

LAKE STEWARDSHIP AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE OF MCKELLAR TOWNSHIP

Final Minutes

Thursday October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

† 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>

Item	Time	Please note: These are ongoing agenda items. Only items marked with an * will be discussed at the next meeting.
1.	*	<p><b>Land Acknowledgement:</b>                      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.</p>
2.	*	<p>Roll Call*: Tony Best (X); Ross Crockford (); Peter Duffey (); Jennifer Ghent-Fuller (X) ; Melanie Jeffrey () ; Axy Leighl (X) ; Carl Mitchell (X); Suzanne Poff (X); Nick Ryeland (X); Rick Speers (X); Rob Gibson ( )                      Guest: On Zoom:                      We need 5 committee members to have a quorum (Y)</p> <p>Does anyone have a declaration of pecuniary and/or personal interest and general nature thereof?                      (no)                      Thank you Rick, for taking notes of these meetings.</p>
3.1	*	<p>Motion to accept the minutes of September 12th, 2024. (attached)                      Moved: Axy Seconded: Sue Approved: Yes                      [Amendment:                      Approved with Amendment : ]</p>
3.2	*	<p>Would any committee member like to add any item to the agenda? (No)                      (Motion to add item to the agenda if needed)                      [Motion to accept the Agenda .                      Amendments:                      Moved: Seconded:                      Approved: ( )]</p>
3.3		<p><b>Strategic Planning</b></p> <p>Carl (via email) - : For upcoming topics, I think the shoreland preservation stuff is key in my opinion. Something fun to engage more interested residents would be the bird inventory. Re: bird inventory, some of you may be familiar with this app? <a href="https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/">https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/</a></p> <p>Jennifer – the next brochure could be about shoreline preservation and vegetation – need to keep pushing for adoption of the Tree Canopy and Vegetated shoreline bylaw amendment presented to Council in November of 2023</p> <p>Peter – education re: shorelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue working on recycling</li> <li>- Loon awareness – will not be making location of loon nesting sites public to protect them</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shoreline education important – there is only one nesting pair left on Lake Manitouwabing – there were two chicks which did not survive; Chick on Grey Owl is now a good size</li> <li>- Lead sinkers are fatal for loons – they pick up pebbles on the lake bottom to aid in their digestion – if they pick up a lead sinker, it will kill them</li> <li>- Need to keep the number of current topics to one or two because of time, cost</li> </ul> <p>Rob – education on protection of loon nesting sites – waves near shores</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Education about the harm using pesticides does</li> <li>- In many properties, the Township owns the road allowance (usually 66 feet) at the shore; need to take this into consideration in legislating a 30 m setback</li> <li>- Seguin has a requirement of 90 % vegetative buffer within the required setback.</li> </ul> <p>Tony – education re: avoiding use of lead sinkers; this campaign has been named “Get the Lead Out” in other areas; barbless hooks</p> <p>Ross – will continue campaign to protect Turtles and hoping Council will approve future placement of signs at turtle crossing sites</p> <p>Sue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- E-bird shows that 192 bird species are found in the McKellar area</li> <li>- The app “Merlin” allows you to record birds – we could put this information on the Facebook page Mark Calhoun has offered to assist</li> <li>- Need to do education on living with wildlife – last year there was concern about coyotes on the Balsam trail -</li> </ul>
4. Goals		General Updates on Current Issues.
4.1	*	<p>Waterfront/ Shoreline protection –</p> <p>October 17<sup>th</sup> – Nick and Tony discussed 30 m setbacks with John Jackson, who suggested moving to a 20 m setback when he discussed it with them – next Council meeting is on Oct 15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Please be aware of pending open meeting to discuss the Official Plan – it will be listed under Township Services / Building and Planning / Proposed Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw Amendments 2024</b></li> </ul> <p>– Karlee has asked Jennifer to present Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation Policy presented last November again and to include a definition of native vegetation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jennifer will redraft and send out to review for discussion at our Nov meeting</li> <li>- There have been no developments since it was presented to Council in Nov 2023</li> <li>- Jennifer will draft flyer on the shoreline while reviewing this bylaw revision</li> <li>-</li> </ul> <p>Welcome package – not much progress in the last month</p> <p>Oct 17 2024 – Jennifer sent out a summary of the 4 talks she attended at the Resilience to Climate Change Conference in Bracebridge on Oct 4 – there were some good flyers at the conference</p> <p>Discussion about the possibility of mailing the welcome package to people who have become new residents since Sept of 2022 (cerlox bound flyers and Lake Protection Workbook) and asking staff to identify recipients (new residents)</p> <p><b>Possible List of items to include in the McKellar Township Environmental Welcome Package</b></p> <p>Oct 17 – need a flyer on water quality</p> <p>Maps (there are about 500 paper maps produced by MLCA in 2022)</p> <p>Septic flyer</p> <p>Flyer on pesticides and fertilizers</p> <p>Write a flyer on water quality being connected to shoreline and littoral zone vegetation health</p> <p>Invasive species pamphlet</p>

