

# Sinclair Resident's Advisory Committee 2022

<b>Meeting #1:</b>	<b>Friday, March 4, 2022</b>
<b>Moderators:</b>	<b>Ward Councillor Rick Brooks and District Councillor Mike Peppard</b>
<b>Guests:</b>	<b>Bryan Brown, CAO, Township of lake of Bays</b>
<b>Attendees:</b>	<b>Patti Schneider, Murray Arnold, Nancy Lucas, Gerry Atkin, Chris Dziewurski, Doug Gilmore,</b>
<b>Regrets Sent:</b>	<b>Brenda Maitland, Susanne Goodhand, Lorna Roberts, Paul Hutchison, Mike Armstrong and Lisa Parrott.</b>

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## **Draft Minutes**

### **1.0 Welcome & Icebreaker;**

**Rick** welcomed and thanked everyone for attending today, this nearly two years since our last in person F2F gathering. **Rick** introduced **DC Peppard** and **CAO Bryan Brown** to the group. **Bryan** has a refreshing take on the role as he wants to get out into the township, get to know people and their issues, and most importantly listening. Everyone introduced themselves and in some cases it was simply a refresher, given it's been so long since our last get together.

**Rick** reminded everyone of the importance of sharing the minutes of these meetings with the respective lake and resident associations, the goal is to ensure timely and relative information comes out of every one of them, either from a Councillor or a resident in attendance, we intend to continue these as dialogues and not simply monologues, as they are for the benefit of all of us.

Again, welcome all. It goes without saying that we thank all for being engaged in their community. As a final comment before we get started, **Rick** shared that there are a couple of 'handout topics', but not a lot of 'handouts', however all will be included as a PDF with the minutes so download what appeals to you as residents.

### **2.0 Approval of the Previous Minutes;**

(Deferred to next Meeting)

### **3.0 Councillor Updates;**

#### **Ward Councillor Rick Brooks**

- reminded all of the e blasts that he sends out on timely topics, if you're not on the list, please let him know...if you have others that wish to also be on the list, again let him know.

- encouraging all to consider following the Township website for important and timely notices, be aware that not only are we as Council coming back to in person Council meetings, they will continue to be live streamed so all can see.

- on the above, an issue came up about the notice re: voter registration and the importance for all to check that you are on the voters list. **Rick** was quick to point out that the voters list comes

from MPAC and NOT the Township, so the reality that LOB knows you and where you live, does not always translate to MPAC. Check the list.

- **Rick** shared the work that was done by a few of the residents of Billie Bear and those living off that road, but funded by many more, to move the Brooks Lake Road mailboxes back and provide an enclosure. They coordinated the moving of the boxes and built the enclosure, then as Phase 2 added a Community Message Board and now in Phase 3 is ideally to add a "Little Library". Donors are welcome, see **Rick**.

- **Rick** and **DC Michael** shared about the road work scheduled for 2022. Included in that are gravel replacement on 3 sections of **Tasso Lake Road, Bella Shores Road, Billie Bear Road** and **East Oxbow**. Also scheduled is High Float to be done on **Fieldale Road** and **Walker Lake Road West**.

**R1** On the issue of Walker Lake Road, there was some concerns brought forward by **Patti** about the residents not wanting high float and preferring asphalt. Staff will look into this and ideally respond through **Rick**. **Patti** also shared a concern about the gradient on that road as you come down to the boat launch and would like consideration of a guardrail given the drop is significant, as noted the gradient is steep and when the road is icy, it would be one additional level of safety. **Rick** will discuss this with **PW Superintendent Steve Peace** as well.

