

Candidates Question on Attainable Housing

Would you support the construction of a rental housing apartment building in the Town of The Blue Mountains? What is the reason for your answer, and if you said yes, how would you initiate a project like this in Council?

Would you support the construction of a rental housing apartment building in the Town of The Blue Mountains?

Yes, I would support the construction of a rental housing apartment building in the Town of The Blue Mountains.

My reasons are as follows:

- Currently and for the foreseeable future there are not enough rentals available within the Town of The Blue Mountains
- There are organizations who are interested in working with towns to achieve affordable/attainable housing options and they need to be engaged
- There is federal budget funding available in addition to institutional investors in the private sector, such as pension funds and insurers, who can and would be approached to provide equity capital. This combined with land owned by town and the federal government would be used as building sites.

How would I initiate a project like this in Council?

First and foremost, it needs to be recognized that the Council elected in October 2018 has a substantive agenda ahead of them and expectations are high from all stakeholders. Therefore, I would get to know my fellow council members their respective skill sets with the goal of collectively utilize them in the most effective and efficient manner to solutioning our issues.

If elected I would initiate actioning this with my fellow council members to map out a draft high-level project plan with measurable milestone and outcomes. The new Council has a four-year term and there is a very high expectation to deliver tangible achievement on attainable housing. The community it also looking for transparency regarding progress.

Next steps would include:

- Contact the Blue Mountain Attainable Housing Corporation to learn more about their progress to date and goals and where they align with the South Georgian Bay Tourism Industry Workforce Housing Research and Business Case
- Review and prioritize the recommendations from the South Georgian Bay Tourism Industry Workforce Housing Research and Business Case, May 2018, which I assume that the Blue Mountain Attainable Housing Corporation was covered off under the Town as a research partner.
- Review existing data regarding housing, rentals, uptakes of existing programs etc. and assess if there are any gaps to inform next steps
- Review the inventory of vacant public land along with their current zoning and identify where they are possibilities
- Build the business case options leveraging stakeholder expertise, decide and TAKE ACTION.