

STAFF REPORT: Engineering & Public Works Department



REPORT TO: Infrastructure & Recreation Committee
MEETING DATE: March 23, 2010
REPORT NO.: EPW.10.030
SUBJECT: Closing of Craigmere Crescent
**PREPARED BY: Jim McCannell, Manager of Roads and
 Drainage Division**

A. Recommendations

THAT Council enact a By-Law to permanently close that portion of an open highway connecting Craigmere Crescent to Grey County Road 19, as detailed in the Staff Report EPW.10.030 entitled "Closing of Craigmere Crescent".

B. Background

At the regularly scheduled meeting of October 26, 2009, Council received the Infrastructure and Recreation Committee Report of October 13, 2009. The Committee Report contained Staff Report EPW.09.093, entitled "Craigmere Crescent Public Meeting".

Report EPW.09.093 noted:

A public meeting is required to propose closing a portion of an open highway that connects Craigmere Crescent to Grey County Road 19. This intersection has poor road geometrics (grade) and reduced sightlines. The intersection does not meet the current Town road design standards. This road segment is gravel and has not been upgraded to Town standards. There is no water or sewer services and no lots front this section of road. There is an underground Bell telephone wire located on the north side of the road Notification will be provided to Bell Canada if the road is closed.

A location map is provided as Attachment #1.

A Public Meeting to consider the closing of the subject road section (the road) was scheduled and held on November 9, 2009. At the Public Meeting, area residents Pamela Bell and David Knechtel spoke in favour of closing the road.

Councillor Bob Gamble noted concern with closing the road as it provided access for Happy Valley Road residents to area mailboxes located on Craigmere Crescent. Councillor Gamble further noted traffic congestion may increase as access to the west end of the Heritage Corners subdivision would then only be through Heritage Drive, adding people also use the road to access the Tyrolean Village area and suggested the road be maintained as one-way from Grey Road 19.

Correspondence was received from area resident Ken Browne, noting support for closing the road. Mr. Browne further noted issues with existing drainage, possible relocation of area mailboxes and signage.

Correspondence was also received from the Grey County Transportation and Public Safety Department, noting they were in favour of closing the road and from Blue Mountain Resorts, noting no comment.

Regarding the concerns of Councillor Gamble, a slight additional travel time for those residents of Happy Valley road wishing to attend the area mailboxes would be more than offset with the benefit achieved with the removal of a dangerous intersection at a busy County Road. Access to Heritage Corners was intended to be via the new streets contained in the Plan of Subdivision and alternate routes to Tyrolean Village are constructed to higher standards and better suited to additional traffic volume than the road. See Attachment #1.

Regarding the issues raised by Mr. Browne, it is proposed to seek re-location of the area mailboxes currently on Craigmere Crescent. The community mail boxes could be moved along Craigmere Crescent to the south and be located at what is now the gravel portion of the road. The mail box location would be the high point on the road and storm water would drain along the road side ditches away from the mail boxes, no culvert would be required. Offsetting the mailboxes back from the travel portion of the road by 2m would also allow short-term parking for those wishing to pick up mail and reduce congestion on Craigmere Crescent.

Further, no street name changes are planned and signage could be established indicating Craigmere Crescent to the north and Pioneer Lane to the south.

It is not proposed to recommend sale of the road at this time, as it may be required for servicing or parking requirements in the future.

After considering points raised as part of the public communication process, Staff recommend that a by-law be enacted to permanently close that portion of an open highway connecting Craigmere Crescent to Grey County Road 19. Refer to Attachment #2.

Following the passing of the by-law the road would be blocked with a guard rail along the west end at County road 19. The gravel road surface would remain in place and permit use by pedestrians and cyclists. The east end would be blocked by the mail boxes and other devices to control vehicle access yet allow for access to the mail boxes. Refer to Attachment #3.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

Closing the subject road section would represent efforts to further the Town's Strategic Goal # 2, "Addressing the Town's municipal infrastructure needs".

D. Environmental Impacts

Less vehicular traffic in the immediate area, potentially improved area drainage.

E. Budget Impact

Reduced road maintenance activity.

