



# Minutes

## Rural Access to Broadband Internet Technology (RABIT) Task Force

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**Meeting Date:** November 3, 2021  
**Meeting Time:** 11:00 a.m.  
**Location:** Microsoft Teams Meeting  
**Prepared by:** Sarah Merrifield, Executive Assistant Committees of Council

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### A. Call to Order

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Deputy Mayor Rob Potter called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m. with Mayor Alar Soever present.

Town staff present was Director of Operations Shawn Carey. Chief Administrative Officer Shawn Everitt joined the meeting at 11:08 a.m.

Regrets were sent by Councillor Rob Sampson.

- **Task Force Member Attendance**
- **Additions to the Agenda**

None

Mayor Soever noted that, as an addition to the AHSIP discussion, municipal Wardens from Eastern, Western, and Northern Ontario are requesting that the Province suspend the AHSIP program until matters regarding transparency and fairness can be resolved.

#### **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and general nature thereof**

NOTE: In accordance with the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* and the Town Procedural By-law 2021-76, Rural Access to Broadband Internet Technology (RABIT) Task Force members must file a written statement of the interest and its general nature with the Clerk for inclusion on the Registry.

None

- **Review of Minutes (October 20, 2021)**  
Minutes reviewed and deemed sufficient

### B. Staff Reports and Deputations

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- B.1 Deputations, if any**  
Note

## **B.2 Staff reports, if any**

None

## **C. Matters for Discussion**

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### **C.1 Update – Accelerated High Speed Internet Program Application – Task Force members**

- Town submitted to AHSIP

### **C.2 Action Item Tracking**

- Installation guidelines for conduit in The Blue Mountains Road Allowance (“Variation Agreement”)
  - Need to develop engineering standards for conduit installation that also contemplates access vaults in appropriate locations
  - Installation varies if it’s a full road reconstruction versus road resurfacing
  - CAO Everitt referenced conduit installation on 21<sup>st</sup> Sideroad east of 10<sup>th</sup> Line as a possible baseline for standards
- Conduit Installation in Developments
- Eh!Tel and GBTel Inc. Universal Broadband Fund Proposals
  - UBF canceled and moved into AHSIP
  - Staff to connect with Eh!Tel and GBTel to confirm if they have received follow-up regarding AHSIP and cancellation of UBF, and what that means for their respective UBF applications
- Bruce Street Technologies – Successful in ICON Grant
  - BST is not proceeding with the ICON Grant, however, will proceed with installation of broadband in Heathcote
- R2B2 and The Town of The Blue Mountains
  - Regular touching base meetings between CAO Everitt and R2B2 representatives
  - Consideration of hiring a student intern from the University of Guelph R2B2 program in Fall 2021 to assist in data mapping
  - Will bring funding request through 2022 budget related to RABIT activities

## **D. Correspondence**

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None

## **E. New and Unfinished Business**

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### **E.1 Additions to the Agenda**

### **E.2 Items Identified for Discussion at Next Meeting**

- Telecommunications Protocol and Tower Siting Update
- Rogers Communication Meeting

**F. Upcoming Meeting Dates**

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November 17, 2021, at 11:00 a.m.  
Town Hall, Council Chambers (virtually)

**G. Adjournment**

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Meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.