#### **District Councillor Michael Peppard**

- He reiterated about the work scheduled for Upper Tasso lake Road
- Relayed the positive updates from **DC Lacroix** on the Sinclair Transfer Station, including;
  - Our voices are being heard regarding the request for an environmental waste day to be held at Sinclair
  - The re-use building is being relocated up by the ramp and across from the attendant's booth for better visibility
  - 2022 will be the year we can start a composting program
  - Stricter Bag limits are being considered, **DC Lacroix** is lobbying on our behalf for a '2 bag limit', not 1 as initially recommended by District Staff. We await that decision.
- **Michael** then shared the outcome of the District budget. He shared that the district finances are in good shape, reserves exceed the debt. Having said that, the increase in the District's portion of our taxes will only be 2.27%.
- He spoke on the progress with Fairvern. He reminded all that the District of Muskoka took it over, the new Fairvern will be built on Centre Street North and on donated land. The current site although now the property of the District of Muskoka, it may soon become Town owned.
- **Michael** is very engaged with the issues of climate change and shared that the Community Climate Change Plan is currently seeking local community members to be engaged.
- Tied into that issue is the Muskoka Watershed Council and the Integrated Watershed Management Plan. They are reviewing the Muskoka River management Plan, including Lydar mapping of floodplains, cataloguing natural heritage areas and wetlands in Muskoka. They will also be monitoring waterflow, water quality and provide timely e blasts when appropriate.
- He voiced his concerns about algae blooms and the issues we had this past year on at least four of our lakes. Green-Blue algae is toxic, very harmful to drink, shower and swim in.

## 4.0 Ongoing Issues/ Updates;

**4.1 By-Law Violators:** Rick focused on the timely concerns of speeding, illegal parking, refuse and noise. Rick shared the importance of residents who have an issue, to be picking up the phone or their computer mouse and reporting it. Our By-Law Officer **Chris Collings** is very approachable, either call him **1-877-566-0005 x246** or email [ccollings@lakeofbays.on.ca](mailto:ccollings@lakeofbays.on.ca). Other concerns can be directed to the **OPP dispatch 1-888-310-1122**.

We continue to be conscious of speed...whether that be ATV, snow mobiles and cars, matters not, they all go too fast at times, or simply driving erratically. The issue of parked cars was brought up and the answer was, don't do it, you may very well get a ticket or tow. The former policy of giving a warning has stopped and it has been surprising as to the number who have said "about time". Initially this was an issue to both Councillors when it was discussed at Council, but we understand that we have to start to look at the big picture and the health and safety of everyone.

An issue was brought up about garbage on the roads. This has always been an issue but not to the extent we see it today and spring is always a rude awakening to that extent when the snow melts and the cans, bottles, coffee cups, lids and wrappers are all there to see. Its imperative that we do not paint all visitors as violators but it's not a stretch to look at the areas that have construction and the transient nature of the trades as a major contributor. It would be easy for anyone having work done to try to convey to the various trades to be respectful and do NOT throw their waste out the windows as drive off please. Last resort: <https://forms.lakeofbays.on.ca/Report-It>

**4.2 Economic Development and YOU:** Again, we encourage all residents to get used to checking the township website; [www.lakeofbays.on.ca](http://www.lakeofbays.on.ca) and/or [www.mylakeofbays.ca](http://www.mylakeofbays.ca) .

As life seems to be coming back to a new normal, consider turning left when you come out to HWY 60 and check out some of the great businesses that way.

**4.3 Muskoka Ash Project:** If you are not familiar with the program, its part of the 'Friends of the Muskoka Watershed' and is encouraging all who heat with wood to consider bringing them your ash. (see the attached flyer) The hours are 9AM-2PM on designated Saturdays, Rosewarne Transfer Station, Bracebridge. **Next date: Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**. [www.ashmuskoka@fotmw.org](http://www.ashmuskoka@fotmw.org)

**4.4 Huntsville/Lake of Bays Fire Services – Update:** Rick shared that all Councillors participated in a review of the entire fire services program for Huntsville and Lake of Bays and recently this came to Council in a draft report earlier this year. The findings were startling to some and what was expected by others. The operative phrase at this point is "draft report" but having said that, there are several findings and suggested remedies that **Rick** finds disturbing and not in the best interest of our Ward or Lake of Bays in general.