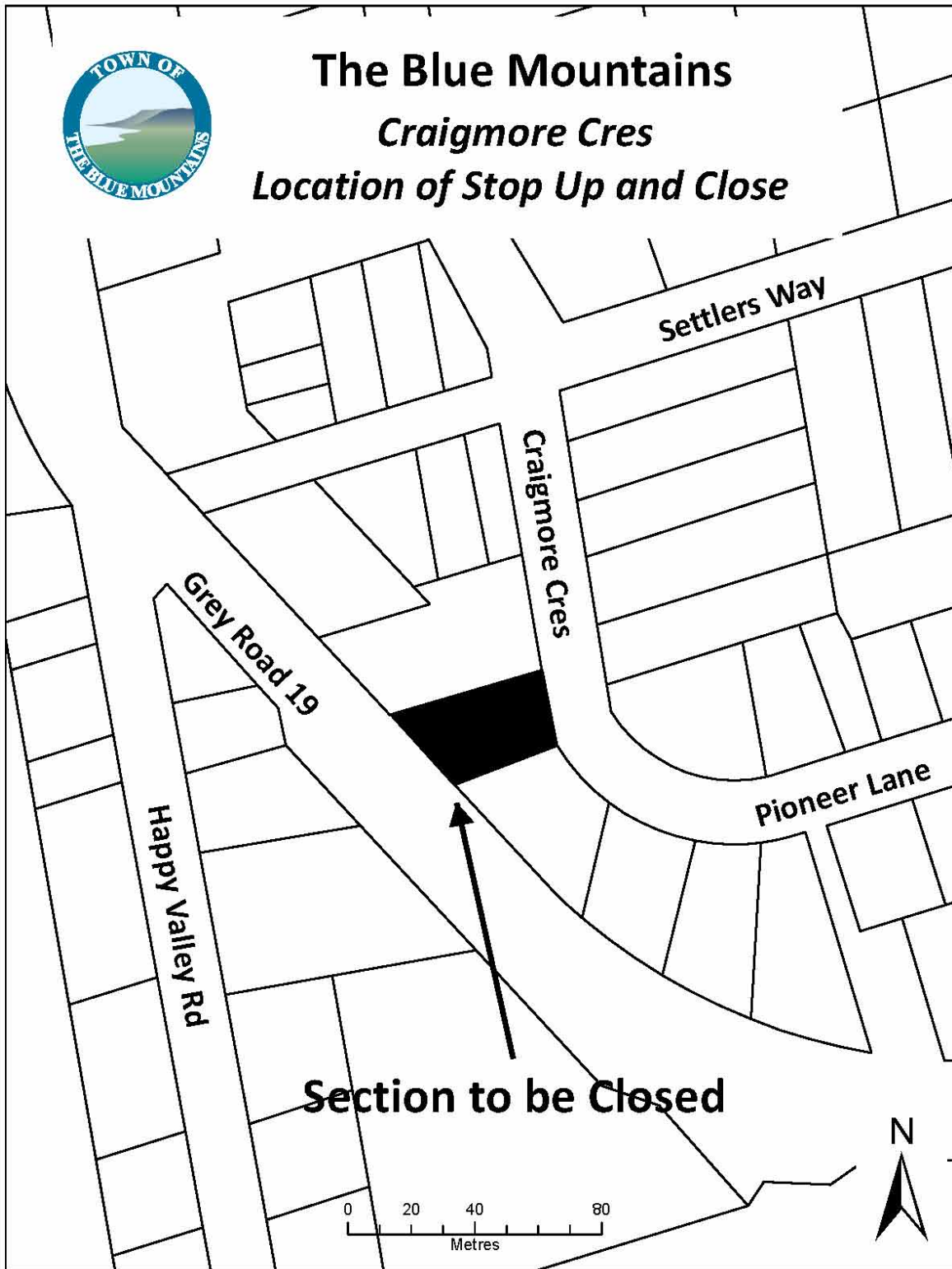
F. Attached

1. Location Map
2. Draft By-Law to Permanently Close the Subject Road Section
3. Road Barriers

Respectfully submitted,

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**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF
THE BLUE MOUNTAINS**

BY-LAW NO. 2010 -

Being a by-law to permanently close a portion of municipal highway

WHEREAS sections 9, 11 and 34 of the *Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25* (the "Act"), enable a municipality to pass by-laws permanently closing highways;

AND WHEREAS Council has deemed it to be in the public interest to permanently close the portion of municipal highway extending westerly from the juncture of Craigmere Crescent and Pioneer Lane to an intersection with Grey County Road 19;

AND WHEREAS Council did adopt, in accordance with Section 270 of the Act, Policy POL.COR.07.03 (the "Policy") to prescribe the form and manner for the giving of public notice of its intention to consider this by-law;

AND WHEREAS public notice of the intention to enact this by-law has been given in accordance with the requirements of the Policy and a Public Meeting was held on November 9, 2009 to hear input on the proposed by-law from interested persons;

NOW THEREFORE The Council of the Corporation of the Town of The Blue Mountains hereby enacts as follows:

1. THAT the portion of municipal highway extending westerly from the juncture of Craigmere Crescent and Pioneer Lane to an intersection with Grey County Road 19 is hereby permanently closed.
2. This By-law shall come into force and take effect upon the registration of a certified copy of this By-law in the Land Registry Office for the Registry Division of Grey (#16).

ENACTED and PASSED this day of , 2010.

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Ellen Anderson, Mayor

.....
Corrina Giles, Clerk



Craigmore Crescent

Place Bolder on each side of mail box

COMMUNITY MAILBOX

Guide Rail with walkway

Grey County Road 19

Pioneer Lane