



Minutes

Thornbury Business Improvement Area

Meeting Date: July 8, 2020

Meeting Time: 8:00 a.m.

Location: Town Hall, Council Chambers

Prepared by Sarah Merrifield, Executive Assistant Committees of Council

A. Call to Order

Chair George Matamoros called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. with Board members Matthew Cundy, Renee DesRochers, Melanie Johns, Tony Poole, and Deputy Mayor Potter present.

Town staff present were Chief Administrative Officer Shawn Everitt, Director of Operations Shawn Carey, Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons, and Manager of Communications and Economic Development Tim Hendry. Mayor Soever was also present.

A.1 Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Tony Poole

Seconded by: Rob Potter

THAT the Agenda of July 8, 2020 be approved as circulated, including any additions to the agenda

Cundy, Matthew	Yay
DesRochers, Renee	Yay
Johns, Melanie	Yay
Poole, Tony	Yay
Potter, Rob	Yay
Matamoros, George	Yay

The motion is Carried.

A.2 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and general nature thereof

None

A.3 Previous Minutes

Moved by: Tony Poole

Seconded by: Rob Potter

THAT the Thornbury BIA Annual General Meeting Minutes of June 3, 2020 be adopted as circulated, including any revisions to be made

Cundy, Matthew	Yay
DesRochers, Renee	Yay
Johns, Melanie	Yay
Poole, Tony	Yay
Potter, Rob	Yay
Matamoros, George	Yay
The motion is Carried.	

Moved by: Melanie Johns

Seconded by: Matthew Cundy

THAT the Thornbury BIA Minutes of June 3, 2020 be adopted as circulated, including any revisions to be made

Cundy, Matthew	Yay
DesRochers, Renee	Yay
Johns, Melanie	Yay
Poole, Tony	Yay
Potter, Rob	Yay
Matamoros, George	Yay
The motion is Carried.	

B. Deputations and Public Comment Period

B.1 Deputations, if any

B.2 Public Comment Period (each speaker is allotted three minutes)

NOTE: Fifteen (15) minutes is allotted at the Meeting to receive public comments regarding Thornbury Business Improvement Area matters included on the Agenda. The speaker shall provide their name and address, and shall address their comments to the Chair. Comments shall not refer to personnel, litigation, or potential litigation matters.

NOTE: The Blue Mountains Town Hall is currently closed to the public to assist with social distancing with respect to COVID-19. Comments received from the public that have not been included on the Agenda will be read at the meeting by the Executive Assistant.

B.2.1 Lynda Wykes, 22 Louisa Street East

Linda Wykes, 22 Louisa Street East, noted she would like to comment on the petition that was circulated to some members. Linda noted she appreciates the fact that the barriers were an issue and that they were put in place before the other amenities arrived as listed in this staff report.

Bruce Street South Specific Plan

Linda referenced the report, specifically, Town staff have secured a permit through the County of Grey that permits the Town to place concrete jersey barriers to block off the existing parallel parking spaces along Bruce Street South to provide more space for physical distancing. The associated costing is based on the following:

- Rental of concrete barriers
- Purchase of beautification signage for Bruce street south to soften the optics of the concrete jersey barrier
- Purchasing of public information signage
- Purchasing of additional wayfinding and ambassador information signage
- Rental of additional washrooms and sanitization infrastructure

Linda noted in a time when every business is hurting and unsure of their future, she feels that is unfair to blame two people for a project that fell apart on many levels. The mandate of a volunteer BIA board does not include working through a crisis such as we are in with continually moving targets. The Town's COVID Task Force was put into place to implement suggestions from a cross-section of groups and organizations and uses funds from the Town's budget. Linda noted there was communication about this idea of barriers, and business owners knew the barriers were coming, although they did not know what the barriers would look like. Linda further noted that the BIA Chair implemented a plan to fix the concerns expressed by the membership and that she does not believe two people on the BIA are totally responsible for the issues with the barriers. Linda noted she would like to thank all those who volunteer to improve their community and look forward to seeing more on the Board. It takes a group of people with different skill sets to effectively manage the wishes of its members, and further thanked the BIA Board for cancelling the dues for 2020.

B.2.2 Casey Thomson, The Cheese Gallery

Casey Thomson, The Cheese Gallery noted the petition to remove the BIA chair and vice-chair is an unfortunate turn of events. Casey further noted her suspicion there is misinformation circulating within both the business community and the community at large. The extension of the sidewalks was part of the Town's Recovery Task Force plan for the safety of the Town. Casey noted the elected BIA Board voted unanimously at the June meeting in favour of the Town's public safety initiative to widen the sidewalks. As the Task Force was already in motion, the BIA Board voted to support the recommendation for widening of sidewalks, along with requests for hand washing stations, public washrooms and parking signage. Casey noted it would have been helpful, and maybe avoided the upset, if a full design plan had been flushed out and presented so Main Street businesses weren't surprised by the barricades and everyone better understood the intentions. Casey noted the division in the community is not good; all businesses are scared for the future but blaming two individuals is not the way to go. Casey noted with the worldwide pandemic, the community needs to offer safe choices and support rather than blame. Casey noted she is saddened at this petition, was not approached, and would not have signed in

support. Casey noted volunteerism at its core, is about caring for your community, offering your time, and trying to make it a better place for everyone.

