

Sinclair Resident's Advisory Committee

Meeting #4: Friday, October 11, 2019

Moderators: Ward Councillor **Rick Brooks** and District Councillor **Mike Peppard**

Attendees: **Patti Schneider, Des O'Doherty, Steve Hancock, Wendy Kimmel, Mary Lois Rennie, Gord Paterson, Lorna Roberts**

Guest Presenter: **Cathy Hurst, Dwight Library Board.**

Regrets: **Murray Arnold, Paul Hutchison, Brenda Maitland, Nancy Lucas, Linda Housser, Lisa Parrott, Andy Heics, Don Taylor and Garth Cockwell.**

Draft Minutes

1.0 Welcome & Icebreaker;

Rick welcomed and thanked everyone for attending today, the lead into what we hope is a beautiful Thanksgiving Day weekend. The format is a bit different today as we have a speaker with a visual presentation of interest to all of us.

He thanking them for being engaged in their community. He reminded them again, that our new and improved website is open for business and a lot of what we will be discussing can be found there; www.lakeofbays.on.ca

2.0 Approval of the Previous Minutes;

Motion to approve the Draft Agenda as presented;

"Moved by Wendy Kimmel & 2nd by Patti Schneider – Carried"

3.0 Guest Speaker;

Rick introduced **Cathy Hurst, Vice Chair, Library Board**. **Cathy** went through a very informative powerpoint presentation and short video on the merits of not only the library as a destination within Lake of Bays but also a meaningful contributor to the fabric of our community. There was a healthy discussion on the potential expansion of the Dwight facilities, recognizing that it is a municipal facility and the library is an autonomous board working out of that venue. Having said that, the fundraising to contribute to the proposed expansion is over \$300K to date with fundraising continuing and now potentially augmented by grant funding currently being applied for.

Rick thanked **Cathy** for sharing the library updates and agreed, we look forward to hearing more good news from them in the future.

4.0 Ongoing Issues/ Concerns;

4.1 Roads: **Rick** reiterated that roads remain a topic of concern throughout our entire ward, and spoke specifically about the status of some of those issues;

- Walker's Glenn Crescent has seen some significant work over the summer months, addressing drainage issues, culverts and the condition of the road itself. There remains some concerns.

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4.0 Ongoing Issues/ Concerns;

4.1 Roads: (Cont'd.)

- The repaving of the initial 0.5kms. of Billie Bear Road, scheduled for this fall has commenced.
- **Patti Schneider** (WPLA President) shared that the emergency reconstruction of the culverts at the boat launch area on Walker Lake were recently completed, ahead of schedule and without incident, kudos to staff.
- The issue of winter parking and snow plow turnaround at the end of Limberlost remains a concern for residents. It was reported that **Mayor Glover** mediated a site visit with both local councillors and concerned residents to discuss the status and options. **Mayor Glover** then had a subsequent site visit with staff. A follow up discussion is planned – more to follow.
- The issue of brushing of the road shoulders came up (again), **DC Peppard** indicated that he has passed on **Councillor Brooks'** earlier email speaking to the resident's concerns on safety and heard that the District staff indicated that it would be addressed.
- We continue to hear concerns of the section of Limberlost beyond Blue Lake, that there are sections where there are markers down and some issues with the culverts. Action Required.
- **Rick** did agree that fall road grading was well underway.

Rick reminded everyone that staff cannot be on every road, every day and that resident's voices can and need to be heard and appreciated when it involves the safety of our neighbours, so consider making your concerns known, either by contacting the Township office directly (705) 635-2272 or by computer <https://forms.lakeofbays.on.ca/Report-It>.

4.2 Parks & Cemeteries; As an FYI, **Rick** just wanted to give members an update on the status of St. Paul's Anglican Church (Grassmere) and that this Sunday (Oct.13th) will be their last service, the church will be deconsecrated and as of Tuesday ownership will be transferred to **John Jerrett** (Hillside). Over the coming days you will see the bricks removed and the building prepared to be moved from the site and onto the Jerrett farm on Hwy.60 (formerly 'Friendly Acres') to be 'reborn' as a chapel. The former church property will be turned over to Lake of Bays Township and the cemetery will be maintained by our staff going forward. The diocese plans in 2020 to erect a monument to honor the history and settlers who founded the church over 130 years ago.

4.3 Transfer Station Updates; **Rick** reminded all about the '**Waste Management Survey**' currently online and encouraged all to check it out and consider completing it. To his surprise, not many were aware of it. Please check it out; www.engagemuskoka.ca/waste-management-strategy

He also shared an upcoming community consultation session:

Wed. October 30th 6-7:30PM

Bala Community Centre (Interested? rsvp: www.wastestrategy.muskoka.on.ca)

Rick shared that the District has addressed the 'no debit' issue at our Sinclair Transfer station and has been told that 2020 should bring some needed upgrades - a weigh scale. It was agreed that along with that, they need to revisit the hours of operation to be more flexible and available for all.