		<p>Catch and release best practices flyer  Statement on pollinators  Statement on importance of littoral zone/benthic health  Information on Bats / Bat houses, Birds / Bird Houses  Boat wakes – impact on nesting birds  Ash in woods (replenishing calcium lost to acid rain)  Water treatment  Microfibers and microplastics (we have a presentation)  Native plants  Wildlife  Road Salt  INTACT Fire and Flood damage prevention measures</p> <p>B. September 12 – no further update on Welcome Package  August 9<sup>th</sup> -Welcome Package  A package of possible information to be included in a Welcome Package for new residents has been distributed to committee members. Discussion.</p> <p>Committee members agreed that it is best for new residents to be presented with hard copy information. Ross and Jennifer will decide what information to include and it will be bound with cerlox binding.</p>
4.2	*	<p>Water Sampling  Oct 17 – water sampling is complete – on Township web page and MLCA next week  Jennifer trying to document lake turnover (temperature)  Sept 12 – Water sampling for the year will finish at the end of September</p>
4.3	*	<p>Septic Education –  Oct 17 – we have very few septic care flyers left – will get estimates for more  Did not include possibility of using toilet paper which is better for septics (RV toilet paper)</p>
4.4		<p>Publicity  Facebook Page = Sue posted the zoom link for the LSEC meeting  Karlee is receiving the postings for her approval  – Sue, Peter, Ross</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It's important to post regularly on the same day each week</li> <li>- Sue has started posting and will continue</li> <li>- Rob suggested posting about bears coming out of hibernation next spring</li> <li>- We could put the zoom link for our meetings on our facebook page</li> <li>- Send postings to members of the committee?</li> </ul> <p>Presentations - YouTube videos from this committee are posted here:  <a href="https://www.mckellar.ca/en/township-services/resources/Links-to-YouTube-Videos.pdf">https://www.mckellar.ca/en/township-services/resources/Links-to-YouTube-Videos.pdf</a> 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.  <a href="https://www.mckellar.ca/en/living-in-our-community/environment.aspx">https://www.mckellar.ca/en/living-in-our-community/environment.aspx</a></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 / <b>Recycling</b></p> <p>Oct 17 – if our recycling material is not being sorted by Waste Connections anymore, but merely being put on another truck to be sent to Enterra in Burlington or to Vaughn (fibres), why can we not recycle a broader range of items = asked Karlee if we can contact Circular materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some people are still putting in plastic bags</li> </ul> <p>Another issue is whether we need more bins for the compactor – Tom Stoneman has been sent data collection sheets to track how many days the recycling bins are full and unavailable</p> <p>Nick is looking into what can be done about getting blue bins that people can use to take their recycling in to the Transfer Station</p>
4.7	*	<p>Fishing / Wildlife –</p> <p>Oct 17 – Ross’ deputation to Council was received favourably and was praised as a good step</p> <p>And passed the following resolution:</p> <p>Moved by: Councillor Kekkonen Seconded by: Councillor Zulak</p> <p>24-512 BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of McKellar does hereby receive the deputation from Ross Crockford, a member of the Lake Stewardship and Environmental Committee, regarding the proposal to install road signage in designated wildlife hotspots; and FURTHER THAT the Council approves the Committee's proposal to identify <b>five key locations</b> where "Wildlife Crossing" signs would provide the greatest benefit; and FURTHER THAT the Public Works Superintendent be directed to assist the Committee and the installation contractor in determining the appropriate height and placement of the signage in accordance with the Highway Traffic Act; and FURTHER THAT the Public Works Superintendent conduct a final inspection of the installed signage and retain the authority to remove or reposition any signs, should they present safety concerns.</p>
4.8		Fish Catch reporting signs for Armstrong Lake - are up at Armstrong Lake beach.
4.9		Catch and Release Signs are up at township launch sites.
4.10		Benthic Study – July 2024 – Sampling took place in 3 sites
4.11		Pesticides/Fertilizers – March 7 <sup>th</sup> – The new brochure was distributed to residents at the end of Feb.
4.12		Invasive Species – Sept 12 – Chair has discussed the existence and location of phragmites in McKellar Township with staff The concern about Phragmites would be a good article for our Facebook page. Often a spray is used – “habitat aqua,” which is purported to be harmless to animals and other vegetation.
4.13		Dark Skies – We have a brochure that was made in about 2021.
4.14		Water Levels – May 1 – paper reposted on FB –Requested changes (clean up of the web page). A paper detailing previous work on water levels is posted on our section of the web page. <a href="#">Water-Levels-on-Lake-Manitouwabing-JGF-Amended-July-2022.pdf (mckellar.ca)</a> Reposted in April 2024
4.15		Pollinator Patches / Gardens–
		ICECAP – This item removed. Council will communicate directly with GBB about this.
4.16		EV Chargers –
4.17		Organic Waste Planning (investigate the possibility of a processing facility shared with other townships in the future?) May 9 Council did not go ahead with the Food Cycler Program

