

STAFF REPORT: Our Sustainable Path Steering Committee

REPORT TO: Committee of the Whole
MEETING DATE: April 7, 2014
REPORT NO.: EPW.14.026
SUBJECT: Support of Official Plan Review
PREPARED BY: Jeffery Fletcher, Manager of Solid Waste and Environmental Initiatives on behalf of The Sustainable Path Steering Committee

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report EPW.14.026, "Support of Official Plan Review" for their information.

B. Background

Since 2011 the Town has been supporting and participating in a non-committee of Council steering committee. During the development of the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (Our Sustainable Path, 2010), a steering committee of partners to the plan including Town representatives was formed to help guide the Plan. The completed Plan recommended forming an ongoing committee of partners to continue to guide the implementation of the Plan and maintain connections between plan partners.

The Our Sustainable Path Steering Committee currently includes five Plan partners or representatives from partner organizations, a member of Town Council (Duncan McKinlay) and a Town Staff representative (Troy Speck). The Committee's primary mandate as outlined in the steering committee's Terms of Reference is to "monitor progress of the plan and facilitate its implementation".

The Steering Committee, as one of its activities, has been participating in and discussing the Town's 5 year Official Plan Review (OPR). This has included a review of the Draft document and other relevant Town documents including the Community Design Guidelines, 2012. Committee feels both of these documents have included comprehensive sections related to sustainable development and design and are encouraged by the policies and guidelines outlined in the OPR. Many of the areas of discussion in the OPR under Sustainable Development mirror many goals, strategies and actions of the Sustainable Path Plan. Some examples include: the improvement and preservation of forests and the urban tree canopy; water and energy conservation; air quality and greenhouse gas reduction and strengthen links between rural and urban through urban agricultural policies.

The Steering Committee recognizes that the Draft OPR includes policies that have a mandate to develop new standards for development and re-development that will progress the Town towards more sustainable build, natural and agricultural areas.

The Steering Committee would like to express its support of the Draft Official Plan Review document and will continue to participate in the final round of public consultation. This Committee would also like to express its interest in providing input into the development of green development standards and other related high priority activities advanced by the new policies outlined in the Draft OPR.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

The OPR connects well with the strategic actions related to undertaking a "Green" strategy and is a continuation of the action to implement policies of the Official Plan related to shoreline areas, preservation of the rural area and natural heritage systems.

D. Environmental Impacts

The Sustainable Path Plan is a vision towards 2060 that looks to position "The Blue Mountains as an international showcase of rural sustainability"; the vision is for a "connected and caring community that blends our heritage with a thriving diverse economy based on the continual preservation and protection of nature".

E. Financial Impact

None

F. In Consultation With

Our Sustainable Path – Steering Committee

G. Attached

None

Respectfully submitted,

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