

- Previous Minutes

Moved by: R.J. Gamble

Seconded by: Gail Ardiel

THAT the Special Meeting of Council minutes of September 19, 2012 and the Council minutes of October 10, 2012, be adopted as circulated, including any revisions to be made, Carried.

D. Public Meeting

D.1 Public Meeting: Re: Proposed Feral Cat Control By-Law

Mayor Anderson read the Notice of Public Meeting regarding the Proposed Feral Cat Control By-law noting that Council of the Corporation of the Town of The Blue Mountains will hold a Public Meeting at The Blue Mountains Town Hall, 32 Mill Street, Thornbury, Ontario, commencing at 7:00 P.M. on the 29th day of October 2012, for the purpose of receiving comments from the public with respect to a Proposed Feral Cat Control By-law.

Ellen noted that subject to the receipt of comments at the Public Meeting, Council of the Corporation of the Town of The Blue Mountains may enact said Feral Cat Control By-law on the 29th day of October 2012.

The Clerk then noted that Notice of the Public Meeting was given in accordance with the Town's Notice Policy, and in response comments were received from Lia Laskaris, Jane Phillips, Yvonne Charbonneau, Barb Loughheed, Dr. Gabrielle Herman, Claude Alschuler, Lynda Nanders, Mary Croft, Amitav Dash, Cherie Davidson, Sally Leppard, Dr. Peggy Voorneveld, Ken Douglas, Richard Spearman, R.M. Kesteven, Ann Kajander, Pat Longmire, Heather Harrison, Lynda Wykes and Karen Naish.

The Mayor then spoke providing the background of the Catsnip Program.

Director of Planning and Building David Finbow then spoke regarding the Catsnip Program and noted the draft by-law was revised earlier today. David noted Council supported the program in principle, and noted it is good to see the public is interested in this matter. David confirmed the Notice of Public Meeting indicated that Council may enact the by-law this evening if they are satisfied after hearing from the public comments.

David then referenced the comments received from the Animal Alliance of Canada.

David confirmed that Council is not interested in licencing cats, and confirmed the revised by-law focuses on feral cats.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay then spoke questioning if the revised by-law is close to the original intent of the draft by-law, David replying that the Blue Mountain Veterinary is the Poundkeeper and that the Cat Control Officer will collect the feral cats and take them to the Blue Mountain Veterinary, and further reviewed the roles of the Pound and the Animal Control Officer.

Duncan then questioned why "cat at large" and "cat identification" is included in the by-law, David replying this is solely to assist the cat control officers.

Councillor Gamble then spoke regarding the revisions to the by-law and the change in definition to pound and poundkeeper to include volunteers, and questioned if the Town at some point will be held responsible for the cats.

David spoke in response noting that he does not believe the definition of poundkeeper changed, and confirmed that the Town's responsibility is with Dr. Gray. David then confirmed that the Town is not responsible for the impounded or unreleased cats.

Mayor Anderson then questioned if any member of the public would like to comment in response to the proposed by-law.

Vera Wagner, spoke noting she is in favour of the by-law, further noting feral cats will always exist, and that responsible ownership is important. Ms. Wagner noted that cat owners should spay and neuter their pets and that the owners of animals not spayed or neutered should be punished.

Michael Seguin, resident 209 Peel Street, Thornbury spoke noting concern that the poundkeeper will financially benefit from the Catsnip Program and questioned if the draft by-law is about money or cats. Mr. Seguin noted that the volunteers that rescue feral cats should be recognized. Mr. Seguin then questioned who makes the decision of when a cat is to be spayed/neutered and released, and questioned why the poundkeeper will have the ability to charge what it wants for the service. Mr. Seguin asked that the by-law be re-examined before its passing.

Diane Walker spoke regarding the Catsnip program and expressed support for the program, further noting she was involved in a similar program that spayed/neutered 250 cats and dogs in Bahamas in a two week period. Ms. Walker then commended Dr. Gray for her initiative in the program. Ms. Walker noted that all vets should donate time to spay and neuter and that if the costs of spaying/neutering were more reasonable it may assist with the feral cat population.

