

LAKE STEWARDSHIP AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE OF MCKELLAR TOWNSHIP* ‡
Final Minutes
THURSDAY, July 6th, 2023

*Educational resources posted by this committee are available on the Township of McKellar Website here: <https://www.mckellar.ca/en/township-services/resources/Links-to-YouTube-Videos.pdf>

‡ There are openings for additional members of this committee. Please email lsec.mckellar@gmail.com for assistance with the application process.

Item	Time	
1.	7:35 PM	In the spirit of reconciliation and co-operation, we wish to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe and Mississauga people. Its boundaries fall within the Robinson-Huron Treaty of 1850 and the Williams Treaty of 1923. We are grateful to live here and we thank all the generations of people who have taken care of this land for thousands of years. To honour the suffering of Indigenous people and the love and wisdom they have carried for thousands of years, we pledge to work in community and harmony with each other and the environment we inhabit and work towards Truth and Reconciliation.
2.		Roll Call: Tony Best (X); Jennifer Ghent-Fuller (X); Melanie Jeffrey (X); Al Last (X); Axy Leighl (X); Carl Mitchell (on LOA); Suzanne Poff (X); Nick Ryeland (X); Lynda Taylor (Absent). We need 5 committee members to have a quorum (Yes) Declarations of pecuniary and/or personal interest and general nature thereof? None.
3.		Motion to accept the minutes of June 8 th , 2023. (attached). Moved: Sue Seconded: Nick Approved: (Yes) Amendments: None
4.		General Updates on Current Issues.
4.1		Waterfront/ Shoreline protection – July 6, 2023 – Axy will send out a draft policy by July 17 th . We will review it at our next meeting on August 10 th and decide whether it is ready to share with Council at that time. Council members have expressed interest. April 13, 2023 - Axy & Jennifer have been working on expanding the Tree Canopy Policy to include Shorelands. The first draft of this proposed policy as well as some references are attached. We need to decide how to proceed with the fine tuning and public education/familiarization with this new policy. Discussion included a need to use more plain language. The question was raised about the cost to the township of implementing this. There may be some initial publicity costs, but there is no need for enforcement expenditures as it is a by-law to establish a policy of best practices for maintaining tree canopy and natural vegetation and will serve as a guide for residents.

	<p>The Haliburton by-law has a question and answer section. Something similar might be helpful.</p>
<p>4.2</p>	<p>Water Sampling July 6 – MLCA samplers have completed the June 2023 sampling for E. coli and results are posted with MLCA and will be shortly with the Township.</p> <p>The six largest lakes in McKellar Township were also sampled for phosphorus and calcium. For five of those lakes this was the first time. The sites of the 2021 Lake Capacity study were used, and a comparison sample collected at the five Lake Partner Program sites on Lake Manitouwabing. Posting of these results is pending.</p>
<p>4.3</p>	<p>Septic Education – July 6 – A flyer entitled “Help Your Septic System and Our Lakes” has been printed and delivered to the Township Office. The invoice has been submitted and paid to Aquagraphics. It will be included in the tax mailing at the end of July.</p> <p>A question was raised about septic inspection by a member of the public. Jennifer has made a preliminary call to the North Bay Mattawa Conservation Association and will follow up, as will Nick.</p> <p>A call was received in June from a McKellar Township resident who will be remaining anonymous. There was a release of raw sewage into Lake Manitouwabing from a burst septic tank on April 15 that was visible on the melting ice. The North Bay Mattawa Conservation Association (NBMCA) was contacted, but by the time they were called, the ice had melted and the sewage was gone so they were not able to take any further action. E coli tests were completed in the area in June. The site level was slightly elevated and was over the provincial standard of 200 CFU/100 ml downstream. There is no mandated septic inspection in McKellar Township. This committee investigated the possibility a few years ago, but the cost of acquiring each septic registration in the township from NBMCA, the cost of paying the salary of a septic inspector (even one shared by other area municipalities) and the process to set the system up was agreed to be beyond the capacity of the Township at that time. Discussion included the diesel spill in the spring at which the health department, the Ministry of the Environment and the police attended, and this was contrasted to the government response to the sewage spill. We also discussed the possibility of asking the Township if one of its employees could go out to witness a future sewage spill and report it on behalf of the Township as quickly as possible. Perhaps a hotline could be set up and/or the By-Law officer could be involved. Currently, individual residents are relied upon to do the reporting; they are assured of anonymity by the NBMCA, but that does not extend to a possible court case. Individuals may suffer from personal harassment for reporting a neighbour and this is not acceptable. The committee also discussed a need to devise/discover a reporting mechanism for 24/7 reporting and advertise this to residents.</p> <p>The main concern is that a majority of township residents draw household water from the lake and treat it with various methods before drinking it. Discussion was also had on the need to advertise free tap water testing by the health unit and the water testing, likely at a cost, by Water Depot in Parry Sound. Nick will investigate the service available from Water Depot. We have a video on water testing available online.</p>

