

LAKE STEWARDSHIP AND ENVIRONMENTAL STANDING COMMITTEE OF MCKELLAR TOWNSHIP

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13 2022 6:30 PM

MINUTES

1. Land Acknowledgement: We would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Anishnaabe and the Mississauga people.
2. Roll call. Jennifer Ghent Fuller, Tony Best, Axy Leighl, Sheila Hardie, Lynda Taylor, Susan Adamson, Al Last, Melanie Jeffrey, Carl Mitchell, Nick Ryeland
3. Motion to accept the minutes of Dec 9 2021. Moved by Susan Adamson seconded by Lynda Taylor, carried and accepted. These have been sent to the municipal office.
4. Budget for this committee submitted Dec 30, 2022, this was attached to the agenda. Jennifer explained the budget with specifics for a total of \$30,580. Lynda asked who would be receiving the Lake Protection workbook given it is extensive. People can download this book as well. Share and talk about these and the suggestions within. We will try to distribute these in person. Nick stated the first go round of the budget is this week, not likely to be an issue. Fiscal year end is thought to be Dec.31st.
5. Presentation on a possible Tree Bylaw (Susan). Explanation of why a bylaw is needed. Need terms defined. The township has few resources, so we should do due diligence and do the heavy lifting before hand and do the thinking for them. Need a tree sub committee of 3, so we can make recommendations to move forward. Subcommittee consists of Lynda Taylor, Al Last and Axy Leighl, and Jennifer will facilitate with zoom. We could suggest steps based on resources of the township. Could we include shoreline vegetation in this?
6. General updates on current issues
 - A) Waterfront (Tony) we have ordered 1700 books from Watersheds.ca to be printed and delivered. MLCA will cover half the cost. We will complete education on this aspect of land stewardship this summer. This work is supported by the recommendation of the Lake Capacity Study which recommended shoreline rehabilitation as the best thing we can do at present to promote the health of the lakes and the environment in McKellar Township. We will do a presentation to council for council to consider.
 - B) Fishing (Al and Jennifer) – the sign for Armstrong Lake is now complete and was attached to your agenda. The signs are going to Aqua graphics company but the posts are not included, so perhaps we can ask the township work's department for posts to hold these signs. People will be needed to put up these signs. Al will make a list of where these signs should go. It was suggested we order a few extra of these signs. Boat launches would be a good location and people fishing at Minerva park.
 - the information registering a catch for Armstrong Lake is available at the interactive Fish ON-line web site for the lake – included are a description of FMZ 15, Fishing regulations for zone 15, Ontario Fish Regulations Summary in Chinese, Licence information, government offices, and local weather forecasts. Jennifer will let Steve Scholten know.

C) **Septic subcommittee** (Tony and Jennifer and Nick). Nick is getting newsfeeds daily about septic systems ever since he searched on line.

(i)– three of the four members of the septic subcommittee met on Dec 15 2022.

(ii) decided to abandon establishing a septic inspection program for 2022 at least and concentrate on education

(iii) requested an estimate from Aquagraphics on printing the Septic Smart 12 page booklet, also 1700 copies, cost would be \$4400...pair it with Lake protection booklet.

(iv) Nick asked where the idea of mandatory septic inspections came from in the first place, so I started investigating this

It was decided to concentrate on educating people.

The impetus for septic inspections came from - Drinking Water source protection:

Mandatory septic system inspection programs were set up as part of the (drinking water) Source Protection Planning in 19 areas of the province in response to the loss of life in the Walkerton drinking water contamination event in 2000. Source Protection Planning is a component of Ontario's Clean Water Act, 2006 and is being carried out in these 19 regions across the province.

The North Bay-Mattawa Source Protection Authority (SPA) coordinated the development of the **Source Protection Plan** (SP Plan) to protect the sources of five municipal drinking water systems in various watersheds: Callander, Mattawa, North Bay, Powassan and South River.

Jennifer wrote to the MoECP to inquire which conservation authority has responsibility for the drinking water source protection in McKellar Township. Our septic permits are issued by the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority, but their drinking water protection area does not extend to McKellar Township.

The reply she received stated in part "Regarding your first question, there is no Conservation Authority responsible for the McKellar area, which is in fact true for the majority of the province. Conservation Authorities (CA) were originally set up to deal with flooding and watershed management in built up areas. As you have indicated the North Bay Mattawa CA's role with regard to Source Protection is limited to the areas of the Mattawa River and Lake Nipissing watersheds per their original mandate. I am unaware if this area can be expanded or what role the municipality would have in such a request. I would suggest you contact Conservation Ontario to find out additional information."

[Conservation Ontario // Conservation Ontario](#) "

For the NB-M Source Protection Authority, there are several watershed systems included under this drinking water protection plan. The Seguin River Watershed area was not part of this plan, and so we have no organized drinking water protection in McKellar Township. From Page 8 of Septic Re-Inspection Guide for Ontario: a program for lake associations @FOCA 2019 –

H) File storage – the township is unable to set up an account for us to store our files or to have an email address at present. Susan is unable to separate her costs easily to see what she is owed so she has elected to continue keeping the files on her private account until such time as the township makes website space available to us

I) Water levels (Nick). Tabled for another meeting. Jennifer thinks we need access to their data.

J) August meeting on the third Thursday (18th) unless someone else wants to chair the meeting on the second Thursday (11th). No objections

K) Scheduling of Public Presentations in the Summer

Weekends? Weekdays? Time? Arena? Book the outdoor arena, upload material to You tube, have presentations for cottagers not currently in the area and also materials available for those who do not have computers,

L) Other. Presentation in the library on Saturday, January 22 at 11, The Water Quality of Lake Manitouwabing during the 2021 season, presented by Chelsea Crundwell, Masters student U of T, contact the library at mckellarlib@vianet.ca

Move to closed session at 8:00

Returned from closed session at 8:16

Motion to adjourn Tony Best, seconded by Melanie Jeffrey, adjournment 8:18