



Task Force Report

Rural Access to Broadband Internet Technology (RABIT) Task Force

Meeting Date: July 21, 2020
Meeting Time: 10:30 a.m.
Location: Town Hall, Council Chambers
32 Mill Street, Thornbury, ON

Rural Access to Broadband Internet Technology (RABIT) Task Force Recommendations

NOTE: The following are recommendations from the Rural Access to Broadband Internet Technology (RABIT) Task Force to be considered for adoption by Council

- **Receive Minutes (July 21, 2020)**

Recommended (Move, second)

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives the Rural Access to Broadband Internet Technology (RABIT) Task Force minutes dated July 21, 2020 as attached, for information purposes.

**D.1 Jeffrey Campbell on Behalf of Christie Beach Residents Group
Re: Sunset Boulevard/Christie Beach Internet Upgrade**

Recommended (Move, second)

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives the correspondence from Jeffrey Campbell on Behalf of Christie Beach Residents Group Re: Sunset Boulevard/Christie Beach Internet Upgrade, as attached, following referral from the RABIT Task Force.



Minutes

Rural Access to Broadband Internet Technology (RABIT) Task Force

Meeting Date: July 21, 2020
Meeting Time: 10:30 a.m.
Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting
Prepared by Sarah Merrifield, Executive Assistant Committees of Council

A. Call to Order

Deputy Mayor Rob Potter called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. with Mayor Alar Soever and Councillor Rob Sampson present.

Town staff present was Chief Administrative Officer Shawn Everitt.

It was noted that Deputy Mayor Potter will Chair the Rural Broadband Internet Task Force meetings moving forward.

- **Task Force Member Attendance**
- **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by: Rob Sampson

Seconded by: Alar Soever

THAT the Agenda of July 21, 2020 be approved as circulated, including any additions to the Agenda

Sampson, Rob Yay

Soever, Alar Yay

Potter, Rob Yay

The motion is Carried.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and general nature thereof

NOTE: In accordance with the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* and the Town Procedural By-law 2019-56, Rural Broadband Internet Task Force members must file a written statement of the interest and its general nature with the Clerk for inclusion on the Registry.

Mayor Alar Soever declared a pecuniary interest regarding item D.1 Jeffrey Campbell on Behalf of Christie Beach Residents Group Re: Sunset Boulevard/Christie Beach Internet Upgrade as he lives on Sunset Boulevard.

B. Staff Reports and Deputations

B.1 Deputations, if any

B.1.1 Blair Almond, Bruce Street Technologies

- Reviewed presentation by Blair Almond, Bruce Street Technologies
- Discussed current wireless internet situation in The Blue Mountains, wireless challenges and potential solutions moving forward
- Discussed methods for installation of fibre conduit

C. Matters for Discussion

C.1 Format for Task Force

- **Terms of Reference**
- **Name**
 - Deputy Mayor Potter, CAO Shawn Everitt, and Executive Assistant Committees of Council Sarah Merrifield to develop a draft Terms of Reference for consideration at next Task Force meeting
 - Name of Task Force: Rural Access to Broadband Internet Technology ("RABIT") Task Force

C.2 Potential Task Force Initiatives

- **Government Partnerships**
- **Private Partnerships**
- **SWIFT**
 - Province of Ontario's ICON program
 - Consideration of fibre installation during road reconstruction or capital projects, at the request of various stakeholders
 - Task Force hoping to augment the activities of SWIFT

C.3 Task Force Next Steps

- Information gathering, potential public engagement opportunities, Terms of Reference development

D. Correspondence

D.1 Jeffrey Campbell on Behalf of Christie Beach Residents Group Re: Sunset Boulevard/Christie Beach Internet Upgrade

Mayor Alar Soever vacated the meeting at 11:55 a.m. having earlier declared a pecuniary interest.

Moved by: Rob Sampson

Seconded by: Rob Potter

THAT the Rural Broadband Internet Task Force receives correspondence item D.1 and provides the same to Council for consideration

Sampson, Rob Yay

Soever, Alar pecuniary interest

Potter, Rob Yay

The motion is Carried.

D.2 News Release from the Office of the Premier Re: Ontario Improving Broadband and Cell Service for Rural Communities – Connecting Residents and Businesses to the 21st Century Digital Economy Essential for Recovery after COVID-19

Mayor Soever rejoined the meeting at 11:57 a.m.

Moved by: Rob Sampson

Seconded by: Alar Soever

THAT the Rural Broadband Internet Task Force receives correspondence item D.2 for information

Sampson, Rob Yay

Soever, Alar Yay

Potter, Rob Yay

The motion is Carried.

E. New and Unfinished Business

E.1 Additions to the Agenda

E.2 Items Identified for Discussion at Next Meeting

- Terms of Reference

F. Upcoming Meeting Dates

July 29, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

G. Adjournment

Moved by: Rob Sampson

Seconded by: Alar Soever

THAT the Rural Broadband Internet Task Force does adjourn at 12:04 p.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair

Sampson, Rob Yay

Soever, Alar Yay

Potter, Rob Yay

The motion is Carried.

Hi, We are your neighbors & hope we
can get your support.
Thanks,

Sunset Boulevard/Christie Beach Internet Upgrade

Hello,

My name is Jeffrey Campbell, I am a resident at [REDACTED].
I along with a number of Sunset residents have been discussing the
quality of the internet service currently supplied by the sole supplier
on our street, namely Bell. We are extremely frustrated and fed-up
with the constant slow speeds and ups and downs of the signal.

We are forming a Christie Beach residents' group to bring in faster
more reliable Internet service at a lower overall cost. To achieve this
we have two options:

- Put pressure on Bell to connect their Fibre internet services to
our street.
- Bruce Street Technologies (a local telecom company) will
bring their fibre feed and services to our street.

In order to encourage the providers to bring us improved services we
must show them there are enough interested residents.

**Please visit our on-line form at: [REDACTED]
and sign up to show your support so we may present a
critical mass of potential users to the telecom suppliers.**

Once you are registered we will keep you informed as to any progress.

If you have any questions, suggestions or would like to help please
contact me at [REDACTED]

Thank you,

Jeffrey Campbell