	<p>June 8th: Resolution 2023 #4 Motion: that we rescind Resolution 2023 #1 of March 9 2023, as follows:</p> <p>*Resolution 2023 #1 - The LSEC will print 100 copies of the Septic Smart booklet distributed last year and make them available at the Township office and the Library for new residents Moved: Axy Seconded: Al Approved yes</p> <p>Motion to rescind: Moved: Sue Seconded: Tony Approved (Yes)</p> <p>Resolution 2023 #5 Resolved that we approve the flyer entitled Wise Septic Use (4th draft attached), have 2000 copies printed at an approximate cost of \$1,500 and request that Council authorize* its distribution with the next tax mailing. Moved: Tony Seconded: Sue Approved: (Yes) With changes: none *Council authorized this distribution with the next tax mailing.</p>
4.4	<p>Presentations - YouTube videos from this committee are posted here: https://www.mckellar.ca/en/township-services/resources/Links-to-YouTube-Videos.pdf along with other videos</p> <p>Our postings (listings and a table of contents) are uploaded on the township web page under “Residents/Environment.” Jennifer has been gradually updating the page with Mary Smith’s help. https://www.mckellar.ca/en/living-in-our-community/environment.aspx</p> <p>July 6 - The request was made to put this link at the top of our agenda/minutes and to generally advertise it.</p>
4.5	<p>Microplastics/Microfibres/ Washing Machine Filters – video on our YouTube channel posted</p>
4.6	<p>Earth Day / Clean Up Our Lakes –</p> <p>July 6 - The “Clean Up Our Lakes” sign is badly damaged.</p> <p>Recycling was raised as an issue. There should be clear guidelines as to what plastics are successfully recycled and whether to remove labels etc in order to maximize the success of plastic recycling in our area. Melanie is an expert in this issue and offered to give a presentation at our next meeting. Request was made to record this session to be included in our resources.</p> <p>The Clean Up our Lakes campaign is scheduled annually for the end of April to end of May – suggestion was made to include roads and add it to the slogan – “Clean up our Lakes, Rivers and Roads” for publicity this spring.</p> <p>June 8 2023 - Moved that We hold the Clean Up Our Lakes campaign in 2024 without ordering bins. Moved: Tony Seconded: Sue approved</p>
4.7	<p>Fishing / Wildlife –</p>

	<p>July 6 –</p> <p>AI requested help with bird boxes for raptors that are on the decline. Sue and AI will work together on this. Steve Bradley has built a bird nesting boxes for raptors in response to a request from Tianna Burke.</p> <p>Additionally, it would be a good idea to build turtle nesting protection boxes. AI will draw up a list of materials needed, and we will all draw on the stores in our garages to fulfill the needs. Tony will work with AI on this.</p> <p>Loon counts. MLCA carried out a loon count over the July long weekend. Responses came in with loon sightings in various areas of the lake. Jennifer will be working with one of the respondents to summarize the input for this and for the next two long weekends. The plan is to submit information to Birds Canada and eBird.</p> <p>Canada Geese – Minerva Park has become difficult to use because of the amount of goose guano on the ground. We will make the suggestion to the Township to leave a fringe of unmowed lawn about 2 – 3 feet wide on the land at the water’s edge to take advantage of the reluctance of geese to enter an area with long grass that they cannot see through.</p>
4.8	<p>Fish Catch reporting signs for Armstrong Lake - are up at Armstrong Lake beach.</p> <p>June 1 – sign is well back from the portable outhouse and visible.</p>
4.9	<p>Catch and Release Signs are up at township launch sites. Copies of the Catch and Release sign are on the back of the Safe Boating flyer and were printed for distribution by the Township with the tax mailing to all households at the end of February 2023.</p>
4.10	<p>Benthic Study – proceeding</p> <p>May 11th – funding is included in the 2023 budget</p> <p>March 9, 2023 Jennifer distributed an evaluation of the value of the 2022 Benthic report along with a suggestion that LSEC recommend to Council that this research be continued. Proviso: that the data from the Lake Manitouwabing studies be posted on an existing publicly available website at no extra charge to the township or the MLCA. We passed a resolution supporting the continuation of Benthic sampling by the GBB.</p>
4.11	<p>Pesticides/Fertilizers –</p> <p>July 6th – an example of a brochure that would include pesticides</p> <p>Turtle nesting protection boxes. Built for people to use and store.</p> <p>Committee members liked the idea of promoting the planting of rain gardens and filter strips mentioned in the brochure below = to decrease the amount of nutrients seeping into the lake.</p> <p>CCE Lawn Care for Water Quality Brochure 2020.pdf (skaneateleslake.org)</p> <p>Pesticides – we will fold a discussion of pesticide use on lawns into the work/education on waterfront vegetation. Melanie and Jennifer.</p>
4.12	<p>Invasive Species –</p>

