

**Lake Stewardship and Environmental Standing Committee of McKellar
Township**

Approved Minutes

October 21, 2021, 6:30 pm
Council Chambers and Zoom

Next meetings: Nov 11, Dec 9 6:30

1. Welcome and roll call

Present: Peter Hopkins, Jennifer Ghent Fuller, Susan Adamson, Al Last, Tony Best, Melanie Jeffrey

Regrets: Sheila Hardie, Carl Mitchell, Absent: Linda Taylor, Barb a Mallory

2. Approval and acceptance of Minutes of Sept 2, 2021. Moved by Jennifer, Seconded by Tony, approved and forwarded to the town office.

3. Approval and acceptance of Minutes of Sept 25,2021, Moved by Jennifer, seconded by Tony, approved and forwarded to the town office.

4. Additions to the Agenda: time of meetings and not changing meeting dates

5. Approval of the Agenda as amended, carried

6. Updates

a. Budget status (March version attached) – update (Peter). Peter indicated our budget is the same as previously announced, he will get a print out of the budget for us for our next meeting. Hoping to roll out the 2022 budget in January . Clerk applications are in but no one has yet been hired. Ina is not yet back in the office.

b. Lake Capacity Study (Carl) at the November meeting as Carl is travelling today.

7. Reports and Planning. a.Survey results and work planning (Jennifer). Results were water quality, and water fronts: water levels, water testing, invasive species. An organization in the Sault has a map telling where the invasive species are located. Jennifer thinks we should look at that map to help direct our work. Fish habitat needs work. Final Benthic study is not yet out.

Everything is on hold at present until a CEO is hired. Nick Ryeland and Reg Moore are the new councillors. Hopefully by Christmas there will be a full complement of staff. New councillors will be assigned work priorities. Road services and website are current main priorities. Chris Bordeleau will have to draft some septic bylaws if we are to move forward. A new councillor will be assigned to this. The rental committee is not active at this time, but it must move forward. Water fronts was the second highest result. Perhaps we need a brochure for water safety. Pesticides such as neonics and shoreline could be an umbrella over all of the aspects of water fronts. Which pesticides are good, which are not and what are some options need to be published. Lawn fertilizers are included. Clean up the lakes campaign should keep rolling and should be done in the spring.

Jennifer attended an ICECAP meeting: highlighting waste, transportation and buildings. Would a blue box system work in this community?. Peter stated this program was slated for 2024.

We did education this summer at the market and need to build on what has already been done; dark skies, safe boating, phragmites, clean up the lakes, septics and water quality.

Tony feels we need to move forward on septics, allot will need to happen and we need a buy in from the community. We need a bylaw and an inspection program. The township has no bylaw on pesticides, only Hydro is banned from using them under the hydro lines, and we need water front guidelines. Do we have rules and enforcement? Rob Gibson has sent a powerpoint presentation about shoreline destruction. Jennifer has asked Rob Gibson of MNR to attend one of our meetings to share the process of what happens when properties are denuded.

Watershed booklets could be purchased and handed out.

We have 47 farms with lakefront in our community. We have to respect and support that farming is their livelihood. Perhaps some members of the agricultural committee could be invited to attend a meeting to discuss pesticides. If you are members of a farming association, OFA there are rules you must follow, but many farmers are not members of OFA. Perhaps Fern would be willing to be a resource for us, even though she is no longer a committee member. We need to determine if e-coli is coming into our water because of farms. Should farmers be financially supported if major changes need to be made? What about the Golf Course? They are supposed to give a report at the end of the year. Carl indicated the results in front of the golf course were fine so far this past summer. We still have not seen a report from them. Peter will follow up on a report from the golf course re pesticides.

We should put together some education on how to look after your septic. Tony suggests Danielle Ward from Adams Bros be invited to come and give a town hall presentation, shared by LS/EC and MLCA.

We can work on Water front guidelines, septic, fertilizers and pesticides and community based research. Melanie suggests we use QR codes linking directly to web videos, education pieces etc., easily shared. Peter indicated the new website should be up and running within the next two weeks.

b. Geese and request from farmer: Melanie Jeffries and Linda Taylor both talked about how to get rid of geese. Fern also gave Jennifer advice. Jennifer has investigated bird banger, propane cannon, set on a timer, use for farmers is allowed, standard tool for farmers. Jennifer will draft a suggested letter that Mayor Hopkins could use to reply to the farmer who wrote to him about the Canada Geese eating his crops in regard to the legislated farming practice of using propane cannon to protect farm produce from birds. We will defer discussion about the broader issue of Canada Geese on McKellar Township lakes to a later time.

8. Discussion and Action Items

a. Review work plan and choose personal responsibilities: Susan, Melanie and Sheila will work on waterfront. Melanie, Jennifer and Carl will work on pesticides and fertilizers, Tony on septic and will continue to be our rep on the rental committee and AI and Peter will work on fish habitat. Jennifer will be involved with all of these. Everything is interconnected.

9. New business (all). New members: need to be approved by council: Melanie Jeffries, Linda Taylor and Axy Leigh. Tony moved we submit the names for approval, seconded by Jennifer, carried.

Meeting times: 4:00 is too early for a meeting time, keep the time at 6:30 and perhaps a committee member could begin the zoom call so Mary needn't stay late.

Jennifer will get the meeting dates to Mary so she can book the dates for us. Sunday Nov. 7th at 2:00 is the Remembrance Day presentation

10. Adjournment. 8:02

