



AGENDA

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Council Chambers
Friday, June 4th, 2021 – 1:00 p.m.

NOTE: A Closed Session will commence at the end of the meeting.

1. Call the Meeting to Order

Moment of Silence to honour the memory of David Bolus, and to honour the memory of 215 Indigenous Children.

2. Approval of Agenda

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

4. Delegations/Presentations

(a) Delegations - Nil

(b) Presentations - Nil

5. Minutes

(a) Adoption of Minutes

(i) Regular Meeting, [Draft Minutes – May 14th, 2021](#)

(ii) Special Meeting, [Draft Minutes – May 21st, 2021](#)

(iii) Special Meeting, [Draft Minutes - May 28th, 2021](#)

(b) Receive Committee Minutes - Nil

6. Committee Resolutions for Consideration

(a) Kearney Dog Sled Races Advisory Committee re: [2022 Date; Advertise for positions; Chairperson](#)

7. Public Meetings (Pursuant to the *Planning Act*) - Nil

8. Public Meetings (Pursuant to the *Municipal Act*) - Nil

9. Unfinished Business - Nil

10. Reports and By-laws

(a) **Building**

(i) Report re: [Building Activity to May 26, 2021](#)

(ii) By-law No. 2021-xx re: Construction, Demolition, Change of Use, Conditional Permits and Inspections

(b) **Planning**

(i) June 26, 2020 Report and Resolution re: [Purchase of Neighboring Property](#)

(ii) Report and Resolution re: [Deeming By-law \(Sniderman/Prichard\)](#)

(iii) By-law No. 2021-xx re: Deeming By-law Plan M89, Lots 25 and 26

(iv) Discussion re: Dates for Official Plan Amendment; Comprehensive Zoning By-law; Short Term Rentals; Cannabis

(c) **Operations**

(i) Transfer Station Report – [for the period May 14, 2021 to June 1, 2021](#)

(ii) Discussion and Resolution re: Hydro to Park Road Ball Diamond

- (iii) **Report and Resolution re:** 2021 OSIM Bridge and Culvert Inspection Program
- (iv) **Resolution re:** Hiring Summer Students
- (v) **Report and Resolution re:** [Upgrade West Bay Road](#)

(d) Administration

- (i) **By-law No. 2021-xx re:** Appointment of Alternate By-law Enforcement Officer
- (ii) **By-law No. 2021-xx re:** To establish a Joint Compliance Audit Committee and appoint Committee members for the 2022 Municipal Election period
- (iii) **Caitlin Deevey, By-law Enforcement Officer, Report and Resolution re:** [Backyard Hens and Roosters](#)
- (iv) **Township of Ryerson re:** Request for By-law Enforcement Services

(e) Treasury

- (i) **Report and Resolution re:** [Payment Register](#)
- (ii) **Resolution re:** Ontario Regulation 284/09
- (iii) **Draft By-law No. 2021-xx re:** 2021 Draft Budget

(f) Fire and Emergency Services

- (i) **Report re:** [Fire Chief, Fire Department Report for Regular Council Meeting on June 4, 2021](#)
- (ii) **Report and Discussion re:** [New Fire Truck](#)
- (iii) **Discussion re:** Open Air Burning By-law

(g) Facilities and Buildings - Nil

(h) Council Presentations

- (i) **Mayor Ballantyne discussion re:** Public Access to Town Office

11. Correspondence

(a) Action Items

- (i) **Ontario Association of Optometrists re:** [OHIP services for Eye Care](#)
- (ii) **North Bay & District Labour Council re:** [Proclamation to recognize June as Pride Month](#)
- (iii) **Municipality of Whitestone re:** [Request for support - Mayors Monarch Pledge](#)
- (iv) **Almaguin Community Economic Development re:** ACED Community Capacity Building Projects – [Municipal Engagement Request](#)
- (v) **Township of McKellar re:** [Request for support – Consideration of Tax Breaks on 2020 Canada Emergency Response Benefit payments](#)

(b) Information Items

- (i) **Report re:** [To the Council of the Town of Kearney regarding the Investigation of an Alleged Improperly Closed Meeting or Meetings of the Council of the Town of Kearney](#)
- (ii) **Yasmin Rosh re:** [Snowmobile Route](#)
- (iii) **Almaguin Highlands Health Centre, [Draft Minutes – May 7th, 2021](#)**

- (iv) **Kearney Watershed Environmental Foundation re: [May 2021 Newsletter](#)**
- (v) **Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare re: [Important Information for Partners & Leaders](#)**

12. Other Business - Nil

13. Closed Session

Council will enter into a Closed Session for discussion regarding:

- (a) Labour relations or employee negotiations (x2)

14. Business Arising from Closed Session

15. Confirming By-Law

By-Law 2020-xx being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its Special Meeting held on June 4th, 2021 and at its Regular Meeting held on May 28th, 2021.

16. Adjournment

2021 06 02



The Corporation of the Town of Kearney

8 Main Street Box 38 Kearney ON P0A 1M0

MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Council Chambers

Friday, May 14th, 2021

1:00 p.m.

Council Members Present: Mayor Carol Ballantyne
Councillors: Cheryl Philip (Virtual), Mike Rickward (Virtual), Liz Stermsek
and Paul Ziraldo (Virtual)

Staff Present: Brenda J. Fraser, CAO | Clerk | Treasurer
Brian Horsman, Chief Building Official
Ross Gattozzi, Operations Manager (Virtual)

1. **Call the Meeting to Order**
Res. No. 1/14/05/2021 Liz Stermsek, Cheryl Philip
BE IT RESOLVED that the Regular Council Meeting of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney on May 14th, 2021 be declared open and called to order at 1:00 p.m. **CARRIED**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
Res. No. 2/14/05/2021 Mike Rickward, Liz Stermsek
BE IT RESOLVED that the Agenda of the Regular Council Meeting of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney on May 14th, 2021 be adopted as circulated. **CARRIED**
3. **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof** – None noted.
4. **Delegations/Presentations**
 - (a) **Delegations**
 - (i) **Holly Groome, Vice President, Clam Lakes Property Owners Association re: Bare Rock Trail**
Council discussion resulted in the decision to address this request during our next draft Budget meeting.
 - (b) **Presentations – Nil**
5. **Minutes**
 - (a) **Adoption of Minutes**
Res. No. 5(a)(i)-(ii)/14/05/2021 Liz Stermsek, Paul Ziraldo
BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney approves the Minutes of the Council Meeting(s) as follows:
 - (i) **Regular Meeting, Draft Minutes – April 23rd, 2021**
 - (ii) **Special Meeting, Draft Minutes – April 30th, 2021** **CARRIED**
 - (b) **Receive Committee Minutes**
Res. No. 5(b)(i)/14/05/2021 Cheryl Philip, Liz Stermsek
BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney receive the following Advisory Committee Minutes:
 - (i) **Joint Waste Management Committee re: Draft Minutes - April 28th, 2021** **CARRIED**
6. **Committee Resolutions for Consideration** – Nil
7. **Public Meetings (Pursuant to the Planning Act)** – Nil
8. **Public Meetings (Pursuant to the Municipal Act)** – Nil
9. **Unfinished Business** – Nil
10. **Reports and By-laws**
 - (a) **Building** – Nil

(b) Planning

(i) Report and Resolution re: Purchase of Neighboring Property

Res. No. 10(b)(i)/14/05/2021 Liz Stermsek, Mike Rickward

WHEREAS Council had been approached in 2020 regarding a request from a property owner, to purchase the adjacent, Town owned, property ;

AND WHEREAS Council requested an appraisal of the property prior to the potential sale;

AND WHEREAS this Appraisal, to date, has not yet been completed;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney hereby directs Staff to utilize the services of _____ to complete the appraisal. **DEFERRED**

(c) Operations

(i) Transfer Station Report – for the period April 23, 2021 to May 11, 2021 – Report only.

(ii) Report and Resolution re: Town Garbage Pick-up

Res. No. 10(c)(ii)/14/05/2021 Paul Ziraldo, Liz Stermsek

WHEREAS the volume of garbage eligible for Town curb side pick-up has been steadily increasing;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney determines that one of our Staff from the Community Centre do garbage pick up instead of the Transfer Station Attendant. **CARRIED**

(iii) Report and Resolution re: 2021 Equipment Bids

Res. No. 10(c)(iii)/14/05/2021 Liz Stermsek, Cheryl Philip

WHEREAS the Town of Kearney recently advertised for equipment bids for the 2021 road construction season;

AND WHEREAS equipment bid packages were opened on April 26, 2021;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney authorizes Staff to hire from the submissions received, the appropriate contractor with the lowest tendered price, for our Public Works specialized road projects for the 2021 construction season. **CARRIED**

(iv) Discussion and Resolution re: Hydro to Park Road Ball Diamond

Res. No. 10(c)(iv)/14/05/2021 Mike Rickward, Liz Stermsek

WHEREAS Council has received a request from a developer, to share the basic cost of installing hydro lines for a development on Park Road;

AND WHEREAS, as this installation will be alongside of our ball diamond, it would allow for future lighting of the ball diamond and/or adjacent parking area;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney determines _____. **DEFERRED**

(v) Report and Resolution re: Surplus Equipment

Res. No. 10(c)(v)/14/05/2021 Liz Stermsek, Paul Ziraldo

WHEREAS Council has received a Staff report listing equipment that is no longer required for use by the Town;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney declares the following pieces of equipment to be surplus and authorizes the Tendering for Sale of these items:

- 1998 Vanguard Sweeper
- 220 v Air Compressor
- 1 5hp Water Pump
- 1 9hp Water Pump
- 2 Yard Sander hopper – no motor
- 2007 Sterling
- Walk behind Snowblower

CARRIED

(vi) Report and Resolution re: 2021 OSIM Bridge and Culvert Inspection Program

Res. No. 10(c)(vi)/14/05/2021 Mike Rickward, Liz Stermsek

WHEREAS in accordance with the 'Ontario Structure Inspection Manual (OSIM)', all bridges, culverts and tunnels with spans of three (3) metres or greater, all retaining walls and all movable bridges are required to be inspected every two (2) years;

AND WHEREAS the biennial OSIM Bridge and Culvert Inspection Program is due in 2021;

AND WHEREAS Tulloch Engineering completed this Inspection for Kearney in 2019 at a cost of \$5,900.00 plus tax;

AND WHEREAS Tulloch Engineering has offered to complete the 2021 inspections for the same fee as 2019;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney accepts the quote from Tulloch Engineering in the amount of \$5,900.00 plus tax to complete the 2021 Biennial Municipal Structure Inspections and Report. **DEFERRED**

