

STAFF REPORT: RECREATION DEPARTMENT



REPORT TO: Infrastructure & Recreation Committee
MEETING DATE: March 8, 2011
REPORT NO.: DOR 11 19
SUBJECT: Beaver River Group Endorsement
PREPARED BY: Shawn Everitt, Director of Recreation

A. Recommendations

THAT Council accept Staff Report DOR 11 19 entitled “ Beaver River Group Endorsement” ; and,

THAT Council approve the Terms of Reference for a Beaver River Watershed Advisory Committee as well as authorize staff to advertise for volunteers.

B. Background

Over the past couple of months staff have met with a group of individuals that are expressing interest in Council endorsing an advisory committee that provides input on Beaver River Watershed related information.

The following is a Draft Statement of Purpose and Focus of Beaver River Advisory/Working Group;

In keeping with ethos and spirit of the recently endorsed “The Blue Mountains Sustainable Path” Plan, we offer our energies and our commitment to help preserve and enhance the quality of the Beaver River that flows through this valley. Through our curiosity, vigilance, information gathering and communication with all stakeholders we believe we could assist and enable decision makers to meet the stated goal of the TBM “to preserve, protect and enhance the quality and quantity of surface water and groundwater” (page 27). The specific focus of our efforts would be to raise the profile and the numerous benefits that accrue from keeping the waters of the Beaver River as cool and clean as possible. We, as an advisory and working group, would encourage all proponents for present and future activities within the watershed (including TBM and Grey Highlands) to consider how they would achieve or promote this goal. This might mean, through the proper agencies, to encourage landowners to plant trees or stabilize river banks but it also might include asking other users to take full responsibility for the impact they have on the river because of the increased recreational use. In some sections latrines and garbage cans placed in strategic locations (and emptied!) might be as important to maintaining or improving the water quality as planting more trees. In summary, the primary purpose of this Advisory/Working group would be to keep a “community-eye” on the Beaver River on behalf of all present and future users and to keep Council and other regulatory agencies informed. Our membership would consist of between 5 to 7 people who live in TBM who have a particular skill or simply a passion for the Beaver River.

Staff does see merit in having such a group as it would afford the Committee the ability to comment on policy issues such as Minimum Distance Separation, Official Plan and other Town matters affecting the Watershed, such as economic development, and it would give the municipality valuable input.

This Committee would provide advice to staff. The feedback would be used for reports to Council. Attached to this report is the Proposed Terms of Reference for a Beaver River Watershed Advisory Committee. The Terms of Reference shadows the existing Agricultural Advisory Committee Terms of Reference. The success of the Agricultural Advisory Committee provides staff with a strong sense of confidence to use that committee's template for this proposed group.

A maximum of eight (8) voluntary members who are appointed by Council, for a term ending November 30, 2014, with a majority membership of five (5) constituting a quorum. The Committee would meet periodically or at the call of the Town when there are items requiring feedback.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

By reviewing input on rural issues will enable the Town to plan and meet the following goal:

"Managing Growth to ensure the ongoing health and prosperity of the community".

D. Environmental Impacts

Staff time would be involved in setting up the Committee and attending meetings.

E. Budget Impact

F. Attached

1. Beaver River Watershed Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Everitt, Director of Recreation
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DOR 11 19 Attachment # 1

March 8, 2011

**BEAVER RIVER WATERSHED ADVISORY COMMITTEE
OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

1.0 Goal

- 1.1 To identify, review, discuss and make recommendations to staff on Beaver River Watershed related issues.

2.0 Mandate

- 2.1 The Beaver River Watershed Advisory Committee of the Town of The Blue Mountains (BVWAC) is a volunteer advisory committee established by the Municipality in accordance with these Terms of Reference. Committee members are bound by these Terms of Reference while providing advice to the staff of the Town of The Blue Mountains.

2.2 Scope of Committee Activities

The scope of the Committee shall include activities such as:

- a) Providing advice, comments and recommendations on issues and concerns relating to the Beaver River Watershed.
- b) Reviewing and commenting on proposed Official Plan Policy and any Zoning By-law Amendments that affect the Watershed.
- c) Identifying key issues of concern for the Watershed which can be addressed by municipal government.
- d) Providing advice, comments and recommendations on economic strategies, development plans or studies dealing with the Watershed and a wide range of other issues.
- e) Advising Town staff of changes and key issues regarding the Watershed.
- f) Identifying and recommending programs which encourage public awareness, land stewardship and education of the Watershed.

3.0 Committee Composition

- 3.1 The Beaver River Watershed Advisory Committee of the Town of The Blue Mountains shall consist of eight (8) voluntary members who are appointed by Council for a term ending November 30, 2014, to coincide with the term of Council. A majority of the membership, five (5), shall constitute a quorum.
- 3.2 The members shall possess expertise, experience and willingness to devote the necessary time to the Committee. Members will be selected to provide an appropriate representation of various Watershed interests.
- 3.3 Openings for membership shall be publicly advertised. Applicants must live in the Town and will submit the attached application form to the Town of The Blue Mountains Clerks Department. Applicants shall possess knowledge of Watershed issues within The Blue Mountains. Applicants may also possess relevant Watershed experience, technical training, and/or current involvement in Watershed activities. Members will be formally appointed by Town Council.
- 3.4 Resource People to Attend Meetings will include appropriate Town staff.
- 3.6 A Chair and Vice-chair shall be selected by the Committee and both must be a member of the Committee.

4.0 Meetings and Reporting

- 4.1 The Town of The Blue Mountains shall schedule the location and frequency of meetings. It is anticipated an average of once a month. Committee members, if absent for three consecutive meetings without a reason being given at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting, will be considered to have lost interest in the Committee and will be informed of his or her being removed from the Committee. If any member is removed from the Committee or resigns from the Committee, the Clerk of the Town of The Blue Mountains shall be informed and a new member shall be appointed by Council.
- 4.2 The Committee, by resolution or through its Chair, may invite any individual, interest group, agency or staff to appear at a meeting as a delegation or to submit or present information that will assist the Committee in carrying out its mandate.

5.0 Communicating with the Municipality

- 5.1 Recommendations from the Committee shall be submitted to appropriate Town staff for inclusion in reports to Council.