

LAKE STEWARDSHIP AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE OF MCKELLAR TOWNSHIP

Draft Minutes

Thursday December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 7:00 PM

† 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>

Our Facebook page is located at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61565497380905&mibextid=ZbWKwL>

Item	Time	Please note: These are ongoing agenda items. Only items marked with an * will be discussed at the next meeting.
1.		<p>Land Acknowledgement:</p> <p>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 (X); Peter Duffey (X); Jennifer Ghent-Fuller (X) ; Melanie Jeffrey ( ) ; Carl Mitchell ( ) ; Nick Ryeland (X); Rick Speers (X) (Recorder); Rob Gibson (X )</p> <p>Guests:</p> <p>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</p>
3.1		<p>Motion to accept the minutes of November 14, 2024. (attached)</p> <p>Moved: Peter Seconded: Tony Approved: Yes</p> <p>[Amendment:</p> <p>Approved with Amendment : ( ) ]</p>
3.2		<p>Would any committee member like to add any item to the agenda? ( Yes)</p> <p>(Motion to add item to the agenda if needed) Committee Membership</p> <p>Moved: Peter Seconded: Tony</p> <p>Approved: ( Yes)</p> <p>Committee membership: Discussion of who is on the membership and the apparent inability of one member to attend given her absence since January, with no communication. Attempts to contact have been unsuccessful. Moved: That Melanie Jeffrey be removed from the membership with the provisos that she can act as a consultant and also rejoin the membership at any time.</p> <p>Moved: Peter Seconded: Tony; Approved: Yes</p>
3.3		<p>Strategic Planning</p> <p>- See October 2024 minutes</p>
4. Goals		<p>General Updates on Current Issues.</p>
4.1	A,B,C and D	<p>Waterfront/ Shoreline protection –</p> <p><b>Dec 12 –</b></p> <p><b>A.</b> Dec 12<sup>th</sup> – Council requested a number of changes to the draft of the revision of Bylaw 2019 – 12. Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation during Jennifer’s presentation on Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>.</p>

Nov 14<sup>th</sup> –

The 4<sup>th</sup> draft of the shoreline protection leaflet was submitted for approval and was accepted. **Moved** that the leaflet be printed (2000 copies) and submitted to Council for approval to distribute to all households by mail or email with the February tax mailing. Moved: Tony, Seconded: Peter. Approved.

A re-draft of the Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation Policy was distributed before the meeting. Township Clerk had requested a definition of native/indigenous plants, which was added. These do not require herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers. There was general discussion on the use of the word “bylaw.” It was felt by some members that a bylaw, by definition, needs to be enforced. All members of the committee want an educational policy, rather than an enforceable by-law.

Motion to approve the “By-law to adopt a TREE CANOPY AND NATURAL VEGETATION POLICY” dated October 26 2024, and to forward this to Council for their consideration.

Moved: Tony      Seconded: Sue. All approved.

- B. Dec. 12 – Ross and Jennifer have completed some of the pages for the welcome package, and other pages are in development. The first draft is about halfway done. Ross will write an introduction. Ross asked about a copy of McKellar Memories. There is some history in the document Jennifer wrote in 2017 about the history of Water Levels in the Township. Bracebridge Power lowers the water levels in anticipation of the spring melt.

<https://www.mckellar.ca/en/living-in-our-community/resources/Water-Levels-on-Lake-Manitouwabing-JGF-Amended-July-2022.pdf>

Council asked if only environmental items were going to be in the Welcome Package. Jennifer suggested that we not consider mailing it due to the high cost. Ross asked if we should consider asking Realtor what they think of distributing the welcome package. Rob will talk to Greg Antuchiewicz.

- C. Nov 14 - Welcome package. A draft table of contents was sent out. The package will consist of 10 double-sided pages with 20 entries/topics. Ross said that he would help with the editing and sequencing of topics and offered to write an introduction. Since we did not print the Septic Smart booklet, there is money left in our budget for this project. There was general discussion about whether mailing out or picking up would be preferable. The Clerk said with the current software, identifying new residents would be time-consuming. Once we have a final product we can revisit this issue. It was also thought that Real Estate agents might be interested in paying for printing and we could meet with them. It would be a good vehicle for educating new residents (after Sept 1 2022). We could get evaluation by each committee member asking 3 neighbours to read it and give feedback. There is a question whether all residents would benefit from receiving a package.

**Cost estimate:** Welcome package –

Proposed Table of Contents (attached)

Cost:

WELCOME BOOKLETS

QTY: 200

NUMBER OF PAGES: 12 including Covers

FINISHED SIZE: 8.5" x 11"

