



Committee Report

Leisure Activities Plan Steering Committee

Meeting Date: March 4, 2021
Meeting Time: 3:00 p.m.
Location: Council Chambers (Virtual)

Leisure Activities Plan Steering Committee Recommendations

NOTE: The following are recommendations from the Leisure Activities Plan Steering Committee to be considered for adoption by Council

- [Receive Minutes \(March 4, 2021\)](#)

Recommended (Move, second)

THAT Council of The Town of The Blue Mountains receives the Leisure Activities Plan Steering Committee Meeting Minutes dated March 4, 2021 as attached, for information purposes.



Minutes

Leisure Activities Plan Steering Committee

Meeting Date: March 4, 2021
Meeting Time: 3:00pm
Location: Council Chambers (Virtual)
Prepared by: Tanya Patterson, Administrative Assistant Community Services

A. Call to Order

Councillor Peter Bordignon called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. with Committee members Bill Abbotts, Cathy Innes, Michael Thompson, Marc Anthony Venere, and Barb Weeden present. Committee member Scott Bamford joined the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

Town staff present were Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons and Administrative Assistant Tanya Patterson.

Also present were Dunbar & Associates Recreation Consultants Peter Dunbar and Chris Fawcett.

- **Traditional Territory Acknowledgement**
- **Committee Member Attendance**
- **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by: Barb Weeden

Seconded by: Bill Abbotts

THAT the Agenda of March 4, 2021 be approved as circulated, including any additions to the Agenda, and changes to the order of items under C. Matters for Discussion as follows:

- C.2 to C.1 Draft Recommendations Follow-Up
- C.3 to C.2 Great Lakes Shoreline Right of Passage Act
- C.1 to C.3 Classification of Waterfront Properties

Abbotts, Bill	Yay
Bamford, Scott	Absent
Innes, Cathy	Yay
Thompson, Michael	Yay
Venere, Marc Anthony	Yay
Weeden, Barb	Yay
Bordignon, Peter	Yay
The motion is Carried.	

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, Leisure Activity Plan Steering Committee Members must file a written statement of the interest and its general nature with the Clerk for inclusion on the Registry.

None

▪ Previous Minutes (February 25, 2021)

Moved by: Bill Abbotts

Seconded by: Michael Thompson

THAT the Minutes of February 25, 2021 be approved as circulated, including any revisions to be made.

Abbotts, Bill	Yay
Bamford, Scott	Absent
Innes, Cathy	Yay
Thompson, Michael	Yay
Venere, Marc Anthony	Yay
Weeden, Barb	Yay
Bordignon, Peter	Yay
The motion is Carried.	

B. Staff Reports and Deputations

B.1 Deputations, if any

None

B.2 Public Comment Period (each speaker is allotted three minutes)

NOTE: In accordance with the Town Procedural By-law 2019-56 fifteen minutes is allotted at the Meeting to receive public comments regarding Leisure Activities Plan Steering Committee matters included on the Agenda. The speaker shall provide their name and address, and shall address their comments to the Chair. Comments shall not refer to personnel, litigation or potential litigation matters, or matters that are a follow-up to a Public Meeting.

NOTE: Committee meetings are taking place virtually to assist with social distancing with respect to COVID-19. Comments received from the public that have not been included on the Agenda will be read at the meeting by the Assistant.

B.3 Staff Reports, if any

None

C. Matters for Discussion

C.1 Draft Recommendations Follow-Up

Chris Fawcett, Dunbar & Associates, provided an update of the revisions made to the draft recommendations document based on the committee members' comments.

Partnerships have been identified in the final document as an important piece to assist with proceeding with an approved Leisure Activities Plan.

There was discussion regarding active transportation. Chris Fawcett confirmed waterway transportation is included in the definition of active transportation within the document. The Town is in the process of completing the Transportation Master Plan. Ryan Gibbons, Director of Community Services, confirmed active transportation will be a significant component of the Transportation Master Plan.

