

**STAFF REPORT:**

**Planning & Building Services Department**



**REPORT TO:** Planning & Building Services Committee  
**MEETING DATE:** October 3, 2011  
**REPORT NO.:** PL.11.111  
**SUBJECT:** Official Plan Review Status Report  
**PREPARED BY:** Cindy Welsh, MCIP, RPP  
Senior Policy Planner

**A. Recommendations**

**THAT Council does hereby receive Planning Staff Report PL.11.111 Official Plan Review Status Report for information purposes.**

**B. Background**

To date, the following tasks have been completed:

1. Meeting with the Planning & Building Committee on May 4, 2011.
2. Meeting with Council on May 16, 2011.
3. Meeting with the Town's Senior Management Team on June 1, 2011.
4. Official Plan Five Year Review Steering Committee Meeting #1 on April 21, 2011.
5. Official Plan Five Year Review Steering Committee Meeting #2 on May 16, 2011.
6. Agencies, Boards & Committees Meeting on June 1, 2011.
7. First Public Workshop on Saturday June 18, 2011.
8. Official Plan Five Year Review Steering Committee Meeting #3 on June 27, 2011.
9. Meeting with The Blue Mountains Agricultural Advisory Committee on July 12, 2011.
10. Second Public Workshop on Thursday, September 22, 2011 (summary below).
11. Official Plan Five Year Review Steering Committee Meeting #4 on September 27, 2011.

Building on the successful first public workshop held on Saturday, June 18, 2011, Council authorized staff to hold a second public workshop focusing on Growth Management, Intensification, Transportation and Design. This second public workshop was held on Thursday, September 22, 2011 in the Town Hall Council Chambers and was attended by 31 members of the public. Nick McDonald and Mark Stone of Meridian Planning Consultants lead the workshop which was facilitated by Glenn Pothier of GLPi.

The beginning of the workshop was an opportunity for the public to learn about the Official Plan Review Project and gain an overview of the work which has been done to date and still needs to be completed.

The second part of the workshop was a series of roundtable discussions followed by a plenary information exchange to address the following questions:

1. To ensure that new growth is attractive, sensitive to existing land uses, functional, and in support of maintaining/enhancing the character of the Town, The Blue Mountains is considering: Community Design Guidelines; policies in the Official Plan to guide the location, form and type of intensification; phasing requirements; and transportation policies. What, specifically, should the Town look at as part of the Official Plan Review to meet this goal with respect to new growth?
2. Given the need to adhere to the Provincial Policy Statement and the County Official Plan, what do you see as the most important challenges/considerations for The Blue Mountains in creating compact, vibrant and complete communities? How might they be addressed?
3. Building on the Town's Sustainable Path initiative — what implementation actions should the Town consider...what 'single action' would best move the Town's sustainability initiatives forward?
4. What, if any, employment-related location/land use issues should be considered in the Official Plan review? What should the Town do to ensure that all appropriate types of employment uses could be accommodated?
5. How can we harness the best elements of the Town's Housing Needs Study through the Official Plan Review?

The comment period for the public workshop ended on Friday, September 30, 2011. Once all comments have been received, the Official Plan Review Steering Committee, Planning and Building Committee and Council will be provided a full detailed participant feedback summary of both the June 18, 2011 and September 22, 2011 public workshops.

The public workshop was attended by the following:

- Mayor Ellen Anderson;
- Councillors Bob Gamble; Gail Ardiel, Michael Martin and Joe Halos
- Official Plan Review Steering Committee, Chair R. B. Waind;
- Official Plan Review Steering Committee member, John Corrigan;
- Official Plan Review Steering Committee member and Planning staff, David Finbow;
- Official Plan Review Steering Committee member and County of Grey Planning staff, Scott Taylor;
- Nick McDonald and Mark Stone, Meridian Planning Consultants Inc.;
- Glenn Pothier, GLPi;
- Chief Administrative Officer Troy Speck;
- Director of Engineering and Public Works, Reg Russwurm;

- Official Plan Review Project Manager, Cindy Welsh;
- Sharon Long, Administrative Assistant; and
- Thirty-one (31) members of the public.

### **C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan**

1. Managing growth to ensure the ongoing health and prosperity of the community.

### **D. Environmental Impacts**

Not applicable.

### **E. Financial Impact**

The Official Plan Review process was approved as an Operating Project in the 2010 Budget with \$140,000 budgeted for consulting services and \$84,000 for legal services. Meridian Planning Consultants Inc. have been retained at a cost of \$134,387.11 to undertake the Town of The Blue Mountains Official Plan Five-year Review. The proposed budgeted cost of the second public workshop is \$4,850.00 not including HST.

### **F. Attachments**

Nil.

Submitted by:

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