(vii) **Discussion and Resolution re:** Summer Students

Res. No. 10(c)(vii)/14/05/2021 Liz Stermsek, Cheryl Philip

WHEREAS the Town of Kearney has advertised for students to fill various summer employment positions;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney appoints Mayor Ballantyne, Ross Gattozzi and Brenda Fraser as members of the Selection Team for 2 positions for the summer of 2021. **CARRIED**

(d) **Administration**

(i) **Resolution re:** Appointment of Deputy Mayor

Res. No. 10(d)(i)/14/05/2021 Mike Rickward, Liz Stermsek

WHEREAS on September 18, 2020, Council passed By-law No. 2020-41 being a By-law to Govern the Calling, Place and Proceedings of Meetings of Council and Committees;

AND WHEREAS in accordance with Section 8.4 of that By-law, "Council shall appoint a Deputy Mayor(s) by Resolution;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney does hereby appoint Councillor Liz Stermsek as Deputy Mayor. **CARRIED**

(ii) **Report and Resolution re:** Purchase of Server Hard Drive

Res. No. 10(d)(ii)/14/05/2021 Paul Ziraldo, Liz Stermsek

WHEREAS it has been recommended that our Server Hard Drive and Application Server be upgraded;

AND WHEREAS funds have been allocated in our 2021 draft budget for these expenditures;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney authorizes the Hard Drive and Operating System upgrades in accordance with the two estimates provided by Northern Nerds and attached hereto. **CARRIED**

(iii) **Information and Resolution re:** Health Care Survey in Almaguin – Focus on Nurse Practitioner

Res. No. 10(d)(iii)/14/05/2021 Cheryl Philip, Liz Stermsek

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney supports posting of the Almaguin Highlands Nurse Practitioner Engagement Survey, 2021 (attached hereto), on our Town Website. **CARRIED**

(iv) **Information and Resolution re:** OPP Community Boards

Res. No. 10(d)(iv)/14/05/2021 Liz Stermsek, Mike Rickward

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario, under the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*, has mandated that each Ontario Provincial Police Detachment establish a Board that will provide civilian governance to all municipalities it provides services to;

AND WHEREAS a survey for the Council's of the communities that the Almaguin Highlands OPP Detachment serves, has been compiled, to determine the preferred composition of this Board;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney determines:

Interest in being part of the Board Yes No

Board Composition Ranking (1st, 2nd, 3rd)

5 member	<u>3rd</u>
7 member	<u>1st</u>
9 member	<u>2nd</u>

Community Appointee a) public - professional or
b) public - general

Capacity to administer the Board and provide secretary Yes No

Create part time ad-hoc position to be Secretary of the Board, shared among all partners Yes No

CARRIED

- (v) **Report and Resolution re:** By-law Enforcement Officer information with respect to SLAPOA complaint regarding ATV's

Res. No. 10(d)(v)/14/05/2021 Paul Ziraldo, Liz Stermsek

WHEREAS Council has received a complaint from the Sand Lake Property Owners Association with regard to All Terrain Vehicles operating on sections of Highway #518 East and the sideroads surrounding the Sand Lake Area;

AND WHEREAS Council has received a report from our By-law Enforcement Officer in response to the concerns of the Sand Lake Area Property Owners Association;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney determines that the Town send a letter to the ATV Club reminding members to please adhere to speed limits for ATV's using roads. **CARRIED**

(e) **Treasury**

- (i) **Report and Resolution re:** Payment Register

Res. No. 10(e)(i)/14/05/2021 Liz Stermsek, Mike Rickward

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney has received the 'List of Accounts' and has no objections to be noted with regard to Cheques #30670 to #30722 in the total amount of \$120,652.94. **CARRIED**

(f) **Fire and Emergency Services**

- (i) **Report re:** Fire Chief, Fire Department Report for Regular Council Meeting on May 14, 2021 – **No Report submitted.**
- (ii) **Discussion re:** Memorandum of Understanding
Discussion of Council determined that greater clarification is needed.

(g) **Facilities and Buildings** - Nil

(h) **Council Presentations**

- (i) **Mayor Ballantyne, discussion re:** Public Access to Town Office
Discussion of Council resulted in the decision for Municipal Buildings to continue to remain closed to the public at this time.
- (ii) **Councillor Philip re:** KWEF – Planning and Development Applications
Discussion of Council determined that the responsibility of Planning Matters lies with the Town and the professional system in place is working well without extra review.

11. **Correspondence**

(a) **Action Items**

- (i) **Township of Archipelago, request for support re:** Road Management Action on Invasive Phragmites

Res. No. 11(a)(i)/14/05/2021 Cheryl Philip, Liz Stermsek

WHEREAS Phragmites australis (Phragmites) is an invasive perennial grass that continues to cause severe damage to wetlands and beaches in areas around the Great Lakes including Georgian Bay;

AND WHEREAS Phragmites australis grows and spreads rapidly, allowing the plant to invade new areas and grow into large monoculture stands in a short amount of time, and is an allelopathic plant that secretes toxins from its roots into the soil which impede the growth of neighboring plant species;

AND WHEREAS Phragmites australis results in loss of biodiversity and species richness, loss of habitat, changes in hydrology due to its high metabolic rate, changes in nutrient cycling as it is slow to decompose, an increased fire hazard due to the combustibility of its dead stalks, and can have an adverse impact on agriculture, particularly in drainage ditches;

AND WHEREAS invasive Phragmites has been identified as Canada's worst invasive plant species by Agriculture and Agrifood Canada;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario government has made it illegal to import, deposit, release, breed/grow/buy/ sell, lease or trade invasive Phragmites under the Invasive Species Act;

AND WHEREAS Phragmites occupy over 4,800 hectares of land around Lake St. Clair alone, while 212 hectares of Phragmites occupy land along the St. Lawrence River. The Georgian Bay Area is particularly affected by Phragmites australis, with more than 700 stands along the shorelines and multiple visible stands on the highways and roads, that threaten valuable infrastructure and wetland areas;

AND WHEREAS volunteers, non-governmental organizations, and various municipalities have invested tens of thousands of dollars in investments and labour annually for more than eight years in executing managements plans to control invasive Phragmites on roads, coasts, shorelines and in wetlands and coastal shoreline areas;

AND WHEREAS according to “Smart Practices for the Control of Invasive Phragmites along Ontario’s Roads” by the Ontario Phragmites Working Group, best road management practices for Phragmites australis include early detection, herbicide application and cutting;

AND WHEREAS these best management practices are most effective when used in a multi-pronged approach as opposed to when used as stand-alone control measures;

AND WHEREAS Mother Nature does not recognize political boundaries. Therefore it is imperative that Municipalities, Districts, the Province, and the Federal Government work together in collaboration to eradicate Canada’s worst invasive plant species – Phragmites australis;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney directs Staff to implement best management practices to promote early detection and control of invasive Phragmites;

AND FURTHER that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Norm Miller, MPP, Parry Sound/Muskoka.

DEFERRED

(ii) **City of Cambridge, request for support re: Paid Sick Leave**

Res. No. 11(a)(ii)/14/05/2021 Liz Stermseck, Mike Rickward

WHEREAS as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the increase in cases in Ontario, our hospitals and Intensive Care Units are overrun with people sick with the Virus;

AND WHEREAS according to the Provincial Science Advisory Table on COVID-19, we need to protect essential workers and support them with paid sick leave;

AND WHEREAS it is being reported that the drivers of transmission are indoor work places, particularly industrial workplaces, warehouses, and distribution centres;

AND WHEREAS the COVID-19 crisis has unmasked the inequalities in our Province as most of the people now getting sick are the most vulnerable in our society and are those who cannot afford to stay home and often live and work in crowded conditions;

AND WHEREAS Workers who are denied paid sick days do not avoid illness, they bring the infections to work with them, and they transmit them to their co-workers - employees without paid sick leave;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney urge the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier, to require Ontario employers to provide no less than five (5) paid sick days annually to workers – after three months of employment – by amending the Employment Standards Act, 2000, or through a different mechanism and to provide necessary funding, fiscal relief and/or support to employers so that all workers in Ontario have access to no less than 10 paid sick days annually in the event of a declared infectious disease emergency, such as the COVID-19 Pandemic and ensure all Ontario workers have access to protected and paid emergency leave so care can be provided to children, parents, and/or other family members who may become ill and that all workers may receive paid time off to enable them to receive the COVID-19 vaccine;

AND FURTHER that a copy of this motion be forwarded to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Provincial Minister of Labour and the Premier.

CARRIED

(b) Information Items

(i) **Almaguin Highlands Health Centre**, Draft Minutes – April 9th, 2021

(ii) **East Parry Sound Veterinary Committee**, Annual General Meeting Minutes – March 24th, 2021

(iii) **Kearney Watershed Environmental Foundation** re: KWEF Would Like Your Help

12. Other Business – Nil

13. Closed Session

Res. No. 13(a)/14/05/2021 Paul Ziraldo, Liz Stermseck

BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 239, (1), (2), (3) and (3.1) of the Municipal Act, c. 25, S.O. 2001, as amended, the Council for the Corporation of the Town of Kearney will convene in Closed Session at 2:26 p.m. for discussion regarding:

(a) Labour relations or employee negotiations

CARRIED

Res. No. 13(b)/14/05/2021 Liz Stermsek, Cheryl Philip

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney reconvene in Open Session and report on matters discussed in Closed Session. Closed Session adjourned at 2:59 p.m. **CARRIED**

14. Business Arising from Closed Session

Mayor Ballantyne reported on matters discussed in Closed Session.

15. Confirming By-Law

Res. No. 15/14/05/2021 Cheryl Philip, Liz Stermsek

By-law No. 2021-17, Being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its Special Meeting held on April 30th, 2021 and at its Regular Meeting held on May 14th, 2021, be read a first, second and third time and numbered 2021-17 and that the said By-law be signed by the Mayor and Clerk, sealed with the Seal of the Corporation, and engrossed in the By-law Book.

