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STAFF REPORT: Planning & Building Services Department



REPORT TO: Planning & Building Committee
MEETING DATE: January 13, 2014
REPORT NO.: PL.14.07
SUBJECT: The Blue Mountains Official Plan 5 Year Review Update
PREPARED BY: D. Finbow, Director, Planning & Building Services

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report PL.14.07 respecting The Blue Mountains Official Plan 5 Year Review Update.

B. Background

The Town's Official Plan (OP) 5 Year Review Steering Committee (Committee) continues to move towards a final draft to take to a Public Open House and the Statutory Public Meeting.

By way of background, on February 13, 2013 Council considered a draft of the Official Plan 5 Year Review Document (Document) and a presentation by the Director, Planning & Building Services and the Town's consultant, on behalf of the Town's Committee, with Council authorizing the public posting of the Document for comment.

In April 2013 the Town made available the April 2013 Draft of the Document (in an Office Consolidation Format) with same being posted to the Town's website on April 23, 2013.

Subsequent to the release of the draft, Town staff received numerous questions and comments and provided opportunity for property owners and the consulting industry to meet to discuss their concerns. In this regard, the Director, Planning & Building Services and the Town's consultant met with 30 property owners, consultants and interested stakeholders beginning in June 2013 through to the end of September 2013.

On June 15, 2013 the Committee facilitated a Stakeholder Consultation Update Session. This session focussed on how the comments received from the public at the previous sessions had been addressed and next steps.

Since April 2013 a significant amount of work has been done in conjunction with the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority in terms of refining the hazard mapping and, various minor mapping issues have been addressed (recognizing previous OP Amendments, correcting layer priority issues, ensuring existing exceptions are recognized, etc.).

Comments and requests received during the consultation period have been compiled and presented to the Committee with the Committee providing direction.

These directions have now been included in an updated draft (which will be circulated to Council on or about January 20, 2014 and be made available to the public via the Town's website on or about the same date). With the release of the Draft, interested stakeholders will be provided with further opportunity to ask questions and formally comment either in advance of, or at the Statutory Public Meeting to be scheduled for April or May 2014 (date to be confirmed). It is anticipated that the Public Open House will be held in March or April 2014 (date to be confirmed).

The more significant revisions to the draft will be presented to Council on January 27, 2014.

Subsequent to the holding of the Statutory Public Meeting, the Committee will report back with recommendations as to moving forward so as to allow for Council's consideration of enacting the necessary by-law so as to adopt the Official Plan 5 Year Review in the month of July 2014.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

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

D. Environmental Impacts

Positive

E. Financial Impact

The Official Plan 5 Year Review Project is within budget and will be completed on budget.

F. In Consultation With

Official Plan 5 Year Review Steering Committee

G. Attached

Nil

Respectfully submitted,

David Finbow
Director, Planning & Building Services