

## **Bayfield Ratepayers' Association**

**December 6, 2022**

**2:00 PM – Lions Building**

### **MINUTES**

1. In attendance: Dave M., Don, John, Robin, Godfrey, Anette, Brian and Bob
2. Approval of Agenda: moved by Robin, seconded by Godfrey
3. Approval of November 6 Minutes: moved by Don, seconded by Dave
4. Financial Update: Ian Matthew reported that there were no new changes to our financial position and we are in good shape.
5. Next Steps – Role of the BRA?: John asked what direction the BRA should take from here. Don felt that BRA Board should be lobbying the whole of Bluewater Council. Robin asked if BRA should have a “mission statement” and/or a specific mandate. Dave suggested that we be the financial (budget) watchdog re: Secondary Plan, Recreation Plan, Budget Overview. Anette agreed we should be the Tax Watchdog for all Bayfield tax payers, for example, duplication of services, and growth of personnel to fulfill Bluewater services.

John felt we should email directly to our current mailing list with the following questions: Do you know how and where your tax dollars are spent? What are reserves? Comparisons with other municipalities' issues such as sewage, expansion, community engagement.

Dave feels we need to do a careful analysis of all budget items. He will forward current Budget info to Board members for review.

Anette felt we need to improve and update our website. She will look after it and get us onto Bayfield's Instagram account. Dave agreed to assist with web update and transfer to Anette.

John said we need to get budget info before it gets to council. We can better support Bill Whetstone at council if we supply him with analysis and BRA support. Budget overview January 24, 2023. First Budget meeting February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> Budget meeting February 14<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and final Budget meeting March 14<sup>th</sup>. Bob said now is the time to get a breakdown of Ward contribution and distribution (expenditures). Has this been done before? Perhaps in 2019 and 2020. We need to review the upcoming Recreation Budget in detail.

BEA will send a delegation to the Bluewater Council meeting Jan. 22, 2023 to review and comment on proposed budget.

6. Issues being addressed by BRA:
  - i. Bill 23: This has already passed at Ontario Government level. There is a letter from Steven Clark and a Resolution from Lambton Shores on Bluewater Council web site, meeting agenda section, we should each review.
  - ii. Secondary Plan: Public meetings were positively received. Dave will send an email to Denise. We should look into expansion of Bayfield Heritage District to expand the Heritage area to Cameron St. in the south, Keith St. in the east and Bayfield River in the north. Bluewater Heritage Committee would have to take this forward.
  - iii. Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion: Environmental Assessment is very slow. Still no decision.
  - iv. Short Term Rentals; new bylaw to be presented at next Council meeting. Draft proposal on Bluewater web site. This is a bylaw enforcement issue.
  - v. Noise Bylaw: mostly covered in STR but not going anywhere.
  - vi. Recreation Plan: Final version to be ready by the end of 2022. We don't know what it will cost but \$1.5B is the estimated budget. We feel this should not be a property tax issue but rather a "user pay" program.
  
7. Membership /Communications: Brian to order 10 plastic display stands for the new Membership Brochures and get them placed and filled in localities around town. Moved by Don. Seconded by Brian. Dave and Brian will co-ordinate emails from the Board, on specific issues, to the membership.
  
8. New Business – Chair position : John moved that Don now become the new Chair. Seconded by Anette. Approved.
  
9. Next Meetings: At Lions Club with Zoom availability  
  
Jan. 10, 2023  
Feb.7, 2023.  
March 14,2023 (by Zoom only)
  
10. Adjournment: Moved by Dave, Seconded by Robin. Approved.