

LAKE STEWARDSHIP AND ENVIRONMENTAL STANDING COMMITTEE OF MCKELLAR TOWNSHIP

Minutes of
THURSDAY, March 10 2022 7:00 PM

1. Land Acknowledgement (not read).
2. Roll call: Axy Leighl, Melanie Jeffrey, Al Last, Nick Ryeland, Jennifer Ghent-Fuller (Lynda Taylor was able to stay until Samantha Athey's presentation ended). Absent: Tony Best, Susan Adamson, Sheila Hardie
3. Presentation Samantha Athey gave a presentation on 'Microplastics in the Environment'. This presentation was recorded and Melanie and Jennifer will work together to make the recording available.
4. Motion to accept the minutes of February 10, 2022 Two amendments: Nick present, and meeting ended at 8:55. Accepted.
5. We will ask to post our meeting minutes starting with the minutes of September 2021, and have no more than one year at a time on the web site.
6. General updates on current issues

A) Waterfront/Water Quality/Bylaw/Education/Water Testing/Safe Boating

Status: - Booklets "Lake Protection Workbook" for distribution this summer have been purchased

New: MLCA shares a table at the market with LSEC, distributes pamphlets and environmental information, need to get those materials ready for the summer. We need a committee to finalize them/write them.

Status: - the presence of tire reefs in the lake has been established and maps and information forwarded to MoE by MNR – New: should we post this?

Status:- other townships' waterfront protection bylaws are being considered by subcommittee - we need to wait for operational plan of McKellar Township to be changed before forwarding a suggested by-Law to Council for consideration

Status:- water testing for E.coli and potassium/calcium/chloride will go ahead as usual in 2022 New: we need to know whether BGA toxin microcystin is removed during water treatment for those using surface water for their household

New: Depends on what system you're using. Commonly, systems use reverse osmosis and Ultraviolet. Waterchek.ca uses nano filtration and says it will treat for microcystine. There is another water treatment operator who formerly with York Region for water safety, now based in Orrville. Nick will reach out to him to join us for another meeting about water safety and septic education questions.

New: - we are not in a Drinking Water Source Protection zone and are therefore independent when it comes to septic inspection or drinking water testing.

Do we want to investigate working cooperatively with other communities in our watershed to request inclusion in a drinking water source protection area?

Will pursue working with other municipalities to do this in our region in a similar manner.

B) Fish – Habitat/Signage/Stocking

Status: – signs about Catch and Release have been purchased and AI is in consultation with the township about posting them

- plan to investigate brush bundles and spawning bed conditions and locations this summer

C) Septic Education/Bylaw

Status: - this committee has passed a resolution to purchase Septic Smart booklets for education and we are awaiting approval of our budget by council

E) Microplastics/ Washing machine filter/

Status: receiving educational presentation

Discussion

in December we said we needed a council motion re: encapsulated styrofoam

New: Looks like styro is disappearing from the supply, using air-filled plastic now instead, so we may not need a council motion.

F) Pesticides/Fertilizers

Status:

Suggested flyer written to illustrate the effect of pesticides and fertilizers on the lake ecosystem – “Grass is not enough”

New: Chair followed up on suggestion to contact the David Suzuki Butterfly Ranger program and is awaiting a return email; starting up in 2023; Axy and AI on NEW subcommittee; putting this in conjunction with the shoreline buffer zone for outreach.

New: possible workshop to build bat houses or bird houses for children this summer

G) Invasive species

Status: Flyer for Invasive Species Education 2022 completed and attached

New: What can we do to encourage people to prevent importing of invasive species? Water – boats/ bait; Land – Worms; AI had signs from FOCA that could be used at boat landings – he will look into getting more.

H) Earth Day/Clean up our Lakes

Status: we have the “Clean Up our Lakes” banner for the side of the container for the transfer station

New: - has the container been ordered by the township We have the sign from last year, will put it up again, Jennifer will check with township re: bin

- when will the contain be at the transfer station? Dates From: To:

- Earth day is April 22nd 2022

I) Water levels

Status: Background paper written and available New: (put on the web page?)

- do we need access to water level data –

J) Communication/ Facebook/Flyers/Public Presentations in the Summer-Scheduling- Topics/Township web page

Status: We will be able to display materials and answer questions at the market this summer.

New: Need to establish what materials we will have for distribution and display. Status: Facebook page from LSEC – AI to take charge of this page

New: Suggested preamble for facebook page: 'The membership of the LSEC is made up of volunteers who will vary over time and who have different interests and backgrounds. We advocate for clean water, healthy lakes and habitat, encourage our residents to take on responsibility for the environment, and reduce their carbon footprint. While we take care to share advice from responsible sources, we encourage you to check out our sources for yourself.'

Motion to approve the wording of this pre-amble: Moved by AI, seconded by Nick, passed
Virtual library, if someone has a question, here is the answer and links to sources.

Motion for small group to look at education materials together for the summer: Moved by Jennifer, seconded by Axy, passed.

New: Feb - need a flyer with Environmental QR codes New:-Summer Public Presentations

-Presentations for Summer, working with library and MLCA, weekday evenings decided upon

- possible topics:

1. S/Sgt Robert Gibson, MNR on Work Permits, Boat Houses and the Public Lands Act by S/Sgt

2. Danielle Ward from Adams Brothers on Septic Systems

3. Melanie and Carl have been asked if they would like to do a presentation

K) Waste management

Status: this committee approved in principle the Food Cycler program presented to Council

Promotion and fair distribution of this subsidized resource, need to reach out via email, Facebook, and put up flyers and signage in high traffic public areas including the electronic sign at the township office

L) ICECAP

New: do we need brochure for information table – Yes – Jennifer will ask GBB

M) Other?

New: can we move to a timed agenda? Can use timed agenda, good to have the markers as a guideline, won't be perfect and that is okay 😊 Melanie motion, Nick second, passed.

N) Next meeting date: Thursday April 14th 7:00 pm

O) Motion to adjourn. AI Moved, Axy second, passed

