVAS and residents endorse the concept of a community project as being important and worthwhile, I would be pleased to donate the land and assist in whatever way deemed helpful.

Included with the package are several site plans showing the property together with several layouts, building locations and possible outdoor activity spaces. Also included is a vision statement and some

suggestions for possible future stages and amenities that could help make this become a comprehensive and unique community hub. A building design and planning competition would be an opportunity for creative and innovative suggestions about the originality, environmental and architectural design inclusive of the most suitable uses and elements of the proposed complex.

Our group has some financing ideas as well as problem solving recommendations because as we well know, taking a concept such as this to fruition involves numerous strategies, community input and financial considerations.

Most importantly, it is our hope that if this proceeds, community input and creative suggestions from all involved will help make this community project truly exceptional for all residents.

These difficult and unprecedented times require a visionary council and municipal support to provide a positive diversion to the many stresses and difficulties we are presently experiencing and for some time in the future. We cannot be timid. Time is of the essence.

Sincerely,

Tom Kritsch

Table of Contents

Cover Letter	1
Proposal	4
Background	4
Agricultural Society Building	6
Community & Recreation Centre	7
Trails & Outdoor Amenities	7
Addendum	8
Possible Future Facilities	10
Maps	
50 Acres beside Tomahawk Complex	12
Additional Adjacent 39± Acres	13
Possible Site Plans Examples	
Building and Walking Trails	14
Possible Future Buildings	15
Building Interior	16
Recreational Amenities	
List of Local Recreational Amenities	17

Thornbury Community & Recreation Centre and Agricultural Society Building

Proposal

To develop and build a world-class, multi-faceted complex for community events, sports, recreation and entertainment activities as well as a permanent home for the Beaver Valley Agricultural Society in Thornbury, Ontario. This community hub would be a four-seasons indoor and outdoor facility that would provide a multi-use venue for recreational sports, tournaments, trade shows, weddings as well as corporate and community events. It would also be the site of the annual fall fair and a showcase of our agricultural heritage.

The intended site for the complex is in west Thornbury on the 10th Line south of Highway 26 and consists of 50 acres. The site abuts the northern border of the municipally owned Tomahawk Sport and Recreation Complex. With a picturesque rural vista, this site is only 2 km from downtown Thornbury and is easily accessed from Meaford. The site can also be accessed from east and west of the town by a number of routes.

All components of this project will support the Town of the Blue Mountain's Community Sustainability Plan in keeping with its the environmental, social and economic requirements. It could incorporate green building technologies, energy efficiencies and natural building materials and could qualify for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification.

Background

At a time when our municipal parks and recreation infrastructure is aging and the importance of healthy lifestyles is becoming widely recognized as a fundamental element of the health and wellbeing of Canadians, innovative and workable private/public solutions are becoming a viable alternative to providing recreation, entertainment and sports venues for the community.

In the Town of the Blue Mountains' Leisure Activities Plans (2006 & 2015) and its unpublished Multi-Use Facility Feasibility Study (2009), it was found that our community needed and wanted additional indoor

recreation facilities and services. Such a facility would serve our growing population of seasonal and permanent residents and would help to encourage and contribute to active and healthy lifestyles.

Building a world-class, four-seasons complex will also help to strengthen our area's reputation as the sports and recreation centre of Ontario, promote our agricultural heritage and achievements and provide a community meeting place for residents and visitors. It will also help bolster our local economy and economic development in the area.

In the Town of the Blue Mountains' *Corporate Strategic Plan 2015-2020*, the Town's five strategic goals are all relevant to this proposal:

- · Create opportunities for sustainability
 - Will attract new business, support agriculture and improve visibility and local identity
- Engage our community and partners
 - Will strengthen partnerships between the Town, community organizations and the private sector
- Support healthy lifestyles
 - Will promote the Town as a healthy community
- Promote a culture of organizational and operational excellence
 - Will allow the Town to provide excellent community and recreational services to residents and visitors and will provide the opportunity for efficiencies and effectiveness
- Ensure our infrastructure is sustainable
 - Will implement best practices in sustainable development and environmental responsibility