STOCK: 60lb text white / Covers on 10pt Gloss White

INK: CMYK

FINISHED: Coil Bound

	<p>\$5.95 each + tax; 200 copies would be ~ \$1350 plus envelopes (~\$100) and postage to send out the welcome page and the Lake Protection Workbook together.</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> <p><b>D. Dec 12<sup>th</sup></b> – Nick is not aware of date for another public meeting on the official plan.</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><b>As of Nov 14, No public meeting has been called as of yet to discuss the Official Plan. The clerk indicated that the Township is waiting for comments by the Province.</b></p>
4.2	<p>Water Sampling</p> <p>Dec 12 – FYI MLCA applied to conduct and fund Algae Monitoring as designed and coordinated by the Muskoka Watershed Council.</p> <p>November 14<sup>th</sup> – the water sampling is complete. The lake had not yet turned over in the Great Bay as of October 17<sup>th</sup>. Implications for sampling were discussed. Carl said it is important to sample the lake in the spring before stratification has taken place. In 2023-2024, the lake froze (“ice in”) for the first in the winter on January 11<sup>th</sup> 2024 and was melted (“ice out”) by April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Sampling was done in the latter part of May, as it has been done by LPP and previously by MLCA. Jennifer will plan to do the sampling earlier in the spring of 2025. The E.coli sampling is not affected by the stratification of the lake, and will be done with the usual schedule – end of June, end of July, end of August. The E. coli sampling found high numbers in some areas following a rain deluge near the end of June. As a consequence of the publicity we found that not all waterfront residents realized they have to treat lake water before consuming it and using it for dishes and tooth brushing etc.</p>
4.3	<p>Septic Education –</p> <p>Oct 17 – we have very few septic care flyers left – will get estimates for more</p> <p>Did not include possibility of using toilet paper which is better for septics (RV toilet paper)</p>
4.4	<p>Publicity</p> <p>Dec 12<sup>th</sup> – since Sue has resigned, Peter and Ross will continue the Facebook postings. Postings will be scaled back in the winter. Lake Manitouwabing facebook page has accepted us as a group, which means we can comment and answer questions as LSEC. Anyone on this committee is encouraged to submit articles and suggestions to Peter and Ross.</p> <p>November 14<sup>th</sup> – Soon the 3 moderators will have a rotating schedule for posting. Facebook postings are going up every Friday; MLCA offered to advertise the page. Numbers are growing for views. It’s anticipated that finding topics may be challenging for the winter. Articles on deer, ice fishing, snowmobiling. There is an issue with holes for ice fishing not being marked and fishhooks and other garbage being left on the lake. Regular posting keeps up interest.</p> <p><b>Link to the LSEC Facebook Page</b>  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61565497380905&amp;mibextid=ZbWKwL">https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61565497380905&amp;mibextid=ZbWKwL</a></p> <p>October 17 - Facebook Page = Sue posted the zoom link for the LSEC meeting  Karlee is receiving the postings for her approval</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sue, Peter, Ross</li> <li>- It’s important to post regularly on the same day each week</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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		Microplastics/Microfibres/ Washing Machine Filters – video on our YouTube channel posted
4.6		<p>Earth Day / Clean Up Our Lakes / <b>Recycling</b></p> <p><b>Dec 12</b> – report from Peter on his correspondence. Peter has been inquiring on whether we can recycle gable tops and other items since the company sorting our recycling has changed. Peter is waiting for Karlee to let us know who we can contact.</p> <p>Nov 14 — Karlee gave permission for us to contact Enterra to question the range of our recycling. Peter will follow up on contacting the companies in Vaughn and Brampton (Burlington?) in December; someone else could proceed with that work before then.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- many residents are still putting their recycling into bags; Nick has not received an answer on the feasibility of having blue boxes for residents to purchase</li> </ul> <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  Nick is looking into what can be done about getting blue bins that people can use to take their recycling into the Transfer Station</p>
4.7		Fishing / Wildlife –
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 –

		<p>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></p> <p>Reposted in April 2024</p>												
4.15		<p>Pollinator Patches / Gardens–</p> <p><b>Dec 12</b> – We will wait to see if Chris Clayton wants help with planting the area behind the ball diamond. Jennifer asked if anyone wants to take on the pollinator patch garden that Sue had planned to offer to plant and care for. We discussed the pollinator garden at the community centre, which is in need of work. Perhaps Georgian Bay Biosphere will help with it.</p>												
		ICECAP – This item removed. Council will communicate directly with GBB about this.												
4.16		EV Chargers –												
4.17		<p>Organic Waste Planning (investigate the possibility of a processing facility shared with other townships in the future?)</p> <p>May 9 Council did not go ahead with the Food Cycler Program</p>												
4.18		<p>Drinking Water Source Protection</p> <p><b>Nov 14</b> FOCA has developed a Guideline to implement the Best Practices Guidelines suggested by the Ontario Government for municipalities that are not covered under the Clean Water Act, such as McKellar Township. Former FOCA Executive Director, Terry Rees, who has worked on this issue for many years, has completed a pilot project of implementing these guidelines without major expenditures. Jennifer will follow up and request a copy of the guidelines when they are available.</p>												
5.		<p>Budget –</p> <p>Dec 12 – Moved to accept the budget approved as presented. Moved: Ross, Seconded: Peter. Approved.</p> <p>Nov 14 – Draft budget – Discussion of summary of expenditures so far in 2024 (attached). Tony and Jennifer will work on the proposed budget for 2025 for the December meeting.</p>												
6		<p>LSEC will continue to meet on the <b>second Thursday evening</b> of each month at 7 pm.</p> <p>LSEC Meeting Dates in <b>2025</b>:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">January 9<sup>th</sup></td> <td style="width: 50%;">July 10<sup>th</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>February 13<sup>th</sup></td> <td>August 14<sup>th</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>March 13<sup>th</sup></td> <td>September 11<sup>th</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>April 10<sup>th</sup></td> <td>October 9<sup>th</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 8<sup>th</sup></td> <td>November 13<sup>th</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>June 12<sup>th</sup></td> <td>Dec 11<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>	January 9 <sup>th</sup>	July 10 <sup>th</sup>	February 13 <sup>th</sup>	August 14 <sup>th</sup>	March 13 <sup>th</sup>	September 11 <sup>th</sup>	April 10 <sup>th</sup>	October 9 <sup>th</sup>	May 8 <sup>th</sup>	November 13 <sup>th</sup>	June 12 <sup>th</sup>	Dec 11 <sup>th</sup>
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7.		<p>Motion to adjourn.</p> <p>Moved: Tony    Seconded: Ross    Approved: Yes    Time: 8:27 pm</p>												