**Rick** is looking for support to consider forming an ad-hoc committee to look at these findings and perhaps provide a made in Sinclair-Finlayson approach. We have the experience in our pool of residents to be able to provide that much needed review. More on this to follow.

**Rick** also shared the current firefighter recruitment campaign is underway but ends this week. The last major recruitment in 2019 was extremely successful and those recruits are doing great things, including encouraging their friends to consider the role as well. Unfortunately, with the recent pandemic, recruitment has been stalled so we look forward to some great things coming soon to a hall near you.

**4.5 Sinclair Transfer Station Update:** Although **DC Peppard** spoke on this earlier there were a few areas to touch on. **Rick** encouraged those who may have not actually ‘talked’ with our attendant, to say ‘Hi’. Her name is **Patty** and she is a great person to hopefully be with us for a long time, she loves the area and says the people are generally great to be around. Some concerns that we have voiced involve lighting...there is a street light inside the compound but its not hooked up and it is extremely dark at night making it a real safety hazard for her doing her walk arounds prior to closing up. The lighting issue makes it impossible to read a license plate once it gets dusk as well. We have asked for stairs for the attendants to exit the building going to their car or the portable washroom so they don’t feel the need to jump down off the ramp or walk all the way down and back, this is a health & safety issue.

## **5.0 General Interest “Spring” Talk:**

**5.1 Safe Quiet Lakes;** check them out <http://safequiet.ca>

**5.2 Lake Partner Program;** If your lake association has not picked up on this program, consider it now, especially when we have been talking about the affects of Blue-Green Algae blooms and other contaminants that could potentially be harmful to you and your lake. (Flyer attached)

**5.3 OPP Reporting;** We all have had situations where you were cursing about someone’s behavior either on a snowmobile, ATV, or in a boat or car. The reality is the OPP do want to hear your concerns, however need you to do the reporting as accurately as possible, and YOU are the one who needs to report it, not a third party. The attached flyer speaks to reporting specifically about boating, but it pertains equally to all situations...location, description, details and where possible photos.

**Call 1-888-310-1122 or IF an emergency call 911, otherwise, if you are on your cell, dial: \*OPP**

**R2 5.4 Short Term Rentals;** As you know the township has a new STR by-law 2021-092 which took effect Jan 1, 2022. We also entered into a contract with a STR compliance company and we have hired a STR coordinator. The job of the compliance company is to identify all advertise STR within the Township, they also have a 24 hour hotline and email for complaints and concerns. So far they have located 234 STR in Lake of Bays and have setup the hotline (which we will be advertising shortly). This company will be supplying the Township with a data base of STR, identifying civic address, nights rented, number of bedrooms, number of persons that can rent the unit and what sites they are advertising on. The STR coordinator will collect all the applications, conduct site visit and issue STR licenses. We have received over 25 applications and hope to start a letter writing program shortly informing the STR operators that they need to submit an application within 30 days. Our first letters will go to STR properties that we have had issues with over the years. We will be trying to spread the letter program over the year so we do not overwhelm the STR coordinator with too many applications at one time. We have conducted 4 site visits for some of the STR applications received and hope to issue our first license this week.

## **6.0 New Business:**

**6.1 Murray Arnold** asked about the status of the proposed development on West Oxbow Lake Road. **Rick** referred that to **CAO Bryan Brown** who shared in a recent conversation with Planning Director **April Best-Sararas** that staff is stiff awaiting the District of Muskoka’s peer review on the application before making any further comments.

**7.0 Next Meeting:** We look forward to everyone join us on **Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 1PM**, again at **'Muskoka on the Rocks'**.

*At this point I would like to thank Tom and Lisa, owners of 'Muskoka on the Rocks' for allowing us to takeover the back dining room of the restaurant, and to our server Michelle, it truly is much appreciated by all and we encourage everyone to continue to come here and enjoy their hospitality.*

**END OF MINUTES**

DRAFT