The same is true of the Province of Ontario's Report "Investing in Healthy and Active Ontarians through Recreation and Parks Infrastructure" outlining the goals of our parks and recreation infrastructure as:

- Building Healthy Minds and Healthy Bodies
- Building Interactive Communities
- Developing Caring Communities
- Business Retention and Attraction
- Protecting the Environment

Agricultural Society Building

The Town of the Blue Mountains has a proud farming history and reputation for success in the agricultural industry. The Beaver Valley and its surrounding communities are renown for apple orchards, as well as mixed grain and cattle farmers, horse riding facilities, etc. In order to preserve this heritage and to ensure our agricultural future, a fitting venue is needed to celebrate our rural roots, showcase our agricultural accomplishments and further our children's education on the importance of this heritage and our agricultural lands.

To do this the Beaver Valley Agricultural Society needs a permanent home. Celebrating its 150th Anniversary this year, the Society is the oldest organization in our community. We propose building a multi-purpose facility that will be the home for the annual fall fair, a venue for community events and private functions as well as an educational centre for all to enjoy.

An important step in the creation of an Agricultural Building is for the Beaver Valley Agricultural Society (BVAS) to obtain charitable status from Revenue Canada, as many agricultural societies across Canada and Ontario have done.

As well as the annual fall fair, the Agricultural Building could be a venue for the following:

- Conferences and community gatherings
- Weddings and celebrations
- Tradeshows e.g. an event highlighting local wineries
- Corporate retreats
- Educational displays on local agriculture—dedicated space for permanent displays featuring our agricultural industry

Please note, other than a personal contact with the Beaver Valley Agricultural Society in obtaining charitable status, this proposal has not been shared with them. If the Town is interested in discussing and possibly implementing this proposal, contact with the BVAS would best be accomplished with municipal involvement and/or political direction.

> Community and Recreation Centre

This multi-use centre is meant to help provide a public/private solution and achieve the goals identified by the Town and the Province of Ontario. Not only will it allow people to participate in healthy activities that are seen as a proactive and preventative approach to health care, it will also provide an important venue for the social interaction and community involvement that are vital to the mental and physical wellbeing of those in our community. People of all ages will benefit by learning lifelong skills for a healthy lifestyle.

The following are some of the facilities that could be incorporated into this building:

- Indoor walking track
- Gymnasium
- Community meeting rooms
- Dedicated seniors' lounge, games room and kitchenette
- Dedicated youth lounge
- Fitness Centre
- Snack bar and lounge

> Trails and Outdoor Amenities

Our area is renowned for its trail system including the spectacular Bruce Trail and the popular Georgian Trail. As more and more people participate in healthy lifestyles, walking, hiking and biking activities have become part of our daily routines. Trails on this site will complement and add to the existing network of trails throughout our municipality. We also see the trails on this site playing a role in environmental education and will be curated with a focus on local flora and fauna.

To encourage healthy, active and engaged lifestyles and to provide a venue for family and social activities, a variety of possible outdoor amenities could include, but are not limited to:

- Trails for walking, running, snowshoeing, skiing, etc.
- Cross country running track
- Community vegetable garden
- Playground and splash pad
- Picnic area
- Baseball Diamonds
- Dog Park

> Addendum

Although the present zoning of this property as specialty agriculture may initially appear to be an obstacle to the proposed site, concerns and objections can be overcome with commitment, public interest and approval and input from various county agencies. Despite a specialty agricultural designation conceived by planners years ago, this designation and the requirement for high density, high income crops have changed dramatically over the years. The crops that can be grown on this property are successfully grown in many other locations in the county. High density apple orchards and wineries are cases in point.

By involving the Beaver Valley Agricultural Society, together with community gardens and agriculturally sensitive inclusions such as educational agricultural & environmental elements, we could stay true to our commitment to and support for the agricultural industry and this should help facilitate the required zoning change. The present zoning designation for Tomahawk Recreation Complex also sets a precedent for zoning changes in this immediate vicinity. So also should the TBM council be interested in this suggested site, a lot line adjustment to include the donated 50 acres together with the 50 acres of Tomahawk Recreation Complex will facilitate the addition of this 50 acres and the TBM ownership of Tomahawk Recreation Complex. In the future, the Town may be interested in acquiring the adjacent 39± acres (owned also by Beaver Valley Orchards Ltd) to allow for the development of the possible future facilities mentioned in this presentation.