John Casey, 112 Campbell Crescent, spoke questioning if any research has been done on the matter of feral cats and the magnitude of the problem. Dr. Gray spoke in response to Mr. Casey noting that there are between 300 and 1000 feral cats living in The Blue Mountains.

Mr. Casey then questioned what tests would be administered to the cats and at what level of illness would a cat be destroyed. Dr. Gray spoke in response noting the tests would include feline leukaemia, and feline immune deficiency that could spread to other cats.

Dr. Gray then spoke noting she opened Blue Mountain Veterinary Services in 1999. Dr. Gray noted that if the vet's time is donated to perform the surgery, with one pain control injection administered to the cat and the cat is released the same day, that the cost to spay/neuter a cat could be kept low. Dr. Gray noted that she has not included the facility costs and noted she will lose money on the Program, but she believes in it. Dr. Gray noted there are many cats and kittens available for adoption at nominal costs that have already been spayed/neutered.

Dr. Gray noted that the Humane Society is collecting donations and are investigating the possibility of charitable status for the Catsnip Program. Dr. Gray confirmed the clinic will receive \$50 from the Catsnip Program, with the balance being matched by the veterinary and technician in performing the services for free. Dr. Gray noted it is anticipated that the number of feral cats will decline, year after year, and that the number of cats to be spayed/neutered will be lowered each year as well.

Mayor Anderson then spoke confirming that it is hoped that other municipalities could control their feral cat population with the support of their local veterinarians as well, Dr. Gray spoke noting she would be happy to work with other municipalities and veterinarians.

Debbie Coulter, then spoke expressing concern that Blue Mountain has cats that will be trapped and destroyed in the next month, Dr. Gray spoke in response noting this is the type of information that she would like to receive and that the Catsnip Program would trap the cats, spay/neuter them and release them to a more suitable area.

Pat Bennett, spoke questioning the viral testing, Dr. Gray spoke in response noting the feline leukaemia test is accurate and that the feline immune deficiency test, on occasion, requires a second test.

Warren Eugene, spoke commending Dr. Gray on her work. Mr. Eugene noted that feral cats and stray cats help control mice and rat population, and expressed concern that the by-law is being entered into too quickly. Dr. Gray spoke in response to Mr. Eugene, noting that the program will be communicated to the public, and if a housecat is caught in error, the cat will be kept for seven days and then adopted out.

Karen Naish, spoke questioning if Blue Mountain Veterinarian is a pound, Director of Planning and Building David Finbow replying yes. Karen then noted that the communication about the proposed by-law has been poor. David then spoke noting Blue Mountain Veterinary is used for dogs caught by the Town's Municipal Law Enforcement Officer pursuant to the dogs-at-large by-law. Karen then noted the feral cat by-law should not be passed, and questioned why the Georgian Triangle Humane Society ("GTHS") is involved. Mayor Anderson spoke in response noting GTHS are a not-for-profit organization and are able to receive donations and provide tax receipts to donors and are being used by Blue Mountain Veterinary for this purpose.

Pat Bennett then spoke noting she has been trapping and feeding feral cats for ten years and would be pleased with this program, but she has concern for the cat's safety when it is trapped. Pat questioned if the cat will be fed when it is spayed/neutered and released.

Mirella Taiarol, resident 143 Wards Road, spoke identifying a typographical error in the by-law. Ms. Taiarol referenced the comments made by Animal Alliance of Ontario with respect to "feral" and "owned" cats, and noted she supports the feral cat spay/neuter/control by-law and acknowledges Dr. Gray for her efforts. Ms. Taiarol noted the program needs to be performed with compassion. Ms. Taiarol referenced Dr. Gray's letter of July 16 and noted this is a good beginning but does not set out the details of the Catsnip Program. Ms. Taiarol asked that more moderate language be used in advertisements about the program, and that the Ottawa feral cat sanctuary be used as a reference. Ms. Taiarol asked what will happen to the cats, what is the purpose of the by-law, expressed that the feral cats should be rehomed, questioned how long the cats will be held, where the cats will be released if unwelcome in previous location, and how long Blue Mountain Veterinary will keep the records of these cats.

