



Staff Report

Administration – Chief Administrative Officer

Report To: COW_Finance_Admin_Fire_Community_Services
Meeting Date: January 15, 2024
Report Number: FAF.24.012 REVISED
Title: Craigleith Community Working Group Update
Prepared by: Shawn Everitt, Chief Administrative Officer

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report FAF.24.012, entitled “Craigleith Community Working Group Update”;

AND THAT Council consider the information contained within this report and provide additional consideration of the request being made by the Craigleith Community Working Group through the 2024 Budget process;

AND THAT Council dissolve the Craigleith Community Working Group as it has concluded its original mandate as outlined in the Terms of Reference that was approved by Council on June 19, 2023;

AND THAT Council formally thank members of the Craigleith Community Working Group for their efforts and commitment to our community;

AND THAT Council endorse the establishment of a Phase 2 Craigleith Community Working Group with the mandate and scope that is outlined in this report.

B. Overview

This report provides a summary of the work and recommendations of the Craigleith Community Working Group.

C. Background

The Craigleith Community Working Group was established by Council as a result of [Staff Report FAF.23.098](#) which was brought to the June 5, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting and later approved at the June 19, 2023 meeting of Council.

The approved Terms of Reference for the Craigleith Community Working Group had identified a maximum of nine (9) meetings of the group, however, the Working Group was very effective

and extremely committed and able to complete a significant amount of work within five (5) meetings.

Meeting	Date	Duration and Location
Meeting 1	July 25, 2023 Initial Meeting	2 Hours Town Hall (2 TBM staff)
Meeting 2	August 31, 2023	2 Hours Craigleith Ski Club (2 TBM staff)
Meeting 3	October 11, 2023	2 Hours The Shed at Windfall (2 TBM staff)
Meeting 4	November 17, 2023	2 Hours Town Hall (1 TBM staff)
Meeting 5	December 8, 2023	2 Hours North Creek Resort (1 TBM staff)

In addition to the meetings, the Town provided additional resources to the Working Group in the form of GIS Mapping support to develop a draft map of the Craigleith area with proposed zones that allowed for a strategic delineation of the overall Craigleith area from Wards Road east to Grey Road 21 and from the shores of the Nottawasaga Bay south to the base of the escarpment.

Craigleith Working Group Membership List

Zone 1 - Eric Paul

Zone 2 - Ron Mitchell

Zone 3 - Lorne Gladstone and Pamela Spence

Zone 4 - Mary Ferguson, Denis Martinek, and Michaelene O'Malley

Zone 5 - John Relihan, Stephen Granger, and Steven Troster

Zone 6 - Mark Maskens, Tyler King, and Alan Wisniewski

Zone 7 - Jennifer Murdison and Andrew Siegart

As a result of the work completed by the Craigleith Community Working Group, a series of action item summaries were developed and included in Attachment 3 of this report.

The Craigleith Community Working Group completed their work on the basis of the following mandate.

Strategic Consistency: Aligning with the Craigleith Community Working Group Mandate

- Establish a clear roadmap of potential actions and resource allocations that align with the Town's overall goals and vision;
- Maintain a comprehensive understanding of the community's challenges and opportunities focusing on the following priorities;

The following recommendations contained in the Analysis Section of this report are being brought forward by the members of the Craigleith Community Working Group. Additionally, Craigleith Community Working Group members Stephen Granger and Andrew Seigwart will both in be attendance to present and provide additional information for Council and the public at the January 15, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting.

D. Analysis

1. Recommend improvements to pedestrian safety and active transportation.

- Place a high priority on finalizing the pedestrian walkway that links Arlberg Crescent to Heritage Corners, thereby alleviating foot traffic on Kandahar Lane.
- Implement necessary, comprehensive safety upgrades along Jozo Weider Blvd. to allow safe pedestrian traffic between Grey Road 19 and Fairway Court. This initiative includes adding adequate street lighting, installing an interim crosswalk at the residential path, and an interim pedestrian shoulder. The crosswalk design mirrors that of Meaford and Scenic Caves crosswalks, incorporating solar-powered signs with motion sensor lights and a continuous paved shoulder between crosswalks.
- Improve safety features on the steep gradient of the pedestrian walkway connecting Second Nature Phase 2 to the Village pedestrian walkway by adding a handrail and applying an anti-slip coating.
- Install one-way traffic signage along Blue Mountain Road in the Price subdivision to enhance traffic flow and explore implementing other needed traffic calming measures or safety requirements in future planning developments in this area.
- Implement traffic calming measures on Crosswinds Blvd. to address residential-specific traffic safety concerns and improve and address the overall flow.

2. Recommend reviewing opportunities to develop and implement a four-season maintenance strategy for roads and trails.

- In response to [Staff Report CSOPS.23.035](#) (Winter Sidewalk Maintenance) the Craigleith Community Working Group expresses full support for the planning sequence with a condition of transparency with this commitment. This is to entail:
 - Budget planning for the expenditures for Phase 3 – Craigleith
 - Committing to equipment purchases that will take the full timeline to obtain
 - Identifying the site, scoping out facilities, and obtaining the necessary approvals.
- In response to Staff Report CSOPS.23.035 (Winter Sidewalk Maintenance) the Craigleith Community Working Group requests that Council support Phase 1 to include the clearing of all assumed sidewalks in the Blue Mountain Village Area agreement, establishing a consistent standard of service to improve safety and accessibility across the immediate Craigleith community (i.e. Second Nature Phase 2) and other key linked sidewalks identified to be necessary for this active pedestrian area.
- Also, to allow staff to explore community partnerships in this Staff Report CSOPS.23.035 for Council consideration of community partnerships such as “Friendship Agreements” to facilitate snow removal and trail maintenance in the 2024 budget period (see point 5 below).

