

STAFF REPORT:

Planning & Building Services Department



REPORT TO: Planning & Building Services Committee
MEETING DATE: July 4, 2011
REPORT NO.: PL.11.66
SUBJECT: Official Plan Review – Additional Public Consultation
PREPARED BY: Cindy Welsh, MCIP, RPP
Senior Policy Planner

A. Recommendations

THAT Council does hereby receive Planning Staff Report PL.11.65 Official Plan Review – Additional Public Consultation; and

THAT Council direct staff to hold a second public open house focusing on Growth Management, Intensification, Transportation and Design, as per the Town of The Blue Mountains Policy & Procedures for Provision of Notice and Manner of Giving Notice to the Public; and

THAT Council provide direction on the preferred day/timing/location of the second public workshop.

B. Background

On Saturday, June 18, 2011, a public workshop was held at the Beaver Valley Community Centre as part of the work pertaining to the Official Plan Review. Mark Stone of Meridian Planning Consultants led the workshop which was facilitated by Glenn Pothier of GLPi.

The beginning of the workshop was an opportunity for the public to learn about the Official Plan Review Project and gain an overview of the work which has been done to date and which still needs to be completed. The four themed sessions addressed the following topics:

- agricultural lands;
- natural heritage and hazard lands
- commercial and employment lands; and
- growth management, intensification, transportation and design.

The last of the four sessions encompassed four major topics, of which a number of them are of high importance to the Official Plan Review project. A large number of the thirty-nine (39) participants who were in attendance expressed disappointment that the allotted time to discuss the fourth session was only 50 minutes. They further expressed a desire to meet again with both Meridian Planning and Glenn Pothier, GLPi, in order to expand on the discussion. If Council feels there is merit to a second public workshop,

staff would request that Council provide direction on the preferred day/timing/location of the second public workshop.

As this second public workshop is outside of Meridian Planning's original scope of work and budget, Planning staff have been provided a quote as to the cost for this second public workshop from Meridian. Meridian has stated the second public workshop budget would be \$4,850.00 exclusive of HST. The total approved Council budget amount for the Official Plan Review consulting work is \$140,000 with the contract with Meridian being \$134,387.11, exclusive of HST. If Council approves this additional second public workshop, the total quote from Meridian would be \$139,237.11, exclusive of HST, and therefore remain under budget.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

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

D. Environmental Impacts

Not applicable.

E. Financial Impact

The Official Plan Review process was approved as an Operating Project in the 2010 Budget with \$140,000 budgeted for consulting services and \$84,000 for legal services. Meridian Planning Consultants Inc. have been retained at a cost of \$134,387.11 to undertake the Town of The Blue Mountains Official Plan Five-year Review.

F. Attachments

Not applicable.

Submitted by:

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