Dr. Gray then spoke noting the program needs the support of the municipality so that veterinarians and veterinarian technicians can be named for cat control duties. Dr. Gray noted that cats do get rabies, and further noted she does not know how many cats will be euthanized, though she anticipates it will be 3%. Dr. Gray noted she would like to establish a feral cat shelter as was done in Ottawa.

Mayor Anderson thanked Dr. Gray for her efforts and for speaking at the Public Meeting and to the members of the public for providing their comments.

E. Correspondence as previously circulated

Author	Recommendation / Action
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E.1 Wally Brinson Re: Request for Permission To Hunt at Conc. 12, Lot 39	For Council Direction
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Moved by: R.J. Gamble Seconded by: D.R. McKinlay

THAT Council receive the request for exemption from By-Law 2005-55; Regulation of Firearm Discharge, from landowner Dan Harrison and Hunter Wally Brinson, regarding hunting on the property at Lot 39, Concession 12, Town of The Blue Mountains; and

THAT Council permit the exemption to By-Law 2005-55 to allow Mr. Brinson full permission to hunt the subject lands for the 2012 year.

In speaking to the Motion, Councillor McKean questioned if Mr. Brinson's rifle has a slug barrel, Mr. Brinson, present, replying no he has a high powered rifle. John then noted that a slug gun does not have as much carry.

Councillor Halos then spoke noting no complaints have been received regarding Mr. Brinson hunting on this property, and that the exemption should be granted.

Council then voted on the Motion, Carried.

E.2 Ontario Provincial Police Re: Municipal Policing Cost-Recovery Formula	Received for information
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E.3 Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration Re: June Callwood Outstanding Achievement Award for Volunteerism	Refer to Communication and Economic Development
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E.4 Petition from Concerned Citizens and Community Members Re: Ball Diamonds being used as Dog Park	Refer to Recreation & By-law
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E.5 Warren Eugene Re: Dog Park, Proposal to form a Committee	Refer to Recreation & By-law
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Moved by: D.R. McKinlay Seconded by: John McKean

THAT this Council does hereby receive the Correspondence of October 29, 2012 and further does support the Staff Recommendation made with regard to the Correspondence items, including any additional direction given to Staff through discussion, with an appropriate Staff action or response awaited for report back to Committee or Council where indicated, Carried.

F. Motions and Staff Reports

F.1 Energy Conservation and Demand Management Development Strategy, EWP.12.091

Environmental Initiatives Coordinator Adam McMullin reviewed the Report, noting this report is brought to Council further to the direction of the Infrastructure and Recreation Committee at the October 16 meeting.

Adam noted that the municipality is required to implement an Energy Management Plan to identify long standing benefits and efficiencies in the municipality. Adam spoke regarding the steps to be taken, including energy audits to identify what needs to be done and identifying how much energy is to be saved.

Adam noted that staff are conducting energy audits, and that ad hoc improvements are being made, though not at all facilities. Adam noted that holistically, staff do not have the time or the expertise to create Energy Management Plans, and suggested that a consultant be retained to create a plan and then staff can select which work is to be done. Adam noted that the focus would be on the main five or six Town facilities.

Councillor Gamble then spoke noting he feels that this process is in place and that the operators of each facility should identify work that could be done for energy efficiency, then seek the advice of a consultant.

Councillor McKean then spoke noting the proposal is seeking \$75,000 in 2013 that would be funded from Gas Tax, and then questioned how much of the \$350,000 requested for 2014 – 2017 would be funded from Gas Tax, Adam replying the entire amount would be funded from Gas Tax. John then spoke noting he believes the \$350,000 should be spent elsewhere.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay then spoke noting he appreciates Councillor Gamble's comments, and noted that staff can identify the first steps in energy conservation and that this item could be included in the overall budget to determine the best way to use Gas Tax.

Councillor Martin then spoke noting he agrees with Councillor Gamble. Michael noted that staff should identify one facility to improve and then identify how to improve efficiencies at that facility, further noting that implementation should proceed slowly.

CAO Troy Speck then spoke noting his previous experiences have shown that the day to day operations of facilities management does not allow time to perform energy audit work, further noting that energy management projects did pay for themselves and savings were realized by the municipality.

Councillor Halos then spoke noting the Beaver Valley Community Centre has achieved good results in energy conservation and questioned if energy management auditing is a requirement to receive Gas Tax funding, Adam replying no, that the Gas Tax funds can be used on any qualifying project.