4.18		Drinking Water Source Protection																		
5.		<p>Budget – Oct 17 – will have draft budget ready for review at the November meeting</p> <p>Coming up – FOCA conference is Nov 9<sup>th</sup> online – Jennifer is representing MLCA – any others can participate for \$30</p> <p>Meetings will be held in Council Chambers through the winter unless the driving is bad, then they will be solely on zoom. Zoom set up seems to work now – new microphone.</p>																		
6.	*	<p>Dec 14<sup>th</sup> is LSEC decided to continue to meet <i>usually</i> on the second Thursday evening of each month <i>and to change the time to 7 pm.</i></p> <p>LSEC Meeting Dates in 2024:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><del>January 11<sup>th</sup></del></td> <td></td> <td><del>July 11<sup>th</sup></del></td> </tr> <tr> <td><del>February 8<sup>th</sup></del></td> <td>No Quorum</td> <td>Friday August</td> </tr> <tr> <td><del>March 7<sup>th</sup></del></td> <td>No Quorum</td> <td>September 12<sup>th</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td><del>April 11<sup>th</sup></del></td> <td>No Quorum</td> <td>October 17<sup>th</sup> (<del>3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday</del>)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><del>May 9<sup>th</sup></del></td> <td></td> <td>November 14<sup>th</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td><del>June 13<sup>th</sup></del></td> <td></td> <td>December 12<sup>th</sup></td> </tr> </table> <p>Old information is occasionally removed from the bottom of each item in these minutes, but can be found in old minutes on the Township’s web page under Environment.</p>	<del>January 11<sup>th</sup></del>		<del>July 11<sup>th</sup></del>	<del>February 8<sup>th</sup></del>	No Quorum	Friday August	<del>March 7<sup>th</sup></del>	No Quorum	September 12 <sup>th</sup>	<del>April 11<sup>th</sup></del>	No Quorum	October 17 <sup>th</sup> ( <del>3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday</del> )	<del>May 9<sup>th</sup></del>		November 14 <sup>th</sup>	<del>June 13<sup>th</sup></del>		December 12 <sup>th</sup>
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7.		<p>Motion to adjourn. Moved: Sue Seconded: Nick Approved: All Time: 7:35 pm</p>																		