

STAFF REPORT: Planning & Building Services Department



REPORT TO: Special Meeting of Council
MEETING DATE: December 22, 2011
REPORT NO.: PL.11.145
SUBJECT: Official Plan Five-year Review – Discussion and Directions Paper
PREPARED BY: Cindy Welsh, MCIP, RPP
Senior Policy Planner

A. Recommendations

THAT Council does hereby receive Planning Staff Report PL.11.145, Official Plan Five-year Review- Discussion and Directions Paper for information purposes; and

THAT Council does hereby receive Town of The Blue Mountains DRAFT Discussion and Directions Paper for information purposes; and

THAT Council direct staff to hold Public Meeting/Open House #1 – Policy Options and Recommendations; and

THAT Council provide direction on the preferred day/timing/location of Public Meeting #1.

B. Background

The Town of The Blue Mountains is reviewing its Official Plan, the key policy direction document for planning and land use in the Town. The review is being undertaken to comply with the *Planning Act* and to conform with and implement Provincial and County plans and policy. The review also provides an opportunity to ensure The Blue Mountains Official Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community.

To date, the Town's consulting team has conducted research and analysis and carried out consultation with the public, public agencies and other stakeholders. In addition, the Town has hosted two Public Workshops that provided the opportunity for the public to provide input into our Official Plan Review. The work completed to date and the comments received have now been compiled and a document entitled *The Blue Mountains Official Plan Five-year Review DRAFT Discussion and Directions Paper* has been drafted. In this regard, a Special Meeting of Council has been scheduled for December 22, 2011, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., so as to present this document to Council. Although questions and/or comments from the public will be addressed at a subsequent Public Meeting/Open House in early 2012, interested stakeholders are invited to attend.

Proposed Directions

As Council will note, there are thirty-four “Proposed Directions” contained within the Paper, which have been consolidated at Section 9. Town staff are not seeking Council’s approval of the “Proposed Directions” at this time however Council direction will be required after the aforementioned Public Meeting/Open House. Staff will report back on the Public Meeting/Open House and will seek Council’s direction at that time.

C. The Blue Mountains’ Strategic Plan

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

D. Environmental Impacts

No environmental impacts have been identified at this time.

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. The proposed budgeted cost of the second public workshop is \$4,850.00 not including HST.

F. In Consultation With

Official Plan Five-year Review Steering Committee.

Meridian Planning Consultants Ltd.

G. Attached

1. Nil.

Submitted by:

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