Implementation for a project such as this requires decisiveness, vision, commitment and flexibility.

There will be issues and challenges to address, however whatever issues or obstacles arise, these are nothing in comparison to the benefits the community will derive from the creation of this exceptional community hub. It is also my hope that a project such as this will provide an inspirational goal for the

entire community and one that will bring us closer, as we work together for the common good in these unprecedented times.

Much of the planning and preparations could proceed immediately as municipal staff, residents and planners work from home. We cannot look back and reminisce this as a "shoulda, coulda, why didn't we?" opportunity but as a "we did it!" project. Whether or not it's this suggested property or some other property, we think a municipal decision to proceed with a project of this kind, regardless of the final location, should be made within the next three months. Time is of the essence. We need something to engage our community's energy and imagination. We need to get on with our lives and future.

Possible Future Facilities

Swimming Pool

An indoor swimming pool has been identified by residents as their most wanted recreational facility. As a lakeside municipality, teaching residents water safety and swimming skills is especially important. The Canadian Forces Training Centre in Meaford has also expressed a desire for a local indoor pool to allow for aquatic training currently only available at CFB Borden. This could be an opportunity for collaboration with DND and the Municipality of Meaford to provide base personnel and residents of both municipalities with indoor swimming facilities.

Pickleball and Tennis Courts

In its 2019 budget, The Town approved funding for outdoor pickleball courts. While the location for courts on the Tomahawk Complex may be an option, this site could also have potential for the outdoor courts. As well, there may also be some interest in building indoor pickleball courts and the Recreation Centre could be configured for these courts. Indoor tennis courts could also be considered for the Recreation Centre, and while there is no indoor tennis facility in the municipality, the demand for them is unclear and may need to be studied further.

Business Centre

The Town of the Blue Mountains has become one of Ontario's most dynamic places to live and play. Beautiful scenery, four season recreational activities and relaxing, friendly small-town atmosphere are just a few of the things we have to offer. We want to extend the opportunity to be a part of our community to those looking for a place to work as well. It is our hope that by providing individuals and small businesses with a facility with office space and resources for the short term, long term and even by the hour or day, they will set up base in our town. This community office space can be used be businesses and community organizations who in one facility can share resources, reduce operating costs and be part of a community of like-minded people. The second floor of one of the proposed buildings could include the required office spaces.

With our excellent internet and telecommunications connectivity, these offices as well as I.T. workstations will allow us to attract and retain a younger demographic and other professions who will further enhance the diversity and long-term viability of our municipality.

As an alternative to home or isolated work environments, this community office space can be used by individuals whether it is a short-term rental or long-term lease, individuals and businesses will have access to mail service, state of the art telecommunications, meeting rooms, kitchen facilities and a shared receptionist.

