

Lake Stewardship and Environmental Committee

DRAFT MINUTES for Nov 11, 2021

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.

1. Roll call

Present: Susan Adamson, Jennifer Ghent Fuller, Tony Best, Al Last, Melanie Jeffrey, Lynda Taylor, Axy Leighl, Nick Ryeland,

Regrets: Sheila Hardie, Carl Mitchell, Barbara Mallory

Guests in Attendance: Peter Hopkins, Katrina Krievens GBB, Rob Graham MNRF

Invited guests: Scott Buckingham, Steve Macdonell, Karyn Klare Kloski, David Bywater.

Peter briefly attended and introduced Nick, our new councillor, much involvement with trails and environmental issues. Peter will be in absentia but still on the committee. Peter is the council rep on the rental committee.

Peter then introduced our guest, Rob Gibson and then left the meeting. Rob lives in McKellar and is our key person for contact with the MNRF.

Presentation on Work Permits, Boat Houses and the Public Lands Act by S/Sgt Robert Gibson, Manager-Parry Sound Enforcement Unit, Enforcement Branch/Northeast Region Enforcement Operations, Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry. Rob looks after enforcement...manages and supervises staff responding to complaints, tips and infractions.

Public Lands Act, is over 100 years old, attempting to revise this act.

Filling shorelines to create recreation areas will not be approved, but if the shoreline is to be stabilized it may be approved through permits. If you are In doubt about work at the shoreline, for example dredging, call MNR to ask. There are even rules about the relocation of rocks.

There is a tip line 1-876-847-7667, which can be anonymous (unless it goes through the courts, then anonymity is gone) it will be assigned a CO and trigger an investigation, monitored 24/7. Need a description, address of the area....fire number, lot number....the Crime stoppers line can also be used.

Grey water spill is an environmental spill, i.e. laundry soap suds going directly into the lake, contact the Ministry of the Environment. Call them for septic blow outs as well. Gypsy moth leaf fall and the early leaf fall, occurring with heavy rain hitting the leaves, alum is produced and froths.

GBB state of the bay blogs talks about foam: <https://www.state-of-the-art.ca/weird-and-whacky-water-wonders/>

From Katrina at GBB: Foam can often be seen along the shorelines or in open water areas on windy days. Contrary to popular belief, this foam is not the result of some pollutant in the water, it is a naturally occurring phenomenon. Foam occurs when oils from decomposing aquatic plants or animals float to the surface and reduce the surface tension of the water. With reduced surface tension, wind and wave action introduce air into the mix and bubbles are formed. Where these bubbles accumulate along windward shores, we see foam.....white, brown or somewhere in between, depending on water colour and how much debris has built up in it. When disturbed, foam breaks apart easily. Natural film is made up of 99% air and water and 1% surfactant, the substance that reduces water surface tension (i.e. oil from decomposing plants or animals)

Changes to regulations happened in 2017, municipalities are now in control of dock sizes through the building code, but the Ministry determines docks may only touch 15 sq m of shore lands, and not require a building permit. There are ministry requirements for cribs.

There is a bylaw stating there are to be no more two story boathouses on Manitouwabing, but boat houses (water garages) are allowed.

These may not contain living accommodations. Non-Prescribed boathouse structures can only be built under a land use permit (like paying rent to the ministry), crown lease or crown patent/fee.

Waterfront structures are Dock, boat ramp, boat port, gazebos, located on a dock.

Swim rafts legally should be removed before Nov. 1 and replaced after spring break up

What can we do to preserve our shoreline? If the shoreline allowance is owned by the township or crown, you may be able to stop clearcutting, or have some reason to question. In McKellar there could be a tree cutting by law. Municipality could develop site plans such as are used in Sequin, this determines what can and can't be done on property, including cutting trees.

Styrofoam , ministry of environment is putting out a new guideline as to what can be used as floaters (encapsulated styrofoam). Katrina GBB, indicated Bill 228, an act was passed on May 13, keeping polystyrene out of Ontario's Lakes and Rivers.

