

nearby. Board members discussed the subsequent Council COW meeting and disappointment with the recommendation of Council to allow the proposed facility on 31 Walker St., contingent on motion approval at the next Council meeting to be held on Wednesday, May 20th, 2020.

Stewart Halliday presented a "draft" letter in response to the decision and proposed that it be presented to Grey Highlands Municipal Council on May 20th Council meeting:

Dear Mayor McQueen and Members of Council,

The Grey Highlands Public Library Board met on May 13, 2020 and discussed Council's decision to move ahead with the Cannabis facility on 31 Walker St. The Library Board is disappointed with this decision. The Board respectfully requests that you reconsider your decision not only for the reasons stated in our previous submission but in addition:

The current zoning by-law for Grey Highlands "consists of maps to show what zone each property is in and the permitted uses for each zone".

The current zoning bylaw has had 187 zoning plan amendments to date. Our conclusion is that Zoning Plan amendments are not unusual.

On behalf of the Board I am here today to bring forward some information that might shine some new light on the 31 Walker site plan application made by Matchbox Organics.

It is our hope that one of our Councillors that supported Motion COW2020-08 will bring forward a motion for reconsideration.

On Feb. 19, 2020 the planning staff brought forward a site plan approval for a micro cultivation and production facility at 31 Walker St. Markdale.

At the Open Forum that day Barbara Danby owner of the Danby Bed & Breakfast which abuts 31 Walker St. expressed her concerns regarding this type of facility next to her property.

When Council came to this on the agenda there was a discussion and Deputy Mayor Aakash Desai and Councillor Danielle Valiquette proposed a motion to hold a public meeting on March 10, 2020. This was approved.

At this public meeting as Chair of the Library board I expressed concerns related to odour, optics, proximity to our Walter Harris Memorial Library Branch, playground, school and other family friendly areas, and lack of parking for the employees in relation to the parking required for the (Walter Harris Memorial) Library. I was encouraged by the fact that the Grey County Planner noted in their comments to the site plan, that the facility needs to demonstrate compatibility with the surrounding commercial and residential uses. We don't believe that this has been demonstrated.

Many other local citizens have also expressed their concerns. There were some people that also expressed some positive feedback, but they will not be impacted in the same manner as the local citizens and the Library.

As I stated earlier, it was noted that 187 zoning plan amendments have been processed in Grey Highlands. It is the Board's contention that this site plan for 31 Walker St. should have required a zoning plan amendment and possibly even an official plan amendment as the use requested is not described in the official plan.

At this point in time there are only a few approved micro cultivation and production facilities in Ontario. The lack of information on the exact location of these facilities has made it difficult to source municipal decisions that allowed the facilities to open.

Many municipalities have however prepared for Cannabis production and written appropriate zoning by-laws. We did find an example of an application that was denied.

Willow Cultivation applied in August 2019 in Woodstock Ontario for a micro cultivation and production plant. It wanted to produce 600 kg of cannabis annually- the same quantity as the proposed facility in Markdale. They wanted to locate in a business park on Woodall Way.

The application was presented to the Woodstock planning department and they deemed that the application did not meet the allowed uses in their plan and required a zoning plan amendment. This proceeded through the planning process and subsequently the staff and Council decided that the location in the business park was for "traditional industrial" use. The application was denied.

Willow Cultivation found another location in an industrial Area and site-specific zoning was approved and the project moved forward.

The Board is not opposed to Matchbox Organics locating in an industrial zone in the Municipality. We believe however, that 31 Walker St. should remain a traditional industrial use as detailed in the C1 Zoning which allows some light industrial uses and should undergo a zoning plan amendment.

At the COW meeting of May 6th Council approved in a 5/2 vote that application SP13.2019 fits within the light industrial zone of the zoning by-law. We beg to differ.

We hope that one of our Councillors supporting the motion will understand our concerns, the concerns expressed by many at the public meeting and especially the statement by the County regarding compatibility and will request a "motion for reconsideration" when the COW minutes are presented for approval at today's Council Meeting.

We feel that protecting a community asset such as the Walter Harris Library and the amenities in King Edward Park far out way the short- term economic benefit of

permitting a micro cultivation and production plant that has previously hosted “traditional industrial “uses.

Thank you for listening.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Land, Chair
Grey Highlands Library Board

Motion #21-20

**Moved By: Stewart Halliday
Seconded By: Lynn Silverton
Board Chair to present a letter to Grey Highlands Council at May 20th, 2020 council meeting expressing concern regarding Council’s approval of the proposed cannabis operation location at 31 Walker St., Markdale.
Carried.**

6.0 Correspondence

- 6.1 Letter to council re: proposed Cannabis operation (attached)
- 6.2 Email – FOPL (see email)

7.0 Financial Report

- 7.1 Monthly Statements: February, March April 2020 (attached)

Motion #22-20

**Moved by: Stewart Halliday
Seconded by Lynn Silverton
That the board receive the financial statement.
Carried.**

- 8.0 **CEO Report:** The CEO presented the CEO report to the board.

9.0 Other Business

- 9.1 **Approval/Adoption of Municipal HR Policies-**

- 9.1.1 **Hours of Work Policy**
- 9.1.2 **Benefits Policy**
- 9.1.3 **Compensation Policy**

Motion #23-20

**Moved By: Lynn Silverton
Seconded By: Kim McArthur
That the Hours of Work Policy is approved by the board.
Carried.**

Motion #24-20

Moved By: Lynn Silverton

Seconded By: Stewart Halliday
That the Benefits Policy is approved by the Board with amendments: Remembrance Day to be added to statutory holidays, Years of Service – will be recognized in 5- year increments after 30 years, employee clothing allowance to be extended to full and part time employees.
Carried.

Motion #25-20

Moved By: Janet Carson
Seconded By: Gillian Griffin
That the Compensation Policy be approved by the Board as amended.
Carried.

9.2 Re-opening plan and procedures – CEO reported that staff has started a document regarding the necessary safety procedures when libraries can reopen.

9.3 Board Member Comments and announcements – Board Chair is planning to host an online movie night featuring a movie from Kanopy, where patrons will be able to view from home.

Motion #26-20

Moved By: Lynn Silverton
Seconded By: Janet Carson
The board recognizes the library staff for going above and beyond during this time.
Carried.

The Chair will send thank you notes to individual staff.

10.0 Adjournment:

Motion # 27-20

Moved By: Janet Carson
Seconded By: Lynn Silverton
The meeting be adjourned at 9:32pm
Carried.

Next Board Meeting: TBA via Zoom.



Signature, Chair

July 2/20
Date



Signature, CEO

July 2/20
Date