Hotel and Restaurant

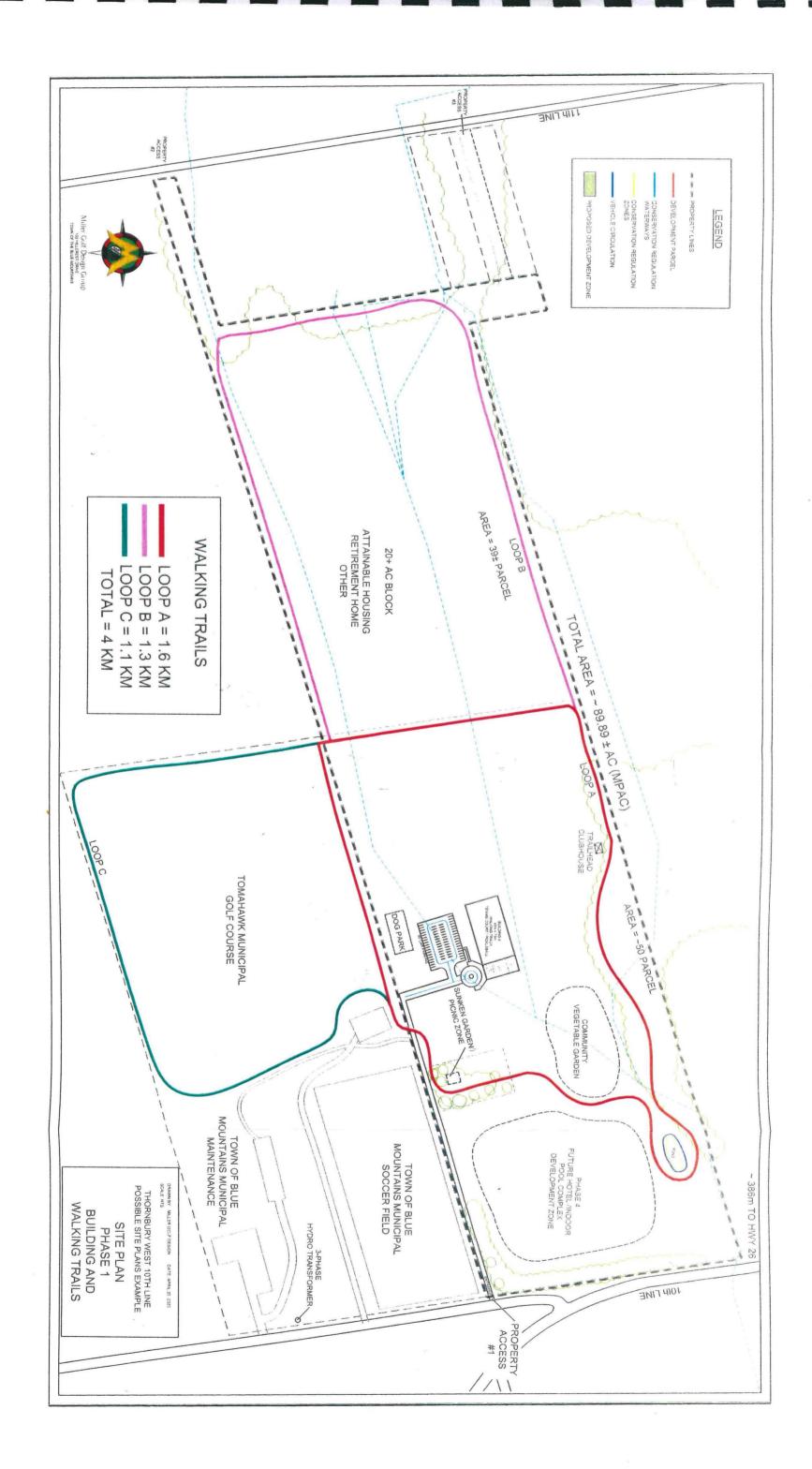
Apart from the Blue Mountain Resort area, there are no hotels in the Town of the Blue Mountains. The development of a branded or boutique hotel on this site could be an attractive alternative to resort accommodations. Its proximity to the Lora Bay Golf Course, the Bay and harbour and the shops and restaurants in downtown Thornbury would make this an ideal location. There may also be opportunities for restaurants and retail shops on this site. However, Council and municipal staff will have more relevant, up-to-date information about the level of demand in our tourism industry for additional hotel accommodation in our municipality.