CARRIED

16. Adjournment

Res. No. 16/14/05/2021 Cheryl Philip, Liz Stermsek

BE IT RESOLVED that the Regular Council Meeting of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney adjourn at 3:02 p.m. to meet again at 10:00 a.m. on May 21, 2021 in the Council Chambers, Kearney, Ontario. **CARRIED**

**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWN OF KEARNEY**

Carol Ballantyne, Mayor

Brenda J. Fraser, Clerk



The Corporation of the Town of Kearney

8 Main Street Box 38 Kearney ON P0A 1M0

MINUTES

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Council Chambers

Friday, May 21st, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Council Members Present: Mayor Carol Ballantyne
Councillors: Liz Stermsek; Cheryl Philip (remotely); and Mike Rickward and Paul Ziraldo (remotely)

Staff Present: Brenda J. Fraser, CAO/Clerk/Treasurer
Brian Horsman, Chief Building Official
Cindy Filmore, Administrative Services Coordinator (remotely)

Town Planners: Kent Randall
Frances Wilbur

1. **Call the Meeting to Order**
Res. No. 1/21/05/2021 Liz Stermsek, Mike Rickward
BE IT RESOLVED that the Special Council meeting of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney on Friday, May 21st, 2021 be declared open and called to order at 10:00 a.m. **CARRIED**
2. **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof** – None noted.
3. **Business**
 - 3.1 **Town Planners – Power Point Presentation re:** Draft Comprehensive Zoning By-law
Town Planners Kent Randall and Frances Wilbur noted the most recent changes to the draft Comprehensive By-law and outlined next steps for an upcoming public meeting.
 - 3.2 **Closed Session re:**
Res. No. 3.2(a)-(b)/21/05/2021 Mike Rickward, Liz Stermsek
BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 239, (1), (2), (3) and (3.1) of the Municipal Act, c. 25, S.O. 2001, as amended, the Council for the Corporation of the Town of Kearney will convene in Closed Session at 10:13 a.m. for discussion regarding:
 - (a) *Proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board – more specifically, Townsite development proposal*
 - (b) *Information explicitly supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board by Canada, a province or territory or a Crown agency of any of them* **CARRIED**

Res. No. 13(c)/21/05/2021 Liz Stermsek, Mike Rickward
BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney reconvene in Open Session and report on matters discussed in Closed Session. Closed Session adjourned at 10:59 a.m. **CARRIED**

Mayor Ballantyne reported on matters discussed in Closed Session.
4. **Adjournment**
Res. No. 4/21/05/2021 Mike Rickward, Liz Stermsek
BE IT RESOLVED that the Special Meeting of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney adjourn at 11:00 a.m. to meet again at 10:00 a.m. on May 28th, 2021 in the Council Chambers, Kearney, Ontario. **CARRIED**

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF KEARNEY

Carol Ballantyne, Mayor

Brenda J. Fraser, Clerk



The Corporation of the Town of Kearney

8 Main Street Box 38 Kearney ON P0A 1M0

MINUTES

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Council Chambers

Friday, May 28th, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Council Members Present: Mayor Carol Ballantyne
Councillors: Liz Stermsek; Cheryl Philip (remotely); and Mike Rickward

Staff Present: Brenda J. Fraser, CAO|Clerk|Treasurer
Keven Beaucage, Deputy Clerk – Deputy Treasurer
Brian Horsman, Chief Building Official
Ross Gattozzi, Operations Manager
Paul Schaefer, Fire Chief
Cindy Filmore, Administrative Services Coordinator (remotely)

Financial Consultant: Marjorie Robinson

1. **Call the Meeting to Order**
Res. No. 1/28/05/2021 Liz Stermsek, Mike Rickward
BE IT RESOLVED that the Special Council meeting of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney on Friday, May 28th, 2021 be declared open and called to order at 10:01 a.m. **CARRIED**
2. **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof** – None noted.
3. **Business**
 - 3.1 **Council Discussion re: Draft 2021 Budget**
Council discussed the changes made to the Draft Budget following the March 26th, 2021 meeting. Council also discussed the condition of the Parks Lawn Tractors resulting in the following resolution.
Res. No. 3.1/28/05/2021 Liz Stermsek, Mike Rickward
BE IT RESOLVED that the Council for the Corporation of the Town of Kearney authorizes the purchase of two (2) new lawn tractors for Parks Maintenance;
AND FURTHER, the two existing Lawn Tractors be sold as surplus equipment. **CARRIED**
4. **Adjournment**
Res. No. 4/28/05/2021 Mike Rickward, Liz Stermsek
BE IT RESOLVED that the Special Meeting of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney adjourn at 12:01 p.m. to meet again at 1:00 p.m. on June 4th, 2021 in the Council Chambers, Kearney, Ontario. **CARRIED**

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF KEARNEY

Carol Ballantyne, Mayor

Brenda J. Fraser, Clerk



<http://kearneydogsledraces.ca/> **KEARNEY DOG SLED RACES** info@kearneydogsledraces.ca

MOVED BY: Kaitlynn Paquette

SECONDED BY: Cheri McLeod

**Dog Sled Races
Advisory Committee**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Kearney Dog Sled Races Advisory Committee is requesting permission from the town to confirm the date of the dog sled race from February 11-13th and requires town assets to complete the event.

CARRIED DEFEATED WITHDRAWN DEFERRED

DECL OF INT BY _____ RECORDED VOTE BY _____

ABSTAIN	YEA	VOTING	NAY
		TORI WHITE	
		PAULEEN PATTON	
		ANDREW BUZZEO	
		TREASURE LOTTON	
		HEATHER PATEMAN	
		JOHN SMEETS	
		BARB MCQUILLIN	
		EMMA WIECHULA	
		GREG ALEXANIAN	
		CHERI MCLEOD	
		KAITLYNN PAQUETTE	

CHAIR: Mike Rickward
DATE: May 20, 2021
RES NO.: 05 - 05 - 20 - 2021



<http://kearneydogsledraces.ca/> **KEARNEY DOG SLED RACES** info@kearneydogsledraces.ca

MOVED BY: Barb McQuillin

SECONDED BY: Kaitlynn Paquette

**Dog Sled Races
Advisory Committee**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Kearney Dog Sled Races Advisory Committee requests of the town to advertise formally for open positions on the committee as follows:

- Silent Auction Coordinator
- Secretary
- Entertainment
- Advertisement and Social Media
- Volunteer coordinator

The advertisement can contact the committee through email at info@kearneydogsledraces.ca

CARRIED ~~X~~ DEFEATED _____ WITHDRAWN _____ DEFERRED _____

DECL OF INT BY _____ RECORDED VOTE BY _____

ABSTAIN	YEA	VOTING	NAY
		TORI WHITE	
		PAULEEN PATTON	
		ANDREW BUZZEO	
		TREASURE LOTTON	
		HEATHER PATEMAN	
		JOHN SMEETS	
		BARB MCQUILLIN	
		EMMA WIECHULA	
		GREG ALEXANIAN	
		CHERI MCLEOD	
		KAITLYNN PAQUETTE	

CHAIR: Mike Rickward

DATE: May 20, 2021

RES NO.: 03 - 05 - 20 - 2021



<http://kearneydogsledraces.ca/> **KEARNEY DOG SLED RACES** info@kearneydogsledraces.ca

MOVED BY: Cheri McLeod

SECONDED BY: Pauleen Patton

**Dog Sled Races
Advisory Committee**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Kearney Dog Sled Races Advisory Committee has elected Kaitlynn Paquette as the new chair of the committee on May 20, 2021.

CARRIED DEFEATED WITHDRAWN DEFERRED

DECL OF INT BY _____ RECORDED VOTE BY _____

ABSTAIN	YEA	VOTING	NAY
		TORI WHITE	
		PAULEEN PATTON	
		ANDREW BUZZEO	
		TREASURE LOTTON	
		HEATHER PATEMAN	
		JOHN SMEETS	
		BARB MCQUILLIN	
		EMMA WIECHULA	
		GREG ALEXANIAN	
		CHERI MCLEOD	
		KAITLYNN PAQUETTE	

CHAIR: Mike Rickward

DATE: May 20, 2021

RES NO.: 05 - 05 - 20 - 2021



Email: info@townofkearney.com
Website: www.townofkearney.com
Phone: 705 636 7752
Fax: 705 636 0527

P.O. Box 38
8 Main Street
Kearney, Ontario
POA 1M0

REPORT TO COUNCIL

TO: Mayor and Council Members
FROM: Matthew Clouthier CBCO, Acting Chief Building Official
RE: Building Activity Report to May 26, 2021
DATE: May 26, 2021

Background: 1) Total permits processed to May 26, , 2021 ----- 14

2) Category of permits issued: New Cottages/Houses ----- 5
Reno / Commercial ----- 1
New Private Garages ----- 3
Misc. Additions/Reno ----- 5
Demolition -----
Pending ----- 13

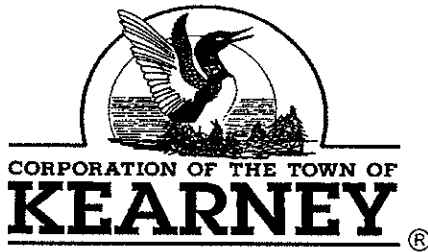
3) Permit fees generated to May 26, 2021 ----- \$56,784.00

Construction value of permits to May 26, 2021 ----- \$3.45 million

Consideration: Update / Status Report of Building Activities

Further Consideration: Visual aid for Budget purposes.

Recommendation: That Council receive the report from the Chief Building Official.



8 Main Street, P.O. Box 38 Kearney, ON P0A 1M0
Telephone: 705 636-7752 Fax: 705 636-0527 Email: planning@townofkearney.ca

MEMORANDUM

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS
FROM: LINDA MOYER, PLANNING TECHNICIAN
SUBJECT: REQUEST TO PURCHASE TOWN OWNED LAND
DATE: JUNE 26, 2020

BACKGROUND:

A request was received to purchase a parcel of land currently owned by the Town. The abutting property owners are interested in acquiring the property to create a buffer of privacy for their current property located at 3401 Chetwynd Road. The property is located on the corner of Chetwynd Road and Pettit Lane in Part Lot 8, Concession 6 and further described as Part 1, 42R-7748. The property is .58 ha. (1.43 ac.) in size.