What can be planted to preserve the shoreline. From Katrina at GBB: Grow me instead Northern Ontario is a great resource: <http://www.invadingspecies.com/download/grow-me-instead-northern> radio/ Best for biosphere is another very local resource : <https://www.Gbbr.ca/conservationguides/#b4b>

Jennifer thanked Rob for sharing all of this information with us. He is willing to assist when/as needed

Please note, all guests left the meeting following Rob's presentation.

3. New members approved by council: Melanie Jeffrey, Axy Leigh and Lynda Taylor, welcome!
4. Approval of Minutes from Oct 21, 2021 moved by Al Last, Melanie Jeffrey seconded, approved.
5. Waterfront – discussion about the next steps in regard to the presentation this evening. Discouraging geese...keep linking

everything together In Terms of stewardship. We need to do concrete things and get moving. There is a study in Halliburton about tree cutting, find that and review it for our area to make a recommendation to council. Jennifer suggested we purchase the shoreline workbooks, also available on PDF so Jennifer will send us each a copy, and this will be put on the December agenda to make a decision if we can get these printed or not. Tony suggests that a paper copy may be more feasible...how do we engage people, do we need seminars and handouts? Previous quote for 1600 copies was \$4650, Tony will investigate the cost now. Outreach during market, in Hyde park they give out seed balls for example. Al commented upon MLCA tree sales, Chris Clayton is heading this up as far as species are concerned: claytoninthegarden@gmail.com. For handling, logistics, dates etc. Contact is Steve MacDonell, veneziabakeryto@gmail.com. What about using a co-op student? Or a student needing volunteer hours?

6. Water levels – please review the files attached prior to the meeting.

a. Water levels on Manitouwabing Lake JGF. Jennifer put together this based on much material she had been given. Council has asked MNRF to adjust water levels, MNRF said council needed to determine the water level they want...hence no change was ever made. She would like to request Bracebridge generation share data on the levels based on dates, have people on the lake track the water levels. Tony indicated GPS does not work on Water levels, and there could be much fluctuation in different areas of the lake. How much water has to be over spawning beds? GBB uses 4 area for Benthic study, those area might be good to study.

b. Seguin_WMP_Amended_2018_6_29

c. Seguin-watershed-conditions-review-30-05-2017

d. T. of R. - SRSWMP-SAC

What do we do about water levels from here? If you are unable to attend, your comments ahead of time would be appreciated.

7. New business: Tony asked about the septic reinspection system plan. The former CEO was going to work with surrounding communities to formulate a plan. He is gone. Nick, could you report on the status of our recommendation? How do we communicate with ratepayers in our area? Could we have those email addresses in the

January tax notices? Nick thinks there may be resistance to electronic communications.

Incidentals –

- on Nov 5 2021 Jennifer wrote to Steve Scholten in regard to his request to help publicize the MRNF wish for feedback from fishermen following restocking of Armstrong Lake (2K walleye 5 or 6 years ago and 2K in 2021).
- Also asked for Jennifer's email address to be added to the list in regard to Public consultation about upcoming changes in our Fish Management Zone 15. Al Last will look for the article he and Don Snead wrote. He is continuing to drop the fish habitat enhancement, tying branches together, using Christmas trees, construction blocks or rocks were used to weigh them down
- Composed and sent a reply to Gord Zulak after approval from Peter Hopkins about use of propane cannons to protect farmers' crops from consumption by Canada Geese. Gord has asked to come to our meeting, maybe in January.
- Letter received from Becky Pollock, Executive Director of GBB asking if this committee would like a presentation regarding ICECAP – 30 min plus discussion.

- also UNESCO biosphere boundaries were created in 1998 and formalized in 2004 – these boundaries could be redrawn to include McKellar and Whitestone in ~2024 if we are interested. To occur I. The spring.

- Road salt – comprises 3% of the material placed on the roads in the winter by the Township; MTO may use more on Hwy 124 – consult Greg Gostick.
- Septic committee not operating – could we take that issue (back) on? Nick will report back to us.
- Need email addresses on township data base. Need to send out form with January tax notices.
- Let's get organized to get some materials ready for next summer in regard to natural edge on the waterfront.

Susan is absent next meeting, so Melanie will take minutes.

8. Motion by Melanie, seconded by Tony
Adjourned 8:53

Next meeting: Dec. 9th, 6:30

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