

Bayfield Ratepayers' Association

January 24, 2023

2:00 PM – Lions Building

MINUTES

1. In attendance: Don, John, Robin, Godfrey, Anette, Brian
2. Approval of Agenda: moved by Robin, seconded by Anette
3. Approval of January 24, 2023 Minutes moved by February meeting
4. Financial Update: Ian Matthew on holidays No Report
5. Preliminary Bluewater Budget:

Budget not ready yet. Don to get a copy from Bill Whetstone.
Still waiting for the numbers from various departments.
Budget meetings to be posted. Brian or Anette to log into February 8 meeting.

We should focus our February 15th meeting on the Budget.
No money in the budget for Waste Water Treatment. All councilors seem to be on board so project will probably be moved to 2024/25.

Godfrey noted that the Bayfield Historical Society is in the process of preparing a proposal for capital funding for the Heritage Centre that will be submitted to Maggie Off. Don indicated that the Town Hall and the Lions Building had a similar need.
Recreation Plan project on hold probably because no other municipality has submitted any budget.

6. Short Term Rentals:

Council Meeting January 26, 2023, Public welcome to attend.

Changes to updated concept:

- a) Remove restriction for 1 week rental
- b) Remove maximum 90 days/year.
- c) Minor changes to parking.
- d) Number of STRs at 5% in total rejected.

A substitute proposal of numbers of units within a geographic boundary (i.e.: 250 metre radius of existing STR)

e) Bluewater currently reviewing software proposal for monitoring STR usage, vacancy, adherence to policy, etc.

f) Proposed annual license fee \$750.00. Estimated annual income \$225,000.00.

Bill Whetstone was at a Conference of Municipal Representatives. There was a lot of STR discussion and they felt there is still a lot to do to formalize any standards across the province. We feel that “there has to be SOMETHING done in Bluewater”. Council has caused the acceleration of the problem here. Grand Bend and Goderich have recently put in place restrictions and By-Laws for their STR programs. We need to check the current Bluewater By-Law proposal, on the web site and see how it compares to Grand Bend and Goderich.

7. Secondary Plan:

The main concern is “What will happen with Bill 23?”

Anette briefed the Board on a Point Form Plan from Bluewater and felt that the recommendations are favourable for us.

8. Membership/ Communications:

Special thanks to Dave McLaren for the 2022 Year End communication. We should send out quarterly communications to our members via our email list.

Dave M. and Anette have reviewed our web site and determined it needs to be reworked and updated. This is an expensive project. We will see if the web site can be converted to Word Press. Scott Bradford could convert it for \$250.00 to make it easier to use and make it more user friendly.

Anette moved that we have Scott Bradford do the rework. Seconded by Robin. Approved.

Brian reported that the brochure displays have been placed in various locations in the downtown core including the Library, Shop Bike, the Post Office, the Main Street bulletin board, The Albion Hotel and Bayfield Convenience. They will be checked regularly and refilled as necessary, by Brian.

9. Official Year End:

It was decided our Year End will be June 30 to align with our Financial Year End and Annual General Meeting. Moved by Don. Seconded by Godfrey. Approved.

We will do an email blast for membership between May 24 and June 1, 2023.

10. New Business:

Anette suggested that we should provide our members a synopsis, in the way of a "pie chart" to show them where their tax dollars go. Robin suggested inviting the public to a Mayors' Breakfast, after the Budget is approved to discuss the 2023 Budget and where the tax dollars are being spent. Further discussion will be required regarding how, who and where it could be done. It could possibly be a Fund Raiser. John suggested it should not be May 24th.

11. Adjournment: Moved by Robin Seconded by Anette. Approved.

Next Meeting: February 15, 2023 2:00 p.m.
At Lions Club with Zoom availability