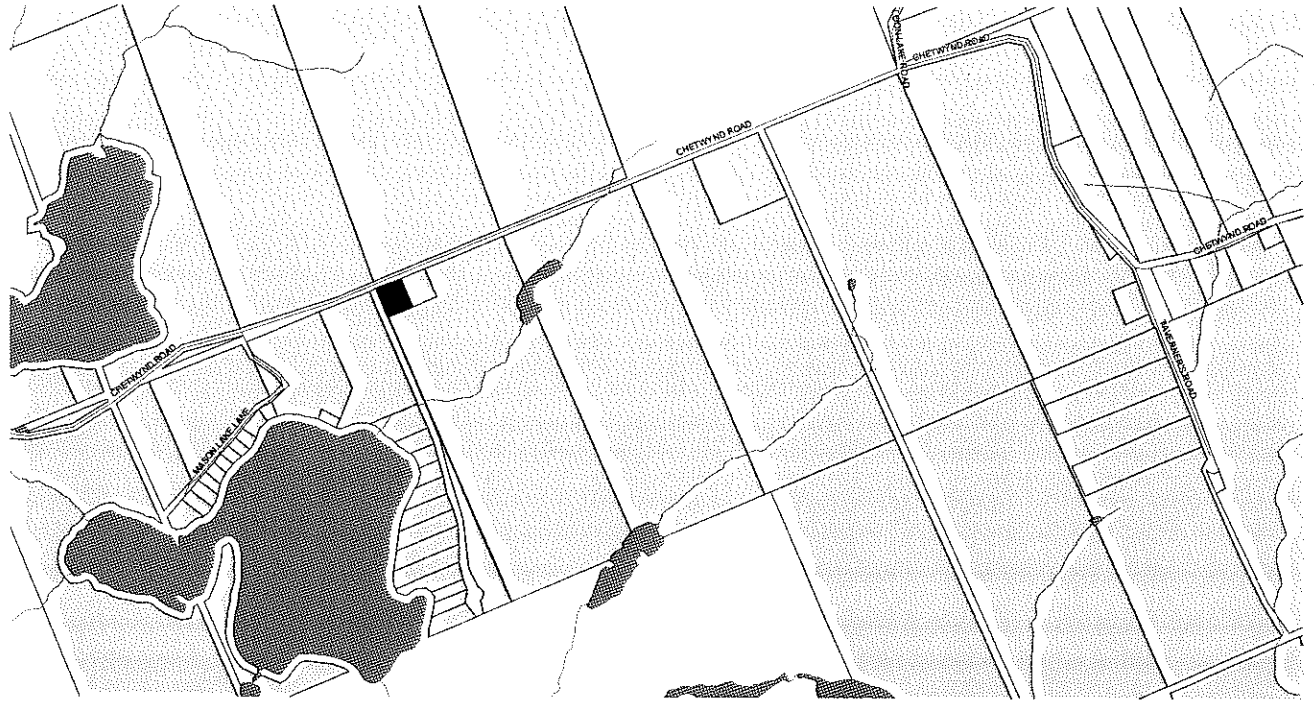
A search of the Town's records determined that the property was acquired through the public tax sale tender process in 2015. The property is currently assessed at \$22,000.

COMMENTS/CONSIDERATIONS:

The land is currently vacant and is not being used for any municipal purpose. Staff have no concerns with the sale of the property.

According to the Town's Sale of Land Bylaw, the land must be declared surplus to the requirements of the municipality and at least one appraisal must be obtained prior to selling the land.

Linda Moyer
Planning Technician



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF KEARNEY

STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Cindy Filmore
SUBJECT: Deeming By-law (Sniderman/Prichard)
DATE: June 4, 2021

Recommendation:

WHEREAS Allen Sniderman and Sarah Prichard applied to purchase the Shore Road Allowance in front of their properties for Lots 25 & 26 in Plan M89,
AND WHEREAS to adequately control the development of land, it is expedient to deem the parts of a plan of subdivision to NOT be parts of a plan of subdivision but instead to be lots including the adjacent Shore Road Allowance,
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney hereby supports By-law 2021-XX Deeming the two parts of Plan M89 NOT to be parts of a plan of subdivision.

Background

In November of 2020, Mr. Jonathan Sniderman applied to purchase the shore road allowance in front of each of his parents' properties (Allen Sniderman & Sarah Prichard), being Lots 25 & 26 in Plan M89.

The purpose of the Deeming By-law is to join the shore road allowance to the lots, in order that the properties are taxed and owned as one.

Considerations

In an effort to expedite the Shore Road Allowance purchase, Staff requested the assistance of the law firm of Russell Christie to aid in completing the transfer of lands.

Respectfully submitted by: *Cindy Filmore*
Administrative Services Coordinator

Date	Pick Up	Kearney	\$	Sand Lake	\$	Notes
14-May		93		71	185	10M 10F 100S 60C 5B
15-May		91		69	380	10F 250S 120C
16-May		117		86	55	15F 40C
17-May	31	82		74	30	10F 20C
18-May		89		55	100	100C
21-May		98		56	55	5M 50C
22-May		104		55	65	65C
23-May		117		77	150	15M 10F 50S 75C
24-May	22	86		89	85	10F 75C
25-May		111	10	113	10	10C
28-May		107		54	70	5M 65C
29-May		99		79	80	30F 50C
30-May		134		104	135	25M 10F 100C
31-May	24	107		77	220	150S 70C
01-Jun		119		82	30	5F 25C
Total			\$ 10.00		\$ 1,650.00	
Total Tipping Fees for Both Stations:					\$ 1,660.00	
Summer numbers can be seen at both Transfer Stations and in the amount of money						
and garbage being brought in						
Garbage pick up numbers remain high.						
Martin Filmore						

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF KEARNEY

REPORT

TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ross Gattozzi, Operations Manager
SUBJECT: Upgrade West Bay Road
DATE: May 30, 2021

BACKGROUND: At recent Council meeting, staff was directed to obtain prices on upgrading West Bay Road to a standard that would be safe for winter maintenance.

FOR INFORMATION:

I had a meeting with the contractor to go over elevations, site lines, excavation and the deficiencies on West Bay Road for winter plowing. When walking the road, we that there are few to no survey stakes for contractor to make a good evaluation on were to widen or excavate. He did recommend a survey. The other concern is that there is no turnaround for trucks or equipment, which would be an added cost. Price does not include Rock Removal or Excavation. Price does include Gravel, ditching and culvert replacement. Budget Cost Quote: \$186,131.50 hst not included.

Quantities are only estimated for establishing a total dollar amount based on unit prices.

RECOMMENDATION: That the road be surveyed in order to establish property lines if the town will have to purchase property for grade and site lines.

Sincerely,

Ross Gattozzi



Report

To:	Council
From:	By-Law Enforcement Officer Caitlin Deevey
Date of Meeting:	
Report Title:	Backyard hens and roosters
Report Date:	May 27, 2021

Recommendation

For Information and next steps.

Summary

The By-Law department has received multiple complaints/concerns on back yard chickens and roosters located in different areas through out the Town.

A few of the common concerns noted with these types of complaints/concerns are the noise created from roosters, zoning- permitted uses, and as well as the amount of poultry birds one would be permitted on specific sized lots.

Roosters do create a fair amount of untimely noise....ie: 0300am but are currently exempt from our noise bylaw if being used for agricultural. Roosters will make more noise when it feels its territory is threatened by a neighbouring rooster or other animals.

With complaints and concerns rising, the By-law department is seeking direction on how the Town would like to proceed with these matters.

There are a few townships, some neighbouring, that have bylaws prohibiting the keeping and use of poultry altogether, some that permit them outside of "in-town" limits, and others that restrict the keeping of roosters and limit the number of poultry permitted per property.

A lot of townships have a backyard chicken clause included in their zoning bylaw. While others have specific bylaws just for the issue. As our zoning bylaw is still amendable this would be my recommended course of action. If council should wish a specific bylaw proposed a draft can be submitted. Another

recommendation would be to license backyard hens and have an annual renewal and inspection like a kennel license for dogs.

Please advise on how the Town would like to proceed with these ongoing concerns.

Payment #	Date	Vendor Name	Reference	Payment Amount
Bank Code: AP - GENERAL AP				
Computer Cheques:				
30723	2021-05-10	Abell Pest Control	May/20 Pest control <i>KCC & P/W</i>	186.55
30724	2021-05-10	ACI-Accelerated Connections	May/21 internet	375.58
30725	2021-05-10	ARMTEC Ltd	3 culvers	4,064.94
30726	2021-05-10	Bowman Fuels Ltd.	P/W diesel fuel	2,888.70
30727	2021-05-10	Brandt	Grader filters	672.31
30728	2021-05-10	Burk's Falls Building Ctr Ltd	Parks gate locks	61.00
30729	2021-05-10	ClayMar Electric	Firehall-serv. generator	203.40
30730	2021-05-10	Cupe Local 1813	Apr/21 CUPE Union dues	579.81
30731	2021-05-10	Caitlin Deevey	Kms-Apr 19-Apr 30/21 <i>BY-LAW ENFOR.</i>	486.06
30732	2021-05-10	Dist. Parry Sound Soc. Ser.	2021 2nd Q Social Service	40,411.24
30733	2021-05-10	East Parry Sound Vet. Unit	2021 membership	90.00
30734	2021-05-10	Ewart/O'Dwyer	SRA/land exch. legal fees	2,363.27
30735	2021-05-10	Fire-Alert	Fire Ext Inspects <i>ALL DEPTS</i>	1,399.96
30736	2021-05-10	Glen Martin Ltd.	KCC-hand towels	87.15
30737	2021-05-10	Grant Thornton LLP	Auditor's fee 2020 FS	9,379.00
30738	2021-05-10	Green Shield Canada	May/21 Green Shield	6,906.88
30739	2021-05-10	Dean Hardwick	Entrance deposit refund	449.42
30740	2021-05-10	Hicks Morley	<i>CUPE &</i> UFCW legal fees	1,861.11
30741	2021-05-10	Huntsville Hospice	In Memory-Mary Lucy Robinson <i>DONATION</i>	100.00
30742	2021-05-10	Hydro One Networks Inc.	May/21 hydro	3,449.62
30743	2021-05-10	M&L Supply Fire & Safety	FD-bunker gear	2,125.53
30744	2021-05-10	Manulife Financial	May/21 Manulife	2,379.71
30745	2021-05-10	Min Of Fin-Ontario	March/21 OPP	26,274.00
30746	2021-05-10	Munisoft	Admin Trg-L Harvie	123.17
30747	2021-05-10	Muskoka Clean Water	KCC-water sys service	141.25
30748	2021-05-10	Muskoka Rent-All Huntsville	Parks-Mower battery& tire	209.02
30749	2021-05-10	Near North Business Machines	Apr/21 copier maint agmt <i>ADMIN & LIBRARY</i>	147.88
30750	2021-05-10	Noveltymann	Admin-Office supplies	82.70
30751	2021-05-10	OMERS	Apr/21 OMERS	12,015.60
30752	2021-05-10	Township Of Perry	Fire Dept Trg Day Food	24.00
30753	2021-05-10	Purolator Inc.	Courier chg-Fire Grant <i>DOCUMENT</i>	16.96
30754	2021-05-10	Rickwards Small Motors Inc	FD-UTV remove tracks	378.80
30755	2021-05-10	Russell Christie LLP	Joint B/L Agmt legal fees	784.79
30756	2021-05-10	Spectrum Telecom Group Ltd.	FD-Pevensey Tower rent	315.78
30757	2021-05-10	Tatham Engineering Ltd	Engin.fee-Rd Needs Study	5,911.32
30758	2021-05-10	Telequip Systems Limited	P/W May/21 air time	169.50
30759	2021-05-10	Wurth Canada Ltd	P/W cleaner & Saf glasses	138.66
30760	2021-05-20	Abell Pest Control	June/21 pest control <i>KCC & P/W</i>	186.55
30761	2021-05-20	Bell Mobility Inc.	May/21 Cell phones P/W	89.73
30762	2021-05-20	Bell Canada	May/21 telephone	714.57
30763	2021-05-20	Burk's Falls Home Hardware	KCC septic pipe/cap etc	65.88
30764	2021-05-20	Ecovue Consulting Services Inc	Planning fees <i>- CLIENTS</i>	2,806.68
30765	2021-05-20	Fountain Tire (Huntsville) Ltd	P/W trailer tire & valve	347.79
30766	2021-05-20	Fowler Construction	Roads-cold patch mix	3,308.89
30767	2021-05-20	Huntsville Truck Repair	Sweeper parts	1,254.59
30768	2021-05-20	Scott McKay	Driver's Medical <i>P/W</i>	60.00

Report Date
2021-05-27 2:39 PM

Town of Kearney
List of Accounts for Approval
As of 2021-05-27
Batch: 2021-00024 to 2021-00026

Payment #	Date	Vendor Name	Reference	Payment Amount
30769	2021-05-20	Muskoka Hydrovac	P/W clean catch basins	847.50
30770	2021-05-20	Muskoka Rent-All Huntsville	KCC-sewer snake rental	158.19
30771	2021-05-20	Northern Nerds	Server-IT service	5,199.05
30772	2021-05-20	Novexco Inc	Admin office supplies	82.70
30773	2021-05-20	Royal Bank Visa	<i>ALL DEPTS</i>	167.44
30774	2021-05-20	Telizon Inc	May/21 phone long dist	8.52
30775	2021-05-20	Waste Connections of Canada	Apr/21 recycling	8,995.31
30776	2021-05-20	D.M. Wills Assoc.Ltd	Eng fees-landfill monitor	358.78
30777	2021-05-20	Wurth Canada Ltd	P/W SPD cut disc	44.97
Total for AP:				151,951.81

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Be it resolved that Council has received and have no objections to be noted for Cheque #30723 to Cheque #30777 in the amount of \$151,951.81.

