

**From:** Toivo Holsmer

**Subject:** BMAHC - Non- resident Directors

**Date:** November 19, 2020 at 9:29:40 PM EST

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To the Mayor, Members of Council, BMAHC Directors and Clerk

Re: BMAHC Non Resident Directors and The Gateway Project

Why does the BMAHC allow non-residents to serve as directors? This is very undemocratic and should not be allowed. At present we have 2 non-residents directors. One individual in my opinion also qualifies as a lobbyist. The ultimate for a lobbyist is to become an "insider" and that's what we have at the BMAHC. Nothing like telling your clients that your in a position to not only to advocate for their interest but, also have been granted the priviledge of voting those interests. Sound familiar?

As an example the Gateway project has already chewed up some \$2,000,000 of taxpayers money and will cost millions more of high risk capital if it proceeds. TBM ratepayers have not yet been told what it will cost, what it will look like or how it will effect our lives and property but we know at least 2 non-residents will have that information before it's presented to us. Not only do these individuals have insider information but have also been given the right and priviledge of voting on how and were TBM ratepayers tax money is spent. But, it gets worse, these non-residents directors will also vote on recommendations for planning changes including changes to the OP. This is not right and must end.

For those of you who think we have Openness and Transparency in the TBM or more specifically the BMAHC....Think again. It took 126 days and a FOI request to find out that we have non-resident serving on the BMAHC board. For some reason every effort was extended to keep this information from me. My original request for this information was via an email to Sharon McCormick on July 17/ 20 with a cc to Mayor Soever. Receiving no answer I filed a FOI request on Oct.1/20. It read as follows: " REQUESTING THE NAMES OF PRESENT BOARD MEMBERS OF THE BMAHC WHO ARE NOT RESIDENTS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE TOWN OF BLUE MOUNTAINS". On Oct.5/20 Sharon McCormick informing me the matter had to go to a Closed Session of the BMAHC board scheduled 30 days forward for Nov. 5/20. On Nov. 10/20 an email from Gavin Leitch informing me that Carolyn Letourneau and Andrew Siegwart did not reside in the TBM. He provided no explanation as to why it took so long or why this information was withheld until I went to FOI. The courtesy of an explanation from the leadership of the BMAHC might be in order? Gavin's letter further advises me that "we have waved our fees under the Act". Lucky me!

Looking at Mayor Soever's platform at the last election he promised to provide Openness, Transparency, and Accountability. When? At present I have another outstanding FOI request. Same story — nothing comes easy with these folks. Matter is in the hands of the Information and Privacy Commissioner/Ontario...Stay tuned.

Mayor Soever promised to established and maintain a Lobbyist Registry. Just checked with Town Hall...They don't know anything about it?

I'm asking Council to direct BMAHC to ask for the 2 non-resident directors to step down and replace them with residents. Individuals who have a personal stake in the affairs of the TBM. I would also ask that the Town refund the \$5 I had to pay to go to the FOI. The money can then be donated to the BVO. A letter from the Mayor might also be in order? My request for information was simple and legitimate. It took 126 days to get resolved. How is this crew going to build and manage a 250 unit rental apartment complex?

If anyone has questions re my BMAHC encounter please feel free to contact me.

Councillors, it's time to start asking tough questions about the Gateway project. The noise and odour problems are serious and need your close scrutiny prior to more tax dollars are wasted.

Respectfully (Another concerned ratepayer).

Toivo Holsmer