

LAKE STEWARDSHIP AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE OF MCKELLAR TOWNSHIP

Draft Minutes

Thursday November 14th, 2024

† 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>

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: 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 (n) ; Carl Mitchell (x); Suzanne Poff (x); Nick Ryeland (x); Rick Speers (x) (Recorder); Rob Gibson (x) Guests: Mark Calhoun, Mike Kekkonen. We need 5 committee members to have a quorum (Y) 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 October 17th, 2024. (attached) Moved: Sue Seconded: Tony Approved: All [Amendment: Approved with Amendment : ()]</p>
3.2	*	<p>Would any committee member like to add any item to the agenda? (y) (Motion to add item to the agenda if needed) [Motion to accept the Agenda . Amendments: Gardening, pollinator patch Moved: Nick Seconded: Rob Approved: (All)</p>
3.3		<p>Strategic Planning - See October 2024 minutes</p>
4. Goals		<p>General Updates on Current Issues.</p>
4.1	* A ,B and C	<p>Waterfront/ Shoreline protection – A. Nov 14th – Jennifer circulated the first draft of the leaflet on Shoreline Protection for assessment by committee members before the meeting. Comments were received and a revised leaflet will be sent out by the end of November, which includes Rob’s input of MNR regulations and a suggested restriction on using firewood from outside the area.</p>

B. 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.

C. 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

\$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.

October 17th – 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

- **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**

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.

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Oct 17 2024 – Jennifer sent out a summary of the 4 talks she attended at the Resilience to Climate Change Conference in Bracebridge on Oct 4 – there were some good flyers at the conference Discussion about the possibility of mailing the welcome package to people who have become new residents since Sept of 2022 (cerlox bound flyers and Lake Protection Workbook) and asking staff to identify recipients (new residents)

		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.
4.2	*	<p>Water Sampling November 14th – the water sampling is complete. The lake had not yet turned over in the Great Bay as of October 17th. 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 11th 2024 and was melted (“ice out”) by April 2nd. 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 – Oct 17 – we have very few septic care flyers left – will get estimates for more Did not include possibility of using toilet paper which is better for septics (RV toilet paper)</p>
4.4	*	<p>Publicity November 14th – 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. Link to the LSEC Facebook Page https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61565497380905&mibextid=ZbWKwL</p> <p>October 17 - Facebook Page = Sue posted the zoom link for the LSEC meeting Karlee is receiving the postings for her approval – Sue, Peter, Ross</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It’s important to post regularly on the same day each week - Sue has started posting and will continue - Rob suggested posting about bears coming out of hibernation next spring - We could put the zoom link for our meetings on our facebook page - Send postings to members of the committee? <p>Presentations - YouTube videos from this committee are posted here: https://www.mckellar.ca/en/township-services/resources/Links-to-YouTube-Videos.pdf 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. https://www.mckellar.ca/en/living-in-our-community/environment.aspx</p>
4.5		Microplastics/Microfibres/ Washing Machine Filters – video on our YouTube channel posted
4.6	*	<p>Earth Day / Clean Up Our Lakes / Recycling Nov 14 – Karlee gave permission for us to contact Enterra to question the range of our recycling.</p>

		<p>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"> - 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 <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"> - Some people are still putting in plastic bags <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</p> <p>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		<p>Fishing / Wildlife –</p> <p>Oct 17 – Ross’ deputation to Council was received favourably and was praised as a good step</p> <p>And passed the following resolution:</p> <p>Moved by: Councillor Kekkonen Seconded by: Councillor Zulak</p> <p>24-512 BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of McKellar does hereby receive the deputation from Ross Crockford, a member of the Lake Stewardship and Environmental Committee, regarding the proposal to install road signage in designated wildlife hotspots; and FURTHER THAT the Council approves the Committee's proposal to identify five key locations where "Wildlife Crossing" signs would provide the greatest benefit; and FURTHER THAT the Public Works Superintendent be directed to assist the Committee and the installation contractor in determining the appropriate height and placement of the signage in accordance with the Highway Traffic Act; and FURTHER THAT the Public Works Superintendent conduct a final inspection of the installed signage and retain the authority to remove or reposition any signs, should they present safety concerns.</p>
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		<p>Benthic Study –</p> <p>July 2024 – Sampling took place in 3 sites</p>
4.11		Pesticides/Fertilizers – March 7 th – The new brochure was distributed to residents at the end of Feb.
4.12		<p>Invasive Species –</p> <p>Sept 12 – Chair has discussed the existence and location of phragmites in McKellar Township with staff</p> <p>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.</p>
4.13		<p>Dark Skies –</p> <p>We have a brochure that was made in about 2021.</p>
4.14		<p>Water Levels –</p> <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. Water-Levels-on-Lake-Manitouwabing-JGF-Amended-July-2022.pdf (mckellar.ca)</p> <p>Reposted in April 2024</p>
4.15		<p>Pollinator Patches / Gardens–</p> <p>November 14th</p> <p>Sue and Chris Clayton have visited the area behind the new ball diamond. They have plans to plant the area immediately adjacent to Armstrong Lake and the run-off ditch at the edge of the Arena parking lot to stabilize the soil; MLCA has offered to provide the plants. We will again seek</p>

		permission to plant a demonstrator pollinator patch in the grounds beside Hemlock Church at the corner of Centre and Hurdville Roads. Plants will be labelled, and the garden will be well-maintained. Sue and Chris provide gardening advice for shorelands planting through MLCA at no cost.												
		ICECAP – This item removed. Council will communicate directly with GBB about this.												
4.16		EV Chargers –												
4.17		Organic Waste Planning (investigate the possibility of a processing facility shared with other townships in the future?) May 9 Council did not go ahead with the Food Cycler Program												
4.18	*	Drinking Water Source Protection Nov 14 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.												
5.	*	Budget – 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. Oct 17 – will have draft budget ready for review at the November meeting Meetings will be held in Council Chambers through the winter unless the driving is bad, then they will be solely on zoom. Zoom set up seems to work now – new microphone.												
6.	*	LSEC decided to continue to meet <i>usually</i> on the second Thursday evening of each month <i>and to change the time to 7 pm.</i> LSEC Meeting Dates in 2024: <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">January 11th</td> <td style="width: 50%;">July 11th</td> </tr> <tr> <td>February 8th No Quorum</td> <td>Friday August</td> </tr> <tr> <td>March 7th No Quorum</td> <td>September 12th</td> </tr> <tr> <td>April 11th No Quorum</td> <td>October 17th (3rd Thursday)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 9th</td> <td>November 14th in person and zoom</td> </tr> <tr> <td>June 13th</td> <td>December 12th zoom only</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 11 th	July 11 th	February 8 th No Quorum	Friday August	March 7 th No Quorum	September 12 th	April 11 th No Quorum	October 17 th (3rd Thursday)	May 9 th	November 14 th in person and zoom	June 13 th	December 12 th zoom only
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7.	*	Motion to adjourn. Moved: Ross Seconded: Tony Approved: All Time: 8:11 pm												