Mayor

Clerk/CAO/Treasurer

CHIEFS REPORT

May 31st, 2021.

Training

Our training is ongoing following all COVID protocols. We have had forestry pumps and equipment, fire hose streams, 2 truck check nights, pumper training and flushing of Clam Lake and Lions club hydrants one medical training and additional Sunday training sessions. Recruit training is temporarily on hold. Officer training online is ongoing. As well as the first practical NFPA testing has been completed.

Firefighters are kept up to date on COVID19 protocols.

Fire Prevention

We are keeping our Facebook page as current as possible. As well as answering public inquiries.

Equipment

Our First response requires the studded tires removed. I will make the appointment and advise Public Works so they can take the truck. Pumper and Ladder testing is upcoming in July dates have been provided so Public Works can take the trucks. Tracks have been removed and the side by side has been serviced. All equipment is in service at this time.

I would like to ask for a resolution to purchase the required helmets that are in my capital budget.

We are still having our Chiefs meetings.

We have had three medical calls, one medical missed. I contacted dispatch and there was a radio issue that day. Eight fire calls, two hydro lines, one fire complaint, two MNR fires calls, two auto aid call for Burks Falls and one hydraulic oil spill in Lynx Lake from an excavator.

I have been asked if the Fire Department will burn the brush at Sand Lake dump again this year like we did last year. Before I ask the Firefighters I would like a resolution that they will be paid as guys take a holiday or day off to do this for the Town.

I am still researching training and setting up our own Peer Support Group. This was discussed at our Chiefs meeting and was thought to be very worthwhile.

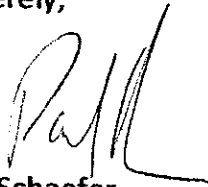
Our next NFPA practical test date is Saturday July 24th/21.

Preparing practice tests for those writing.

I can be reached on my cell at 705 571 3761 or at the Firehall or via email.

Stay Safe

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Schaefer', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul Schaefer

Fire Chief, Town of Kearney



Town of Kearney

Paul Schaefer
Fire Chief
Town of Kearney

Kearney Fire and Emergency Services
Box 38
Kearney, ON P0A 1M0

email paul.schaefer@townofkearney.ca
Phone 705 636 7402
Cell 705 571 3761
Fax 705 636 9743

Tuesday May 32st, 2021.

To; Kearney Council
From; Paul Schaefer, Fire Chief

Re; Pumper Replacement

Update from budget meeting;

I was asked to clarify some questions from council from the recent budget meeting. I have had preliminary talks re pumper/tanker trucks the budget price is approximately \$480,000.00. If the truck is a pumper/tanker or pumper the pricing is the same. The pumper/tanker is outfitted like a pumper with the capacity to carry more water, ladders and large pump to service a fire scene. The difference between a pumper and a tanker is a tanker carries water and has a small pump to fill the truck and can potentially carry larger quantities of water. Pumpers have a water tank and a large pump to supply the fire scene and carries ladders. So quite technically we are essentially replacing our pumper and the new truck can carry more water than our existing pumper. This complements the way we fight fires in our Municipality, arrive with the pumper and with minimal manpower set up and hit hard with as much water as possible knocking the fire down and protecting exposures. This allows time for other apparatus and additional manpower to arrive establish a water source and continue our work. This appears to be the trend in the fire service according to the salesman.

As for extending the life of the existing truck the salesman suggested to get an opinion from Insurance Underwriters for clarification. The credits we get for our existing trucks are unknown. We may still get some credit up to twenty- nine years if the truck remains in good operating condition.

As for a deposit there, company does not require a deposit. He says some may ask for one when the chassis arrives but would be our choice as we may see some discount however he advises it may be risky. As well when it comes time to license the vehicle there may be issues. Truck builders should be able to finance the build start to finish and turn over a completed unit. And again, at this point delivery is fourteen months from when we put in the order.

Hope this report is helpful.

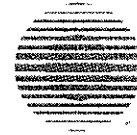
Sincerely,



Paul Schaefer,

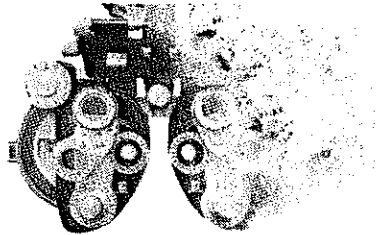
Fire Chief Town of Kearney

SAVE EYE CARE



ONTARIO
ASSOCIATION OF
OPTOMETRISTS

OPTOMETRISTS TO STOP ACCEPTING OHIP SEPT. 1ST



The Government of Ontario has failed to properly invest in optometric care for over 30 years. Optometrists have **never had a formal negotiation process** with the government.

OHIP currently **barely covers half of the cost** it takes to deliver your eye care. Optometry clinics absorb the rest as a loss.

This problem is only **getting worse**. They had a chance to fix it in the 2021 Budget, but the government has shown they do not value your eye health.

Please call your MPP and urge the government to address this before Ontarians lose access to eye care on September 1st.

"Hi. My name is _____. I visited my optometrist today and was unhappy to learn that OHIP services for eye care will be unavailable after September 1. Optometry services are important to me and the Ontario government needs to resolve this issue."

MPP Contact Information

Name:

Riding:

Phone:

norm.miller@pc.ola.org



SaveEyeCare.ca



To Whom It May Concern:

Since 2017, the North Bay & District Labour Council has played an active role in amplifying the calls from the 2SLGBTQIA+ community for their municipalities to formally acknowledge Pride Month.

Today, we are calling on you to join municipalities like West Nipissining, Mattawa, and North Bay in proclaiming June as Pride Month.

Attached, please find a resolution that acknowledges the history of Pride, its present meaning, and the future of 2SLGBTQIA+ persons in the region.

In Solidarity

Henri Giroux

Henri Giroux
President
North Bay & District Labour Council

PRIDE MONTH PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS the month of June is recognized as Pride Month, in order to commemorate the Stonewall riots which occurred at the end of June 1969 in New York,

AND WHEREAS during Pride Month, the world's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, Queer, Questioning, Two Spirit communities (LGBTQ2St) and Allies come together to celebrate diversity and protest for the freedom to be themselves: to overcome prejudice, for inclusive policies and laws: and for the right to be accepted for who they are;

AND WHEREAS although many strides have been made forward to educate peoples bias, there is still much work to be done in correcting adversity towards the LGBTQ2St communities.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of Corporation of the Town of Kearney does hereby proclaim June 2021 as Pride Month and encourages residents to commit to continuing Awareness, inclusion, and acceptance for all members of our community regardless of gender identity, race, age and beliefs.



21 Church Street
Dunchurch, Ontario P0A 1G0
Phone: 705-389-2466 ~ Fax: 705-389-1855

www.whitestone.ca
E-mail: info@whitestone.ca

May 11, 2021

Parry Sound District Municipalities

Re: Support of Mayors Monarch Pledge

The Council of the Municipality of Whitestone passed the following resolution at its regular meeting on May 3, 2021;

Resolution 2021-165

WHEREAS the monarch butterfly is an iconic North American species whose multigenerational migration and metamorphosis from caterpillar to butterfly has captured the imagination of millions of Canadians;

AND WHEREAS the monarch butterfly population has declined by nearly 90% over the past 20 years, due to habitat loss from industrial agricultural practices in Canada and the US and deforestation in Mexico;

AND WHEREAS the Committee of the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada updated the monarch butterfly's status from special concern to endangered in 2016;

AND WHEREAS climate change will pose new challenges for the monarch butterfly in the Parry Sound District and throughout its range;

AND WHEREAS municipalities have a critical role to play in helping to save the monarch butterfly;

AND WHEREAS every citizen of the Parry Sound District can make a difference for the monarch butterfly by planting native milkweed and nectar plants to provide habitat for the monarch butterfly and other pollinators;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council for the Municipality of Whitestone signs the mayors Monarch Pledge;

AND THAT the Council for the Municipality of Whitestone calls upon all Parry Sound District municipalities to join them in signing the Mayors Monarch Pledge and taking action to restore the habitat for the monarch and encourage their citizens to do the same so that this iconic species may once again flourish across the continent.

AND FURTHER THAT the Whitestone Environmental Stewardship Committee make recommendations to Council in respect of Action items in support of the Monarch Pledge.

Yours truly,
MUNICIPALITY OF WHITESTONE

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J Meyntz', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Judith Meyntz
Deputy Clerk

/jmm

Brenda Fraser

From: Director <director@investalmaguin.ca>
Sent: May 11, 2021 3:41 PM
To: Brenda Fraser; Cheryl Marshall; Beth Morton; Judy Kosowan; Kerstin Vroom; John Theriault (clerk@armourtownship.ca); Nicky Kunkel; Nancy Austin; 'Caitlin Haggart'; Don McArthur; Leanne Crozier; Brenda Paul; 'Maureen Lang'
Cc: EDO
Subject: ACED Community Capacity Building Projects - Municipal Engagement Request
Attachments: 2021 ACED Municipal Engagement Request.pdf; 2021 ACED Work Plan (1).pdf; (Draft) LMG Transportation Survey.pdf

Importance: High

Good Afternoon Almaguin CAOs and Clerks,

Pursuant to the 2021 ACED Annual Work Plan, the ACED Team is working on several projects that we would like to speak with you about individually as your schedule permits. The attached document provides an initial overview of these projects and also includes a request to connect with Jeanette Smith to set up a preliminary meeting to discuss projects that would fit with your municipality. I have also included a draft of the transportation survey that is briefly mentioned; please note that there will be further information outlining the municipal support that will be required for completing the survey. I look forward to connecting with all of you over the weeks to come!

