

January 28, 2021

To: The Mayor and Councillors of the Town of The Blue Mountains

Re: Staff Report # FAF.21-020

Dear Mayor and Council:

We hope that you are all well and keeping safe during these challenging times.

We are writing to you today in regards to the Staff Report to the Committee of the Whole and the scheduled meeting of February 1, 2021.

The staff report is very detailed, and while it does address a number of issues brought up by the Residents of the Town of the Blue Mountains, and the STA Committee of the Blue Mountain Ratepayers Association, there are still some aspects that we wish to address and review further.

As many of the rentals in our area are for tourism, and many of the owners rent through a corporation, it would be expected that the owners and the corporation should be charging not only HST/GST but submitting tax returns to the federal/provincial governments. However, we also suggest that that a tourist tax similar to the 4% tax charged in Oakville on stays of less than 30 consecutive days be added on to all short-term accommodations (including hotels, STA's, inns, bed and breakfast, etc.) in the area as this will provide revenue to the Town to allow for the additional staff that you are requesting.

While we appreciate the need to ensure that all members, whether it be residents or renters/owners, the Administrative Monetary Penalty of \$250.00 seems to be punitive as it relates to meritless or vexatious complaints. Who decides if the complaints are warranted? Was the complaint warranted when the call was made, but the reason of the complaint had ceased when police and/or bylaw show up? Both sides need protection.

Bedroom: the definition as per Merriam Websters: a room furnished with a bed and intended primarily for sleeping. Additional standards for a bedroom include 2 entrances/exits (window/door), a seven- foot ceiling height minimum, at least 70 sq feet, with at least 7' horizontal length. The description provided by yourselves –“a room or area separated from the common living areas ...which is used, designed, equipped or intended for sleeping”. Your description of a bedroom with a caveat that 4 people can sleep outside of the space is unacceptable...a pull -out couch cannot sleep 4 people. We appreciate that historically we have had a plus 2 model that would allow 2 people on a pull- out couch, somehow it has now progressed to a plus 4 model with 4 people on a pull -out couch.

Bedrooms are for people to “primarily” sleep in...sleeping in common areas is not. Please revisit the model you have supplied, allowing one sleeper sofa per unit maximum. (or 2 pull chair sleepers).

Again, more time needs to be available to review and discuss the different areas of this report, so we respectfully request that a public meeting be held so that the many different voices of our community can be heard.

Thank you for your time and consideration for this request.

Best Regards, Stay Well.

Robin & Bill Pittaway

■ Kinsey Place

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