C. Meeting

C.1 BIA correspondence:

C.1.1 Susan Carr, Ashanti Coffee, June 25, 2020

Thank you very much for this information, I hope that Ashanti space will be totally clear, I still do feel that the barriers on the street anywhere are going to be a deterrent to customers and traffic coming to our quaint town. I hope people don't feel we are still under construction, which has been the question for the past week. I hope the town will be putting out an announcement saying that the town of Thornbury is open for business, and we are welcoming customers to our town. As of today I am 40% down in sales as of last week. Thank you so much for your consideration on this matter.

C.1.2 Nicole Craig, Cherchez la Femme, on Behalf of Various Downtown Businesses July 6, 2020

NOTE: This correspondence is provided as a document in the Council Calendar.

Moved by: Tony Poole

Seconded by: Matthew Cundy

THAT the Thornbury Business Improvement Area Board receives Public Comments B.2.1 Lynda Wykes, 22 Louisa Street East, B.2.2 Casey Thomson, The Cheese Gallery, and Correspondence Items C.1.1 Susan Carr, Ashanti Coffee, June 25, 2020 and C.1.2 Nicole Craig, Cherchez la Femme, on Behalf of Various Downtown Businesses July 6, 2020

Cundy, Matthew	Yay
DesRochers, Renee	Yay
Johns, Melanie	Yay
Poole, Tony	Yay
Potter, Rob	Yay
Matamoros, George	Yay

The motion is Carried.

C.2 Review of Bruce Street barriers

Chair George Matamoros began the discussion of the jersey barriers on Bruce Street by noting the intent of the Business Improvement Area Board is to ensure the safety of visitors and the appeal of the downtown area. George further noted the main reason for barrier installation was to create physical distancing space for customers, which the Board voted on June 3, 2020. George further noted when the jersey barriers were initially installed, business owners had concerns which the Town responded to by circulating a survey and a revised configuration proposal. George noted he submitted a letter on behalf of the Business Improvement Area Board to support the revised configuration proposal, because it was consistent with what the Board had voted on June 3, 2020 and was an improvement to the previous layout.

Board member Renee DesRochers noted when the item was brought for consideration June 3, 2020, she enquired whether the Board should seek input from the broader membership, which was not done. Renee commented the Board is at fault with the members, and further noted Council believed adequate consultation with membership was conducted prior to approving the jersey barrier installation.

George commented the next step is to provide education about the jersey barriers and signage. George noted businesses that did not want barriers do not have barriers in front of their stores, which is a result of the consultation undertaken.

Deputy Mayor Potter noted that during a pandemic, the quaintness of the downtown core is not as heavily prioritized as public safety. Deputy Mayor Potter further noted the Municipality of Meaford installed jersey barriers on a portion of its Main Street and several other municipalities are considering installation as well. Deputy Mayor Potter commented that he has received several notes of thanks or acknowledgements from members of the public who appreciate installation of the barriers.

Renee DesRochers emphasized a survey should have been circulated prior to the installation of the jersey barriers and noted her concern regarding the ledge from street level to the sidewalk.

The Board requested information on the signs and beautification efforts for the barriers, and the next steps. Manager of Communications and Economic Development Tim Hendry commented that staff have met with several downtown businesses to discuss revised operations, and to remind downtown businesses that any obstructions on the sidewalk need to be cleared for pedestrian flow. Tim further noted that "Personal Responsibility Code" signage is being ordered, and staff are considering one-way line painting symbols on sidewalks. Tim noted videos are being produced to showcase the safety measures in place in the downtown areas, which assists with educating the public.

C.3 RFP Lamppost lighting

The Board reviewed the Request for Proposal lighting specifications. Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons noted new lighting will be implemented late-summer 2020.

D. Adjournment

Moved by: Matthew Cundy

Seconded by: Tony Poole

THAT this meeting does now adjourn at 9:00 a.m. to meet again on August 5, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. at Council Chamber Town of The Blue Mountains, or at the call of the Chair

Cundy, Matthew Yay

DesRochers, Renee Yay

Johns, Melanie Yay

Poole, Tony Yay

Potter, Rob Yay

Matamoros, George Yay

The motion is Carried.