Thanks very much and have a great rest of the week!

Dave Gray, Ec.D.

Director of Economic Development
Almaguin Community Economic Development
(705)571-1564 | Director@InvestAlmaguin.ca





May 11, 2021

Request for Municipal Engagement

Greetings Municipal ACED Partners!

The ACED Team has several planned projects in 2021 that involve working with municipal staff to support community capacity building as noted in the 2021 work plan. These projects have been listed below along with tentative project timelines and several other relevant details. We would like to establish a meeting with municipal staff to discuss which of these projects would be relevant to their municipality and establish a move-forward plan to bring the projects to fruition. A copy of the 2021 ACED Work Plan has been included with this email for your reference. **ACED is requesting that COAs/Clerks review this document and connect with Jeanette Smith, Administrative Assistant, to establish a preliminary meeting date.**

1. Village Impressions Program *May 17th to October 1st*

The Village Impressions Program (VIP) is centred on identifying opportunities for community and downtown cores to be more visually appealing and resident/visitor friendly. A task force will be created to develop the evaluation criteria and deliver the community evaluation. The end-product will be a formal communication from the VIP Task Force outlining recommendations for improvements that will be provided to councils for consideration and future planning. Further partnerships can be pursued, pending the completion of the evaluations, that could look to coordinate applications to complimentary funding programs.

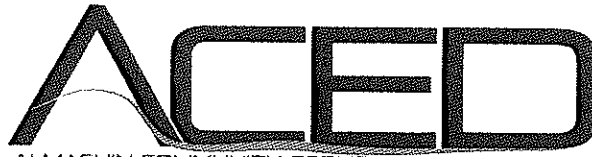
2. Win this space Almaguin *May 24th to September 30th*

Win This Space Almaguin will be developed as a pilot program centred around activating vacant retail/commercial space in downtown cores. The program will be positioned to entrepreneurs who will compete to secure a location for their venture for a one-year period at a reduced operating cost to them. Win This Space will/may require investments from municipalities and/or the use of municipally owned assets.

Initial contact with municipalities will focus on determining their interest in participating. Should an interest exist, a formal program outline will be created by the ACED team and provided for review/revision. The ACED Team will also seek any funding opportunities that could support the project and alleviate financial commitments.

3. Operation Open 4 Business *September 4th to December 15th*

Operation Open 4 Business will look at the municipal investment communications process resulting from investment inquiries. This will include:



ALMAGUIN COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Box 533 - 56 Ontario St. Burk's Falls ON. P0A 1C0
(705)571-1564 / director@investalmaguin.ca

- Interfacing with the ACED Team (ACED services, the communication process with ACED Staff and other considerations);
- A review of the communication process between investors and the municipality (identifying opportunities to enhance the relationship building process and communication timelines);
- A review of zoning by-laws, processes and procedures pertaining to the development process (for ACED Awareness and identifying potential barriers and/or setbacks); and
- A review of municipally specific development priorities.

The desired goal of the project is for the ACED Team to gain a deeper perspective of each municipalities process to better address inquiries from investors and improve support provided for municipalities, adding value to the process.

4. Broadband Development

June to December

With the recent announcements regarding broadband funding through the Universal Broadband Fund and in-process applications for broadband improvement through Blue Sky Net, ACED is seeking to work with municipalities to review their 'shovel-readiness' and ability to act as partners for upcoming broadband infrastructure developments. This will include:

- Review of the current state of broadband availability by municipality,
- A review of the Connectivity Road Map publication,
- Supporting the implementation of best practices to ensure that municipalities are well positioned to support infrastructure deployment efforts.

5. Transportation Planning

Late May Deployment

The ACED Team is participating in a partnership to survey regional residents and assess transportation needs across Almaguin. The survey will be conducted in partnership with West Parry Sound Municipalities and supported by the Labour Market Group. The goal of the survey will be to create actionable data that can be used by public and private sector partners to create solutions for meeting transportation needs. ACED will be requesting support in distributing and encouraging resident participation in the Survey. Municipal support is expected to be required to count and distribute surveys to local post offices and to collect surveys

Contact Information:

Jeanette Smith, Administrative Assistant
Almaguin Community Economic Development
EDO@investalmaguin.ca | 647-624-7711

David Gray, Director of Economic Development
Almaguin Community Economic Development
director@investalmaguin.ca | 705-571-1564



CONTENTS

Introduction 1

Definitions 1

The Plan..... 2

 1.0 Business Support and Development..... 2

 2.0 Community Development..... 4

 3.0 Economic Capacity building 5

 4.0 Marketing and Promotion..... 6

 5.0 Special Events & Projects..... 8

INTRODUCTION

The 2021 Almaguin Community Economic Development (ACED) Work Plan has been developed to provide ACED member municipalities and member stakeholders with an overview of the strategic action items to be accomplished by the ACED Department throughout the year. These action items include recommendations from current strategic plans, studies and research as well as core services that recur from year to year. The objective of the ACED Board and Department, through all affairs is to

“Develop our economy and regional environment through taking strategic action and stewarding strong relationships between municipalities, the business community, community organizations and economic development stakeholders.”

DEFINITIONS

ACED	Almaguin Community Economic Development
Ag Strategy	2020 Agricultural and Culinary Stakeholder Engagement Strategy
AHCC	Almaguin Highlands Chamber of Commerce
Brand Strategy	2020 Almaguin Highlands Regional Brand Strategy
BR&E	Business Retention & Expansion
CMO	Communications & Marketing Officer
DoED	Director of Economic Development
EAA	Economic Administrative Assistant
RED Plan	2018 Almaguin Highlands Regional Economic Development Strategic Plan



THE PLAN

All work plan action items have been categorized in to five primary themes that represent the objectives and core functions of the ACED Board and Department. Each of these themes is intended to reinforce a specific outcome as defined under their respective headings. Specific action items for each theme have been derived from evidence-based research as referenced in the following guiding documents:

[The 2018 RED Plan](#)

[The 2020 Ag Strategy](#)

[The 2020 Brand Strategy \(link N/A\)](#)

[The 2016 BR&E Report](#)

A key performance indicator index can be found in Appendix A.

1.0 BUSINESS SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

Business support and development encompasses all activities intended to support businesses in any capacity. This includes but is not limited to start up, expansion, general business support, online presence building, networking, and site selection.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

Total businesses served (by municipality)

Total start-ups supported

Total expansions supported

Total general inquiries

Total businesses served by program

Private sector investment (where known)

A. CORE BUSINESS SUPPORT

COST: TIME/TRAVEL

TIMELINE: CORE

Providing personalized one-on-one support for entrepreneurs and business operators requiring support with start-up, expansion, site selection or other general support types. This service is accessed through in bound calls and referrals from municipal staff, support organizations and the website. Additional core support includes:

- i. Business directory updates.
- ii. Accommodation directory updates.
- iii. Asset inventory updates.



B. BR&E BY INDUSTRY COST: TIME/TRAVEL TIMELINE: CORE

The DoED will complete the Manufacturing and Forestry BR&E process and supply chain process referenced in the 2020 work plan in Q1 of 2021. The construction industry, as the next largest sector will follow.

C. DIGITAL MAIN STREET AND ONLINE PRESENCE SUPPORT TIMELINE: CORE

The CMO will continue providing online presence support to businesses both in affiliation with Digital Main Street and as a stand alone offering. These services will be marketed through regular social media and email communications.

D. BUSINESS SUPPORT EVENTS COST: \$2000 TIMELINE: QUARTERLY

The Department will work in partnership with the AHCC to develop and deploy events that meet current needs of businesses. Virtual job fairs, socials, seminars and information sessions are all examples of potential events.

E. AHCC PARTNERSHIPS COST: \$2000 TIMELINE: PROJECT SPECIFIC

The department will support a series of capacity building initiatives in partnership with the AHCC to support new and existing businesses while generating increased engagement in the business community

- i. Support the design of an AHCC Welcome Wagon program
- ii. Develop an Almaguin Business Awards program (\$2000)

F. WIN THIS SPACE ALMAGUIN COST: \$1000 TIMELINE: Q1(DEVELOPMENT)

The DoED will work with interested municipalities and support organization partners to develop a 'Win this Space' business plan competition aimed at providing a local entrepreneur with a free rental space for a year. The ACED Team will support implementation and promotion if the program is viable based on municipal participation.



2.0 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Development is broken into two main segments: working to support community- and recreation-based organizations; and supporting community and recreation-based projects undertaken by municipalities where efforts benefit multiple partners.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

Total projects supported
Total partnership funds

Total project investments made
Total partners involved

A. COMMUNITY PROGRAM G.R.O. COST\$1500 TIMELINE: Q1-Q2

The ACED Team will support community organizations in preparing to attract new volunteers as organizations plan to deliver 2021 events and programs (as allowed). ACED will position it as a 'Grand Reopening (G.R.O.)' from a marketing perspective. The team will provide virtual training sessions using elements of the Almaguin 3R Volunteer Recruitment program and provide funds to market volunteer opportunities.

B. VILLAGE IMPRESSIONS PROGRAM COST: TIME/TRAVEL TIMELINE: Q2/Q3

The DoED will create a community assessment program focused on conducting community visits to villages using elements of the Provincial First Impressions program. Visits will focus on providing recommendations for visual appeal and resident/visitor experience improvements.

C. REGIONAL RECREATION SUPPORT COST: \$1500 TIMELINE: 2021

The ACED Team will work to support experience development and point of interest promotion in partnership with the Almaguin Regional Recreation Committee. ACED will work with recreation stakeholders to capitalize on the growth of the recreation market in 2020.

- i. Promote and support adoption of the Driftscape digital promotion platform.
- ii. Support the development of experience itineraries and content and help coordinate marketing efforts to reach seasonal audiences.
- iii. Develop partnerships with municipal recreation staff and recreation stakeholders that support the upkeep of the Almaguin Highlands Tourism website.



3.0 ECONOMIC CAPACITY BUILDING

Economic capacity building represents activities that are intended to increase the region’s ability to attract investment of any kind. Typically, capacity building initiatives provide less immediately tangible results; however, in many cases they provide a foundation for future activities, increase the investment readiness of the region or otherwise position the region for growth.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

Total partners involved
Total partnership funds

Total investment made
Total completed initiatives and intended outcomes

A. OPERATION OPEN 4 BUSINESS COST: TIME/TRAVEL TIMELINE: 2021

The DoED will working with willing municipalities to review municipally specific development processes to identify any opportunities to reduce barriers and improve the investment experience. The DoED and ACED Team will work to support enhanced communications with municipalities regarding investment and business development opportunities

B. BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT COST: TIME TIMELINE 2021

The DoED will support the development of broadband internet services through supporting the efforts of the Information Communications Technology Networks serving the Almaguin Region. Specific action items in 2021 will include:

- i. Supporting municipalities in preparing for broadband build-out projects through policy review, scouting locations and other considerations.
- ii. Supporting the education process as it pertains to current initiatives, currently available information, and the status of funding applications.
- iii. Supporting advocacy efforts where possible and/or requested.

C. TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT COST: TIME/TRAVEL TIMELINE: 2021

The DoED will work with municipal contacts to support initiatives that help to overcome transportation barriers throughout the region. Efforts will be made throughout the year to source funding for studying the feasibility of public transportation solutions. Specific action items will include:



- i. Promoting public parking and carpool opportunities.
- ii. Examining options for increased community bussing pilot programs.
- iii. Conducting case studies of cost-effective transportation solutions in rural environments.

D. BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY PROFILING COST: TIME/TRAVEL TIMELINE: Q1-Q3

The DoED will work with municipal representatives to develop profiles for available spaces in downtown cores to support business development and idea generation. Profiles will be site/area specific and based on identified needs in the community or region. As an example, the former South River Municipal Office space on Ottawa Ave. Profiles will be intended to provide an executive overview of relevant information with linkages to support opportunities.

E. AHSS STUDENT ENGAGEMENT COST: \$2000 TIMELINE: Q2

The DoED and AA will with AHSS Staff and Faculty to establish a presence for business development support, civic engagement and youth retention considerations. ACED will work with community support organizations to promote and deliver programs available to students and support students in accessing programs. Specific objectives include:

- i. Promoting and supporting the Summer Company Program;
- ii. Designing a graduating class exit interview process to identify opportunities to reattract youth.

4.0 MARKETING AND PROMOTION

Marketing and promotion will encompass all activities intended to market or promote any aspect of the region. This includes website development, general tourism promotion, business joint marketing initiatives (including shop-local activities), local initiative promotion, storytelling and other marketing activities.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

Total marketing project files (by type)
Reach and engagement analyses

Marketing focus summary



A. BRAND STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION COST: \$34 000 TIMELINE: 2020

The Almaguin Highlands Regional Brand Strategy will be approved by the ACED Board in January of 2021. The DoED has applied to the Northern Ontario Development Program for supporting funds to role out the brand strategy project. Once the strategy is approved, the ACED Team will implement the strategy. Expected action items include:

- i. Support municipalities in adopting the regional brand on digital facades.
- ii. Supply training opportunities to stakeholders for brand standards and usage.
- iii. Apply the brand elements to all ACED digital facades.
- iv. Execute additional strategy items.

B. AG STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION COST: \$5000 TIMELINE: Q1-Q3

ACED will work to lay a foundation to support agriculture and culinary promotion efforts using the ACED website as recommended in the strategy. ACED will further work to enhance relationships with and between producers and value chain stakeholders to enhance collaboration potential. Specific action items include (but are not limited to):

- i. Implement and configure CRM system.
- ii. Design agri-food newsletter templates and 3 season themes.
- iii. Create web pages on investalmaguin.ca and tourism website.
- iv. Develop google map for location promotion.
- v. Develop communications strategy to connect value chain members.
- vi. Develop food truck promotion efforts.
- vii. Support information sharing regarding farming opportunities and supports in the North.

C. TOURISM PROMOTION COST: \$7000 TIMELINE: ONGOING

The ACED Team will support the promotion of tourism activities by aligning with key support organizations and tourism stakeholders. The ACED team will develop promotional content that showcases regional experiences and assets using a variety of online mediums. ACED will also promote product and experience development where possible through strategic partnerships. Specific activities include:

- i. Redevelopment of the Almaguin Highlands Tourism Website
 - a. Develop partnership committee to guide site structure;



- b. Implement brand strategy elements;
- c. Hire web designer to develop the site framework and functionality.
- ii. Finalize Great Taste of Ontario Road Trip itineraries and promote program with the Culinary Tourism Alliance.
- iii. Promote Snowmobiling content in partnership with Explorers’ Edge.
- iv. Promote recreational trail usage, events and activities in partnership with Discovery Routes.

D. SHOP IN ALMAGUIN CAMPAIGNS COST: \$4000 TIMELINE: SPRING/FALL

The CMO and EAA will continue supporting local retailers, producers and restaurants by offering Shop in Almaguin buy-local campaigns to keep local spending top-of-mind. 2021 will feature both spring (before and during seasonal tourism) and holiday shopping.

5.0 SPECIAL EVENTS & PROJECTS

Special Events and Projects are geared to draw enhanced attention to regional features and assets. 2021 will be geared both for event hosting as well as promoting safe and accessible events occurring throughout the region.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

Total marketing project files (by type)	Marketing focus summary
Reach and engagement analyses	

A. ALMAGUIN HARVEST SPIN COST: \$45 000 TIMELINE: Q3

The ACED team will continue planning and preparing for the 2021 Almaguin Harvest Spin Event which is scheduled to run on September 25th. The team will monitor and follow pandemic trends and associated regulations to ensure a safe environment for participants. The DoED will monitor provincial funding opportunities and apply for funds as programs fit.

Specific activities include:

- i. Coordination of agricultural and culinary stakeholders for the Harvest Experience.
- ii. Finalization of the event safety and emergency preparedness plan.



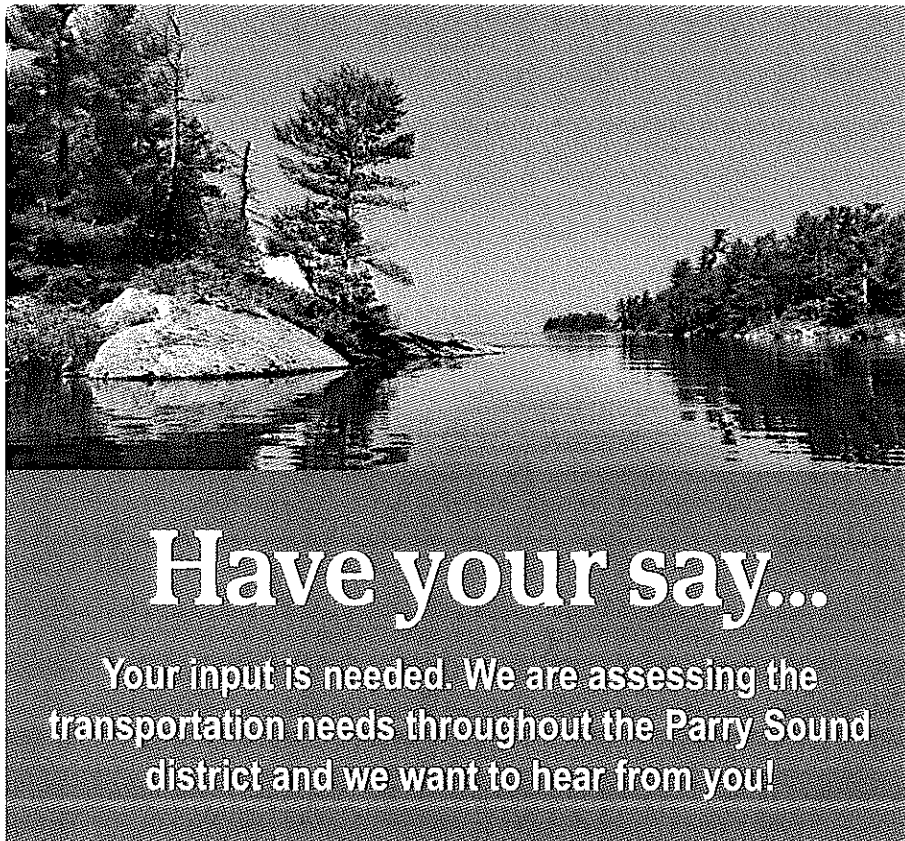
- iii. Event specific marketing.
- iv. Making all event day preparations.

B. RED GALA

COST: \$5000

TIMELINE: TENTATIVE

The DoED and EAA will explore opportunities for hosting an economic development showcase event focused on bringing together stakeholders in regional economic development. Virtual and/or in person elements will be reviewed which will be qualified by provincial restrictions and event best practices. The event will continue the tradition of partnering with multiple stakeholder groups to showcase highlights in economic development as well as provide an engaging keynote presentation.



Have your say...

Your input is needed. We are assessing the transportation needs throughout the Parry Sound district and we want to hear from you!

Complete this survey online, or return it to any **public library or municipal office** within the Parry Sound district.

Online survey: surveymonkey.com/r/JQTSMRD

Please select your age range:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <15 | <input type="checkbox"/> 20-34 | <input type="checkbox"/> 45-54 | <input type="checkbox"/> 65-74 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16-20 | <input type="checkbox"/> 35-44 | <input type="checkbox"/> 55-64 | <input type="checkbox"/> 75> |

Do you currently own/have access to a vehicle?

- Yes No

Have you ever used the current or existing transportation services available to you? (ie. Red Cross)

- Yes No

Do you have any physical mobility concerns?

- (not at all) 1 2 3 4 5 (tremendously)

Select all forms of transportation you use in a typical day.

- Bus Walk Taxi Service Automobile
 Other: _____

Does transportation-related challenges prevent you from completing your day-to-day tasks?

- (not at all) 1 2 3 4 5 (tremendously)

Have transportation-related challenges ever prevented you from gaining or pursuing employment opportunities?

- Yes No

Which activities have been directly impacted due to transportation challenges? (Select all that apply)

- Work Shopping Appointments Childcare
 Extra-curricular Activities School/Education
 None Other: _____

How far in KM you need to travel one-way on a daily basis:

- <5km 6-10 11-15 15-20 20km>

Scheduled Transportation (bus services):

How often would you use bus services?

- Daily Weekly Monthly Never

What time-of-day would you use bus services the most?

- Morning Afternoon Evening Never

What would you use bus services for? (Select all that apply)

- None Work Appointments
 Shopping Leisure Activities Education

What type of bus pass would best suit your needs?

- Day Pass Weekly Pass Monthly Pass
 Annual Pass I would not buy a pass

How much bus fare would you be willing to pay one-way?

- \$1 - \$3 \$3.25 - \$5 \$5.25 - \$10

Un-scheduled Transportation (taxi services):

How much would you be willing to pay for a one-way taxi?

- \$5 - \$10 \$11 - \$15 \$16 - \$20
 \$21 - \$25 Over \$25 (Select all that apply)

Thank you for completing the survey!

Please return this survey to any public library or municipal office within the Parry Sound district.

This survey was created in partnership with the Labour Market Group, the YMCA Employment Centre and the municipalities of the Parry Sound district.



