



December 10, 2024

The Mayor and Members of the Council
Town of The Blue Mountains
Thornbury, Ontario.

cc. Shawn Everitt, Chief Administrative Officer
Adam Smith, Director of Planning and Development Services
Shawn Postma, Manager of Community Planning

By email: cgiles@thebluemountains.ca; townclerk@thebluemountains.ca

Dear Mayor and Members of Council:

Re: PDS.24.141: Official Plan 5 Year Review – CANN Comments

The following comments are based on our experience as active participants in the Official Plan 5 year review process.

WE WERE ENCOURAGED

- The update of this official plan has had full an extensive public input opportunities
- CANN has participated fully
- On two occasions we have provided line-by-line suggestions
- We have been encouraged by Council's commitment to the climate issue,

CANN HAS WORKED TIRELESSLY

- We have met with Planning Staff
- Attended Open Houses and workshops
- Made deputations to public meetings, the Committee of the Whole and Council
- Formed a CANN Task Force to research and consider best practices regarding integrating climate change mitigation and adaptation measures into official plan policies, and
- Spent hundreds of hours as volunteer participants

THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES, GOALS AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES READ WELL.....

- Excellent changes have been made to the guiding principles, particularly Principle 7.

Email: canntbm@gmail.com Facebook: [Climateactionnownetwork](https://www.facebook.com/Climateactionnownetwork) Instagram: [gogreen4blue](https://www.instagram.com/gogreen4blue)

- The Future Story was referenced in the Strategic Objectives

BUT

- While the Guiding Principles, Goals and Strategic Objectives may be the “North Star” of the Official Plan (designed to guide the plan’s policies)- **THEY ARE NOT ENFORCEABLE since they are not referenced or connected to language in the Land Use Designations , General Development Policies or the Plan Implementation Section.**
- **95% of the recommendations made by CANN in sections B through E were not accepted.** These recommendations were made to strengthen the wording in these sections, to reflect the intent of Section A. In the Staff Comment Matrix – the term “no change” was used, with no explanation.

Staff Report PDS.24.141 addresses this issue of using stronger language to protect our community against the impacts of climate change, BUT it recommends “**flexibility**” and rejects strengthening the language.

One clear purpose of the Official Plan Review was to ensure that the OP’s policies and intentions need to be clear and unambiguous. If the Guiding Principles, Goals and Strategic Objectives are the “North Star”, then “flexibility” in the language at the policy level will cause confusion. Which takes precedence? The “Preamble” (section A), or the policies? We cannot afford mis-interpretation. We are facing a climate emergency.

IT’S NOT TOO LATE – PLEASE MAKE TWO SIMPLE CHANGES!

We are asking Council to direct staff to revise the Official Plan Update to:

- Develop language that connects and applies the Guiding Principles, Goals and Strategic Objectives in Section A of the Official Plan, to the policies of the Plan (Sections B through E) so that the intent is unambiguous are enforceable; and,
- Adopt the recommendations of Tree Trust to direct the development of a Tree Preservation by-law that ensures tree preservation and prevents clear cutting in the TBM settlement areas.

Lastly, we would like to thank the Town and Staff for their diligence in providing opportunities for the public to participate in the development of this Official Plan.

We appreciate your consideration of our request.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally M. Leppard
CANN Official Plan Task force



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