Councillor Gamble noted that reducing the number of street lights could be a cost saving measure.

Moved by: D.R. McKinlay Seconded by: Joe Halos

THAT Council receive Report EPW.12.091 entitled “Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan Development Strategy” and;

THAT Council consider the recommended approach as outlined by Staff in Report EPW.12.070 to develop an Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan as part of the 2013 budget process consisting in principle of:

- 2013 operating budget of \$75,000
- 2014 – 2017 capital budget totalling \$350,000 for energy efficiency and retrofit projects
- Initial funding from Gas Tax Revenues
- Creation of Energy Efficiency Reserve Fund, Lost.

F.2 Blue Mountain Resort Amending Site Plan Agreement - South Base Parking Lot, PL.12.136

Moved by: D.R. McKinlay Seconded by: John McKean

THAT Council receive Staff Report PL.12.136 respecting “Blue Mountain Resort Amending Site Plan Agreement – South Base Parking Lot” and that Council authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the Amending Site Plan Agreement, Carried.

F.3 WSIB Mandatory Coverage in Construction, FIT.12.69

Manager of Purchasing, Sherri Adams spoke noting the Town is trying to minimize its risks with the confirmation of vendor Clearance Certificates. Deputy Mayor McKinlay spoke noting this was discussed at the County level, further noting that WSIB have been asked to host public meetings so that all are aware of the requirements of vendors.

Councillor McKean then spoke questioning if vendors will be made aware, Sherri replying that information sessions are being hosted with the County, in The Blue Mountains, for vendors and confirmed that tender documents include this information.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay then spoke noting this is an instance of County / lower tier collaboration.

Moved by: R.J. Gamble Seconded by: John McKean

THAT Council receive Staff Report FIT.12.69 “WSIB Mandatory Coverage in Construction” for information purposes, Carried.

G. Consent Agenda

Accounts

- G.1 Accounts
- G.2 Invoices separated for pecuniary interest (none)

Reports List (Adopt)

- G.3 Infrastructure and Recreation Committee Report, October 16, 2012
- G.4 Finance and Administration Committee Report, October 16, 2012
- G.5 Infrastructure and Recreation Committee Report, October 23, 2012

Minutes List (Receive)

- G.6 Grey Sauble Source Protection Committee Minutes, July 27, 2012
- G.7 Public Art Evaluation Committee Minutes, September 13, 2012
- G.8 The Blue Mountains Public Library Minutes, September 19, 2012

Councillor Halos spoke noting the Library Board passed a motion at the September 19 Council Meeting regarding the Library's Land Reserve Fund.

Moved by: Joe Halos Seconded by: Michael Martin

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains collapse the L.E. Shore Memorial Library General Reserve and the L.E. Shore Memorial Library Fundraising Reserve into the L.E. Shore Land Reserve Fund which has an established purpose of being used for the future expansion of the Library, Carried.

H. By-laws

H.1 By-law to Establish and Regulate a Fire Department

Moved by: R.J. Gamble Seconded by: John McKean

THAT By-law No. 2012 - 65 being By-law to establish and regulate a Fire Department for The Blue Mountains be hereby passed this 29th day of October, 2012, Carried.

H.2 By-Law to establish a Feral Cat Program (subject to Council's consideration of comments received at the Public Meeting and any necessary and directed amendments)

Deputy Mayor McKinlay then assumed the Chair.

Moved by: Michael Martin Seconded by: Joe Halos

THAT Council move into Committee of the Whole to consider the text of the proposed Feral Cat Program By-law, Carried.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay then requested that Councillor Martin chair the Committee of the Whole session.

Chair Martin spoke noting a revised Feral Cat By-law was circulated to Council prior to this evening's meeting, further noting the Bylaw authorizes forces to enter onto lands to trap and receive feral cats. Councillor Martin noted he is proposing amendments to the draft By-law.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay spoke suggesting an amendment to clause C.2 of the by-law. Councillor McKean spoke noting he has no problem with the by-law as circulated.