Discussion included the financial portion of the document and the reference to the KPMG Municipal Modernization Funding Benchmarking report in which it identifies the Town as spending less per household on recreation and cultural services expenses than the comparator municipalities. Mr. Gibbons indicated the KPMG report has been discussed at Council and internally. Community feedback through the survey process indicates there is interest in more activities and amenities, which may be the link required to assist with the funding situation.

The affordability of residents to utilize recreation programs and facilities, and/or an increase in taxation to residents for additional recreation programs and facilities was discussed. The revenue sources described in the financial portion of the document includes a reference to potential tax increases. It is included in the document to illustrate the various options to consider for funding and does not indicate there will be a commitment to tax increases. The final decisions of potential tax increases will be part of the yearly budget process through council.

It is anticipated the final document from Dunbar & Associates, along with the committee's recommendations, will be presented to council at the April 6, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting. The waterfront property classification portion will be included as an appendix to the final document. The report would be considered by council at the April 19, 2021 Council Meeting.

Mr. Gibbons provided an overview of the process once the final document is approved by council. Council approved a multi-use facility feasibility study in the 2021 budget. The study was included in the budget in anticipation of a recommendation in the final document. If the final document and recommendations are approved by council, the multi-use facility study feasibility process will begin during the third and fourth quarters of 2021, with completion of project details in 2022.

C.2 Great Lakes Shoreline Right of Passage Act

As a continuation to Jayne Sutherland's deputation at the Leisure Activities Plan Steering Committee Meeting on February 18, 2021 regarding access to the shoreline, Committee

Member Scott Bamford brought forward details of the Great Lakes Shoreline Right of Passage Act. Various forms of private members bills similar to the Act were brought forward in 2008, 2012, 2015 and 2018. All were not successful in being accepted. The Great Lakes Shoreline Right of Passage Act was brought forward to give the public access to shorelines on the Great Lakes, which was also not successful. In reference to riparian rights which allows people deeded access to low water, a case brought forward in 1970 where the Crown tried to take back land along the shoreline and was dismissed became precedent setting. Other cases since then have also been dismissed. With this, in many cases property owners are not actually privatizing beaches since they have deeded access. Regarding users rights and accessing private property that has historically been accessed, it is most often ruled in favour of the property owner when examined to court.

Councillor Peter Bordignon explained how the waterfront classification process may assist in adding waterfront properties with public access. Mr. Gibbons indicated the classification process will provide the public clarification of the Town-owned waterfront properties and the locations that should or should not be accessed.

C.3 Classification of Waterfront Properties

Ryan Gibbons reviewed the highlighted items in the waterfront property classification document previously provided to the committee members. The highlighted items are changes/additions based on comments provided by the committee members.

C.4 Roundtable Discussion

Councillor Peter Bordignon indicated that CEO of The Blue Mountains Library, Dr. Sabrina Saunders, joined today's meeting. The Library is considered a recreation activity and will be included in the Leisure Activities Plan processes.

Ryan Gibbons indicated there is a possible deputation for the March 18, 2021 Leisure Activities Plan Steering Committee Meeting from the Cameron Shore Tennis Club to present a potential partnership opportunity.

D. New and Unfinished Business

D.1 Additions to the Agenda

None

D.2 Items Identified for Discussion at the Next Meeting

- **Waterfront Property Classifications**
- **Review Final Consultant Report**
- **Review Committee Recommendations**

E. Notice of Meeting Dates

March 18, 2021
Microsoft Teams Meeting

F. Adjournment

Moved by: Bill Abbotts

Seconded by: Michael Thompson

THAT the Leisure Activities Plan Steering Committee does now adjourn at 4:43 p.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair.

Abbotts, Bill	Yay
Bamford, Scott	Yay
Innes, Cathy	Yay
Thompson, Michael	Yay
Venere, Marc Anthony	Yay
Weeden, Barb	Absent
Bordignon, Peter	Yay
The motion is Carried.	