	<p>July 6th - Al Last, assisted by Jeremy Sintzel, has been putting up the new Invasive Species signs from FOCA at the boat launches.</p> <p>June 8th – Council approved replacing the old Protect our Lakes from Invasive species signs and replacing them with the new signs from FOCA. We also need to map and list where the signs are placed in the township. Need someone to place signs again.</p>
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4.13	<p>Dark Skies – From Oct 13/ minutes on planning: Sue and Jennifer will continue the work on Dark Skies.</p>
4.14	<p>Water Levels – A paper detailing previous work on water levels is posted on our section of the web page.</p>
4.15	<p>Pollinator Patches / Gardens–</p> <p>July 6th – The Pollinator Patch Garden at the Community Center has been reconditioned; GBB personnel were invited to come. They are now taking over the care and tending of this garden again. Sue received a request to do some clean up at the Minerva Park Garden. We wrote to the Township Clerk to say we would do this. We have funds to fill out the plants. We will book a day in September and advertise for volunteers to work on this garden in addition to removing some deadwood now. We need to be certain that no other organization has this responsibility.</p> <p>Resolution 2023 #6 Moved that we use the funds intended for the Butterfly Garden to make purchases to clean up and augment plants at the Minerva Park Garden. Sue and Jennifer wrote to the Clerk that we agreed to do it – all others welcome and we may post a notice to bring in Volunteers. Moved: Al Seconded: Sue Approved: Yes</p>
	<p>ICECAP – This item removed. Council will communicate directly with GBB about this.</p>
4.16	<p>EV Chargers –</p>
4.17	<p>Organic Waste Planning investigate the possibility of a processing facility shared with other townships in the future May 11th Another company is coming to Council with a proposal on Food Cyclers (attached). There is also a brand called LOMI which is very similar. Food Cyler will sell reuseable filters to purchasers whose community participates.</p>
4.18	<p>From Oct 13/22 minutes on planning: Jennifer will start to research the background on Drinking Water Source Protection with a view to eventually having McKellar Township included in such a program. This will likely be a multi-year project as it involves working with other townships and communities in the local watersheds and finding a Conservation Association willing to manage the program.</p>

5.	<p>Budget – Our suggestions LSEC Our revised budget for 2023 was accepted by Council.</p>												
6.	<p>Next meeting date and time is Thursday August 10th, 7:30 pm on zoom and we need a committee member to attend in the community centre, please.</p> <p>LSEC meetings will continue at 7:30 pm on the second Thursday of the month in 2023:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>January 12th</td> <td>July 13th Meeting changed to July 6th.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>February 9th</td> <td>August 10th-meeting was cancelled</td> </tr> <tr> <td>March 9th</td> <td>September 14th</td> </tr> <tr> <td>April 13th</td> <td>October 12th</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 11th</td> <td>November 9th</td> </tr> <tr> <td>June 8th</td> <td>December 14th</td> </tr> </table> <p>Next meeting Sept 14 th 7:30 pm.</p>	January 12th	July 13th Meeting changed to July 6 th .	February 9th	August 10 th -meeting was cancelled	March 9th	September 14 th	April 13th	October 12 th	May 11th	November 9 th	June 8th	December 14 th
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7.	<p>Motion to adjourn. Moved: Tony Seconded: Sue Approved: Yes Time: 8:36 PM</p>												