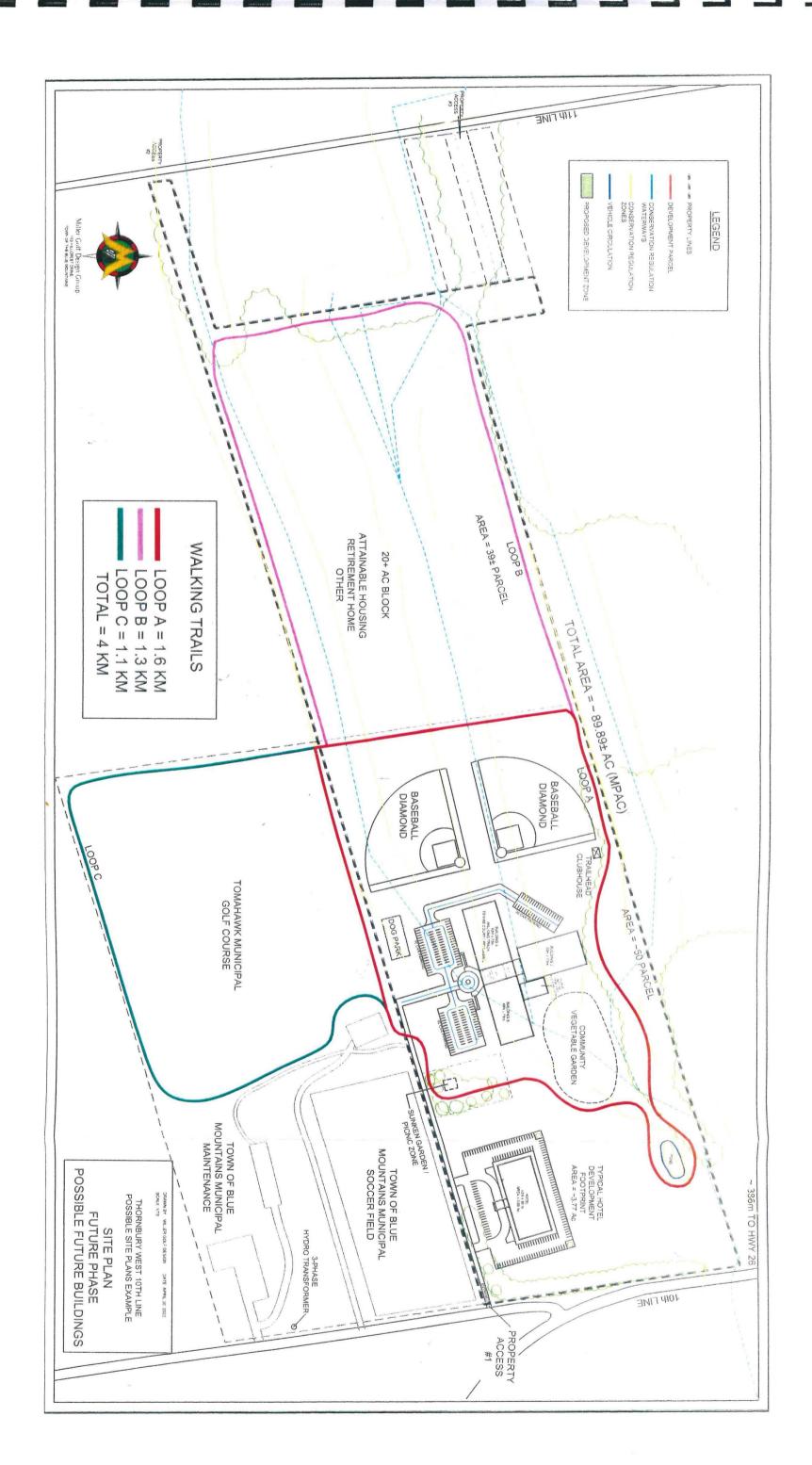
Housing

Under their attainable housing initiative, the Town of the Blue Mountains has been examining how to provide housing to those who are unable to afford to buy or rent in our municipality. This is a laudable goal that will help to ensure a socially diverse community that will enrich our community and our workplaces. A number of locations are being considered for the development of attainable housing units and this site may fit some of the necessary criteria, namely, it is close to Highway 26 and Thornbury with access entrances on both the 10th and 11th Lines. This is an option that may be worth exploring. As well, seniors' housing and perhaps tiny home lots including rentals could be possibilities for this site.

Long Term Care

There is an acute shortage of long-term care beds in the Town of the Blue Mountains and a solution is being actively sought. This site may be a viable option for a long-term care facility either on the 50 or 39 acre sites or situated on 12.4 acres adjacent to the Tomahawk Complex. The Town of the Blue Mountains' politicians and municipal staff could discuss.