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5.0 District Updates;

DC Peppard spoke on the following issues;

- Road salt/ District Roads
- Muskoka Watershed Advisory Group (MWSAG)
- Short Term rentals

His report is attached.

6.0 Fire Advisory Committee (Huntsville/Lake of Bays Fire Dept.) **Rick** indicated that he has been kept abreast of the status of our former Station 50 and was able to share his update. The rolling stock and equipment is almost all removed as of this week, in the coming weeks the balance left will be deemed surplus. Chief Hernen will be coming to Council in November with his official report stating just that and that the building is now returned to the Township and as such, options will be entertained as to the future of the building. Concerned citizens and groups might want to begin discussing those options and let Rick know your thoughts so we might discuss them proactively.

When asked about the status of the halls monies collected from the lake associations, **Rick** reassured them that the bank account held by the firefighters has been closed out and the funds left were redistributed to the lake associations that contributed.

Rick continued to share some positive news about our response from Station 30, and all since the official closure of Station 50. Two independent medical calls that ended with a positive outcome and in a very timely fashion, and then the grass fire on the east side of Oxbow Lake that was both physically and mentally demanding given that to respond it was water access, and again, the response was exceptional and not surprisingly was well documented by the locals, so again kudos to our men and women of the Fire Services here in Lake of Bays.

As stated before, we as residents of Sinclair/Finlayson wards have been served well from Station 30 (Hillside) and will continue to be. Having said that, **Rick** shared that our Fire Service needs to remain vigilant about recruitment to ensure we not only maintain what we have but potentially exceed what is considered a full compliment on staff.

7.0 Housing;

Councillor Peppard stated that there has been a Housing Task Force established by the District of Muskoka and he reiterated that he along with both **Mayor Glover** and **Councillor Brooks** are engaged in that. He shared that all options are on the table at least for discussion; secondary units, tiny houses, community zones and more cluster locations i.e Walker's Glenn Crescent. **Rick** added about the current review that LOB is undergoing to combine the current Development Approvals By-Law and the Comprehensive Zoning By-Law into one and in line with the new Official Plan, this would become known as the Community Planning Permit System (CPPS). **Consultation is still ongoing and residents are encouraged to check it out & provide feedback;**

www.lakeofbays.on.ca/en/invest-and-build/Community_Planning_Permit_System.aspx

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8.0 Internet

Another key issue and one **Mayor Glover** continues to champion. All we can say at this time is that there are discussions and proposals in play as we speak, so stay tuned. **Mayor Glover** did share with us last meeting that this is a marathon, not a sprint and will take some time.

9.0 New Business

9.1 Monarch Watch Project; As shared in the agenda, the program is new and for Muskoka, Lake of Bays is exclusive in its support of monarchs and their habitat.

Check out: <https://www.monarchwatch.org/waystations/>

As for Lake of Bays, **Councillor Jacquie Goddard** has championed this project, with the technical support of **Samantha Woods** and **DC Peppard**. Attached is a copy of the flyer they have produced, please share it. If you have a group or lake association that wishes to hear more about this program, perhaps have a presentation at your 2020 AGM, let Jacquie know jgoddard@lakeofbays.on.ca. (see attachment)

9.2 Muskoka Ash Project; **Rick** shared copies of a handout prepared by **AshMuskoka** and some additional information about the 'Save your Ash' project and its significant impact on the calcium deficiencies now being experienced in our lakes and especially affecting our sugar maple trees. **Rick** indicated that he dropped off his ash already from last winter, but additional drop off dates are now posted;

Rosewarne Transfer Station (Bracebridge - east off HWY.11 & Taylor Road)

October 19th November 16th Dec.14th ...all dates 9AM – 4PM.

9.3 ORV By-Law;

There have been a lot of concerns raised over the ORV (Off-Road Vehicle) By-Law, but mostly concerns come down to the inability to police effectively and as such the offending riders make it bad for all riders.

An issue of specific concern is the riders apparent blatant disregard for clearly identified property as private and their driveways as private, while the riders continue to trespass without remorse.

We have been asked to look more closely at the current ORV By-Law and its identification of private or prohibited roads for potential enforcement and consider posting those other roads once identified by a landowner as not ORV friendly and have them marked 'Private Roads – No Trespass'.

10.0 Next Meeting

Tentatively to be held in mid-February or early March, ideally at 1PM on a Friday afternoon @ 'Muskoka on the Rocks'. Consider voicing your preference, or as we get into the new year, **Rick** will suggest some dates and the majority wins, so until then.....Thank You for your participation and enjoy the snow, its coming sooner that we want, I'm sure.

END OF MINUTES