Councillor Gamble then spoke concerned that this by-law moves The Blue Mountains into providing cat control, and questioned if an agreement between the Town, Dr. Gray of Blue Mountain Veterinary Services and the volunteers will be entered into, and if said agreement could form an addendum to the by-law, simply stating who does what. Councillor Martin then spoke regarding the language of the by-law, noting a policy could be brought forward to clearly identify the roles of each party, further noting a policy should be brought forward at the next council meeting. Councillor Gamble noted he would be satisfied with this.

Councillor Halos then spoke noting it is clear that all of Council are in favour of the by-law, and agrees that a policy should be created to support the by-law.

Moved by: D.R. McKinlay Seconded by: John McKean

THAT Council revise the proposed Feral Cat Program By-law, and that clauses C.1 and C.2 of the proposed By-law will now read:

- C.1 Where the Poundkeeper or Cat Control Officer discovers a feral cat, the Poundkeeper or Cat Control Officer may capture said cat by trapping, or other humane means, and may sterilize, vaccinate and, following post operative care, return the feral cat to the same environment from which the feral cat was captured or, in the instance where the Poundkeeper or Cat Control Officer is not satisfied that the same environment is safe for the feral cat, a safe environment.
- C.2 A Cat Control Officer under the direction of a Veterinarian, or a Veterinarian, may take immediate action to humanely destroy any sick or injured cat found within the Town where, in their opinion immediate destruction of the cat is necessary to avoid unnecessary suffering by the animal, unanimously Carried.

Moved by: D.R. McKinlay Seconded by: Ellen Anderson

THAT all clauses, contained in the proposed Feral Cat Program By-law be passed as amended, Carried.

Moved by: D.R. McKinlay Seconded by: Ellen Anderson

THAT Council rise from Committee of the Whole, Carried.

Councillor Martin spoke noting he would support a motion to give first and second reading to the by-law as revised pending preparation of a policy for final consideration of the by-law at the November 19 Council meeting, Councillor Gamble noted he would support such a motion.

Councillor McKean then spoke noting the By-law should be passed this evening, Mayor Anderson concurring, noting it is her preference that the By-law be passed this evening, adding it is three weeks before the next Council Meeting, to allow the Program to commence.

Councillor Gamble noted he is satisfied that the by-law proceed this evening provided a policy is attached to the by-law in the near future.

Moved by: Joe Halos Seconded by: John McKean

THAT By-law No. 2012 - 66 being By-law to establish a program to aid in the control of feral cats in The Blue Mountains be taken as read a first, second and third time and hereby passed this 29th day of October, 2012, Carried.

H.3 By-law to Restrict Passage Over a Highway

Moved by: D.R. McKinlay Seconded by: Michael Martin

THAT By-law No. 2012-67, being a By-law to restrict passage over a highway relating to a portion of deviation highway located in Lot 25, Concession 7 (Camperdown Road South) be hereby passed this 29th day of October, 2012, unanimously Carried.

I. New and Unfinished Business

I.1 Grey County Council Update

Deputy Mayor McKinlay spoke noting the County is moving forward with the Budget process, noting senior staff have been asked to move toward a 2% budget increase with 0% and 1% increases proposed.

I.2 Notice of Motion

Councillor Martin then read his Notice of Motion for the next Council Meeting:

That the Planning Department provide a report to Council with draft text for an amendment to the Official Plan (OPA) for the purpose of providing detailed criteria for any amendments to the Official Plan or Zoning by laws pertaining to development or redevelopment on lands designated "Deferred Development" "DD" or "Residential" "RES" within the "Thornbury Urban Community where such proposal exceeds 1.5 hectares.

Criteria to include:

- Land division by Plan of Subdivision
- Roads to be based upon parallel and perpendicular configuration
- Roads to be full urban standard 20 metre width with curb, gutter and sidewalks
- Snow storage areas
- Built form to be compatible with surrounding neighbourhood as to built form, height, and density
- Surrounding neighbourhood means all areas within 800 meters of any portion of proposed development: in event of different densities then lowest density shall be the measure

I.3 Additions to Agenda

1.3.1 Museum Services Agreement, DOR.12.41

Moved by: D.R. McKinlay Seconded by: Joe Halos

THAT Council receive Staff Report DOR.12.41 "Museum Services Agreement"; and,