TK PROPERTY

February 19, 2020

RECREATIONAL AMENITIES

1. Town of the Blue Mountains

- a. 18 Hole Lora Bay Golf Course
- b. 3 x Baseball Diamonds
- c. 2 x Tennis Courts (Public)
- d. 4 x Tennis Courts (Private?)
- e. Ice Arena (with Curling Option) / Community Centre
- f. 18 Hole Par 3 Tomahawk Golf Course
- g. Marsh Street Centre
- h. (Cable Wake Park Future TBD)

2. MEAFORD

- a. 18 Hole Meaford Golf and Country Club
- b. 2 x Baseball Diamonds
- c. Meaford Hall
- d. Outdoor Pool Blue Dolphin
- e. 2 x Tennis Courts
- f. Super School (Meaford & Town of the Blue Mountains)
- g. Ice Arena / Community Centre
- h. Curling Club (4 sheets)

3. 4TH CANADIAN DIVISION TRAINING CENTRE

- a. Recreation Centre / Gym
- b. 1 x Soccer Field
- c. 1 x Baseball Diamond

Georgian Trail: Walking / Hiking and Bike Trail between Meaford and the Town of the Blue Mountains (approx. 300 m to northeast corner of property)



From: <u>Corrina Giles</u>

To: Shawn Everitt; Andrea Matrosovs

Cc: Kyra Dunlop

Subject: FW: May 29, 2023 Council - Deputation **Date:** Friday, May 19, 2023 7:46:10 AM

Attachments: Deputation-Tom-Kritsch-Re-Proposal-to-Donate-Land-for-Attainable-Affordable-Housing.pdf

image001.pnq image003.pnq image004.pnq

Importance: High

Good morning Madam Mayor and Shawn,

I have just reviewed Mr. Kritsch' deputation materials. Are you both ok to include the confidential offer provided by Tom to the previous Council, to our website for his May 29 deputation?

Kyra will redact Mr. Kritsch's contact details referenced in various sections of the deputation materials.

Corrina Giles, CMO

Town Clerk

Town of The Blue Mountains, 32 Mill Street, P.O. Box 310, Thornbury, ON NOH 2PO

Tel: 519-599-3131 ext. 232 | Fax: 519-599-7723

Email: cgiles@thebluemountains.ca | Website: www.thebluemountains.ca

From: Kyra Dunlop <kdunlop@thebluemountains.ca>

Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2023 2:49 PM

To: Tom Kritsch <tom.kritsch@gmail.com>; etreslan@owensoundlawyers.com

Cc: Town Clerk <townclerk@thebluemountains.ca>; Shawn Everitt <severitt@thebluemountains.ca>

Subject: May 29, 2023 Council - Deputation

Good afternoon Tom,

Thank you for popping by this afternoon to deliver your Deputation Materials and to complete the Deputation Request Form. I am attaching a copy of your Deputation Request Form with attached presentation materials as delivered, for inclusion on the May 29, 2023 Council Agenda. We expect that the Agenda will be released this Friday afternoon. You would have 10 minutes to address Council, and may choose to appear virtually or in person to present!

I wanted to confirm that a part of your deputation materials includes a proposal that indicates it is "Confidential" on page 12 of the attached document regarding A Proposal to The Town of The Blue Mountains dated April 2020. It appears that this item may have been previously submitted to Council and I am unsure if it was considered in Closed Session previously. In meeting with you today I advised that Deputation materials are included on Agendas and circulated to Council, staff and available to the public on our website. To confirm, would you kindly advise if the Confidential portion of your deputation is to be made public as part of your

deputation?

With thanks in advance,

Kyra Dunlop

Deputy Clerk

Town of The Blue Mountains, 32 Mill Street, P.O. Box 310, Thornbury, ON NOH 2PO

Tel: 519-599-3131 ext. 306 | Fax: 519-599-7723

Email: kdunlop@thebluemountains.ca | Website: www.thebluemountains.ca | Website:

As part of providing <u>accessible customer service</u>, please let me know if you have any accommodation needs or require communication supports or alternate formats.