3. Effective planning and management of traffic and parking.

- Review and adjust the By-law by relaxing restrictions for permanent residents in Zone 4. The recent changes have over-corrected issues related to visitor parking, affecting the well-being of permanent residents.

4. Consider advancements in public transit and sustainable transportation options.

- Enhance service levels and support labour supply by co-funding with local stakeholders in an extended-hours pilot project for the Blue Line route (Collingwood > Blue Mountain). This initiative, spanning an 18-month timeline, will enable a thorough assessment of key metrics to ensure effectiveness and sustainability. By collaboratively investing in this pilot project, we aim to not only enhance transportation services but also gather valuable insights for informed decision-making and future planning.

5. Create strong community partnerships and consider potential funding opportunities through collaborative co-investment strategies for Council consideration.

- Allow for “Friendship Agreements” to facilitate Snow Removal and Trail Maintenance.
 - These agreements serve as formalized partnerships between the municipality and community stakeholders. By formalizing these relationships, we not only strengthen ties within the community but also leverage collective resources, expertise, and efforts
- Budget planning should incorporate insurance requirements.

6. In review of the Town’s Leisure Activities Plan and area GIS mapping provided, the Craigeith Community Working Group recommends Council consideration for potential expansion and connectivity of key active transportation trails, parks, and recreational programming that can foster community engagement.

- Expedite the Second Nature Emergency Access Road completion and develop a comprehensive maintenance plan to sustain its functionality over time.
- Create a Regional Park plan within Zone 5 outlining the necessary steps to bring this vision to fruition, including planning, key trail connectivity development, and ongoing maintenance.
- Investigate the potential for Zone 6 to serve as an active transportation hub or to be incorporated into a regional park plan as part of the municipality's new land planning initiative at the corner of Grey Road 19 (formerly, *Tee’s Please*).
- Prioritize community engagement as part of this process by conducting thorough consultations surrounding the Regional Park plan. By actively involving residents and stakeholders in the planning process, we ensure that the development aligns with the community's desires and sustainable needs and goals, fostering an engaged sense of ownership and inclusivity in creating this significant recreational asset.

7. Promote conservation and enhancement of natural and cultural heritage through sustainability and asset management.

- At present, no specific budget priorities are allocated for this initiative, however, the Craigeith Community Working Group will continue to review sustainable practices and responsible asset management.

8. Create recommendations that enhance and improve community engagement, collaboration, and inclusivity.

- Allocate resources for a comprehensive Master Plan that serves as a strategic roadmap for addressing identified issues and guiding future development.

- Maintain continuity with the Craigleith Community Working Group by retaining its framework and working structure, thus ensuring a seamless transition towards supporting the creation of the Craigleith Master Plan. This approach leverages the established dynamics and knowledge base within the group, fostering efficiency and building upon the collective experience for optimal results.
- As part of the Official Committee structure terms to allow exploring potential grants and partnerships with stakeholders and government organizations supporting the local Town of The Blue Mountains Master Plan.

Summary and Budget Request

The Craigleith Community Working Group requests Council's support and endorsement for these pivotal initiatives, to integrate them into the 2024 budget. With a key focus on pedestrian safety, active transportation, winter sidewalk transparency, and traffic management, these proposals encompass collaborative community partnerships, public transit advancements, and maintenance innovations with priority timelines.

The Craigleith Community Working Group emphasizes the current importance of leisure activity expansion, expedited trail completion, and the need for Regional Park planning with community engagement. Proposing the allocation of resources for a comprehensive Master Plan, the Craigleith Community Working Group seeks Council's backing for transitioning into an Official Working Group Committee, envisioning a collective effort to enhance community well-being, safety, and accessibility for the betterment of all of Town of The Blue Mountains residents.

It is being recommended through this staff report that the current Craigleith Community Working Group be dissolved and that Council consider the request being made regarding establishing a Phase 2 Working Group as outlined in the draft Terms of Reference contained in this report.

E. Strategic Priorities

1. Communication and Engagement

We will enhance communications and engagement between Town Staff, Town residents and stakeholders.

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

The Craigleith Community Working Group has a keen focus on ensuring environmental impacts are considered and impacts limited as much as possible and enhancements to the sustainability measures of the community are promoted.

G. Financial Impacts

The recommendations contained within the summary sheets (Attachment 3) pose a range of financial impacts that Council may wish to have staff explore and bring forward additional information to assist in the 2024 budget deliberations. The proposed continuation of a Phase 2 Working Group would require up to twelve (12) meetings with staff resources being made available as required.

H. In Consultation With

Craigleith Community Working Group Members

I. Public Engagement

The topic of this Staff Report has not been subject to a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required. However, any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Shawn Everitt, cao@thebluemountains.ca.

J. Attached

1. Craigleith Community Working Group Terms of Reference
2. Map of Focus Areas
3. Zone 1 to 6 Summary Sheets
4. Phase 2 Terms of Reference

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Everitt
Chief Administrative Officer

For more information, please contact:
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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	FAF.24.012 Craigleith Community Working Group Update.docx
Attachments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Attachment-1-Craigleith-Community-Working-Group-Terms-of-Reference.pdf- Attachment-2-Map-of-Focus-Areas.pdf- Attachment-3-Zone-1-to-6-Summary-Sheets.pdf- Attachment-4-Phase-2-Terms-of-Reference.pdf- Attachment-5-CCWG-Progress-Report
Final Approval Date:	Jan 8, 2024

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

Shawn Everitt - Jan 8, 2024 - 7:47 AM