Township of McKellar

701 Hwy #124, P.O. Box 69, McKellar, Ontario P0G 1C0

Phone: (705) 389-2842

Fax: (705) 389-1244

May 17, 2021

The Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Email: pm@pm.gc.ca

Re: Requesting Consideration of Tax Breaks on 2020 CERB payments

Please be advised that at its regular meeting held, May 11, 2021 the Council of the Township of McKellar passed the following resolution:

Resolution No. 21-195

Moved by: Marco Ancinelli
Seconded by: Don Carmichael

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has implemented the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) to financially assist those in dire need during the Covid-19 pandemic;

AND WHEREAS the CERB grant has helped many Canadians in dire need;

AND WHEREAS many of those that applied were single women, single parents, lower income citizens without employment and lacking in tax knowledge;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada did not initially inform CERB recipients that CERB was a taxable benefit;

AND WHEREAS when the CERB was merged with Employment Insurance Benefits (EI) in the fall of 2020, the Federal Government stated that they would have tax withheld similar to EI;

AND WHEREAS the Federal Government did not withhold tax on CERB for the second time as promised;

AND WHEREAS CERB recipients are surprised to learn that they are expected to pay income tax on CERB funds;

AND WHEREAS these recipients were never advised of this issue;

AND WHEREAS these recipients are now faced with an added burden of paying unexpected taxes on CERB, which they can ill afford;

AND WHEREAS the Federal Government has, in the past, found ways to assist businesses and corporations through difficult times by forgiving large loans and debts to the Government;

AND WHEREAS many businesses and corporations have the means to find ways to reduce their tax obligations;

AND WHEREAS those most in need do not have the means or understanding of how the tax system and are simply trying to survive and cope with the effects of Covid-19, feed their families and put a roof over their head;

NOW THEREFORE, since the Federal Government did not inform the recipients of the CERB grant that it is taxable;

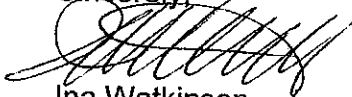
AND FURTHER when the CERB grant and EI were merged, the Federal Government did not, as they stated, withhold tax from CERB as they did on EI, and are now insisting CERB recipients repay as much as \$3,000.00 to \$4,000.00 in tax, which they can ill afford to pay;

THEREFORE we urge the Federal Government to address this serious issue and consider giving disadvantaged CERB recipients a tax break for 2020, or giving them a tax credit for 2021;

AND FURTHER, that this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Federal Minister of Finance, Parry Sound-Muskoka MP Scott Atchison, and Ontario Municipalities.

Carried.

Sincerely,



Ina Watkinson
Acting Deputy Clerk
Township of McKellar

Encl.

cc: Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Finance
Scott Aitchison, MP, Parry Sound-Muskoka
Ontario Municipalities

**REPORT TO
THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF KEARNEY
REGARDING THE INVESTIGATION OF AN ALLEGED IMPROPERLY
CLOSED MEETING OR MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF
KEARNEY**

Complaint

The Town of Kearney (“Town”) received a complaint about allegedly improperly held in-camera portions (“closed session”) of meetings of Town Council held during 2019.

The complainant alleged, among other matters, that Town Council had discussed and decided upon matters improperly in closed session.

The complaint was sent to the offices of Amberley Gavel Ltd. for investigation.

Jurisdiction

The Town had appointed Local Authority Services (LAS) as its closed meeting Investigator at the time of the complaint pursuant to section 239.2 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, as amended (“Municipal Act” or “Act”). LAS has delegated its powers and duties to Amberley Gavel Ltd. to undertake the investigation and report to the Council of the Town.

Background

(1) The Municipal Act

Section 239 of the Municipal Act provides that all meetings of a municipal council, local board, or a committee of either of them shall be open to the public. This requirement is one of the elements of transparent local government. The section sets forth exceptions to this open meeting rule. It lists the reasons for which a meeting, or a portion of a meeting, may be closed to the public:

Exceptions

(2) A meeting or part of a meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered is,

- (a) the security of the property of the municipality or local board;
- (b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees;
- (c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board;
- (d) labour relations or employee negotiations;
- (e) litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board;
- (f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;
- (g) a matter in respect of which a council, board, committee or other body may hold a closed meeting under another Act;
- (h) information explicitly supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board by Canada, a province or territory or a Crown agency of any of them;
- (i) a trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial, financial or labour relations information, supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice significantly the competitive position or interfere significantly with the contractual or other negotiations of a person, group of persons, or organization;
- (j) a trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial or financial information that belongs to the municipality or local board and has monetary value or potential monetary value; or
- (k) a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board. 2001, c. 25, s. 239 (2); 2017, c. 10, Sched. 1, s. 26....

Section 239 also requires that before a council, local board or committee moves into a closed meeting, it shall pass a resolution at a public meeting indicating that there is to be a closed meeting. The resolution must include the general nature of the matter(s) to be deliberated at the closed meeting.

Subsections 239 (5) & (6) limit the actions that may be taken by the council, local board, or committee at the closed session. Votes may only be taken at a closed meeting for procedural matters or giving direction or instructions to staff or persons retained by the municipality such as a lawyer or planner. It provides as follows:

Open meeting

(5) Subject to subsection (6), a meeting shall not be closed to the public during the taking of a vote. 2001, c. 25, s. 239 (5).

Exception

- (6) Despite section 244, a meeting may be closed to the public during a vote if,
- (a) subsection (2) or (3) permits or requires the meeting to be closed to the public; and
 - (b) the vote is for a procedural matter or for giving directions or instructions to officers, employees or agents of the municipality, local board or committee of either of them or persons retained by or under a contract with the municipality or local board. 2001,

c. 25, s. 239 (6).

Section 239.1 provides that any person can ask for an investigation into whether a council, local board, or committee of either of them has breached the open meeting requirements of the Municipal Act or its own procedural by-law.

There were other issues raised in the complaint that we received, but they were outside our mandate as Closed Meeting Investigator.

Investigation

The Town Clerk was interviewed during the investigation. Documents provided by Town and reviewed included agendas, reports, and minutes, both open and closed for the period April 25, 2019 to October 25, 2019. We also reviewed applicable legislation and Closed Meeting Investigations of other Councils.

An investigation under Section 239.1 of the Municipal Act is confined to assessing whether the council, local board, or committee of either complied with the open meetings provision of the Municipal Act or its own procedural by-law. It is not open to the investigator to determine if the responsible body made the right decision with respect to the substantive matter at issue in the complaint.

In addition, an investigator is bound by the rules of confidentiality as stipulated in Section 239.2(5). Thus, an investigator can only disclose as much as is necessary to support a report's findings where a breach has been found.

Once the investigation is completed, if the investigator "is of the opinion that the meeting or part of the meeting that was the subject-matter of the investigation appears to have been closed to the public contrary to Section 239 or to a procedure by-law under Section 238(2), the investigator shall report his or her opinion and the reasons for it to the municipality or local board, as the case may be, and may make such recommendations as he or she thinks fit" (section 239.2(10)).

Facts and Evidence

(1) The Town's Procedure By-law

Section 238 of the Municipal Act requires that every municipality and local board pass a procedure by-law. Section 238 reads in part as follows:

- (2) Every municipality and local board shall pass a procedure by-law for governing the calling, place, and proceedings of meetings.
- (2.1) The procedure by-law shall provide for public notice of meetings.

The Town has a Procedure By-law that governs the calling, place, and proceedings of meetings, as well as public notice of meetings. Whether the Town had given appropriate notice of meetings is not at issue in this complaint

Neither the Act, nor the Procedure By-law restricts what can be discussed at a duly called meeting. For example, a subject that was not noted on a published agenda when notice of the meeting was given or when the meeting began can still be introduced and dealt with at a meeting, as long as any relevant procedures in the Procedure By-law are followed.

Investigation

In most cases, for an investigation about a closed meeting to proceed, there must be some specificity with respect to an alleged breach in a particular meeting and some details about the subject matter involved.

In this case the complainant referenced a period, April 22, 2019 to October 4, 2019, during which it was alleged that improperly held meetings occurred or likely occurred with respect to consideration of litigation following clearing of trees, by an individual or individuals, on municipal property adjacent to a municipal road.

We decided that our investigation would include a review of all the agendas and minutes, both open and closed, plus bylaw enforcement officer reports submitted during the period April 22 to October 25, 2019.

We also interviewed at length with the Clerk of the Town.

Findings and Recommendations

In our review of the agendas and minutes of both open and closed meetings from April 22 to October 25, 2019 we did not find any evidence of meetings that were improperly closed to the public or directions given to staff or agents that were not in accordance with the Municipal Act limitations related to the tree cutting matter.

When the issue under discussion is whether to attempt to enforce a municipal by-law, and any strategy and external advice regarding the decision, it makes sense that the discussion would take place in a closed session. The Municipal Act clearly anticipates this in Section 239(2)(e) which references litigation or potential litigation.

However, we did note that there were some “best practices” regarding disclosure in resolutions authorizing closed sessions and bifurcation of reports that would enhance transparency.

Specifically, when a motion is proposed to enter into a closed session, it should do more than simply cite the authorizing Section and paragraph of the Municipal Act if it can do so without prejudicing the interests of the municipality or another party.

For instance, if a Council were considering a motion to authorize a closed session where

the intent was to consider whether to discipline a specific employee, it would be appropriate to cite in the resolution the wording of the Act:

“That Council move into closed session to discuss *personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees;*”

The above wording in italics is a direct copy from the Act.

However, if the Council is considering a staff report regarding the negotiation parameters for purchase of land, then it might consider a motion that says:”

“That Council move into closed session to discuss *a proposed or pending acquisition of land by the municipality,* more specifically land for municipal parking expansion in the downtown area of ABC.

Again, the italicized words are directly from the Act, but the additional words regarding purpose and location do not necessarily impair the municipality’s position, but they do add transparency for the benefit of the public.

We recommend that the Town adopt the best practice as noted above in its resolutions authorizing closed sessions.

We also observed that it was the practice in 2019 of the Town’s Bylaw Enforcement Officer to submit a single report to Council in closed session, covering some matters that could have been discussed in open session, such as statistics about complaints and follow ups. By including litigation related matters in that single report as well it made the entire report eligible for presentation in closed session. That was not a best practice.

But we understand that there has since been a change and the reports of the by-law enforcement office now are prepared in two parts, one presented in public, and if necessary, one including those matters that are eligible for consideration in closed session. This is a recommended best practice that should be continued.

In summary, a Council should only consider those items in the absence of the public where it believes it is both allowed by law, and appropriate. It is in the public interest to limit the discussion of matters in closed session as much as possible and strive for transparency in doing so.

Conclusion

As noted above, we did not find any breach of the Act with respect to closed sessions of Town Council meetings regarding enforcement of tree cutting on Township property between April 22, 2019 and October 25, 2019.

We thank the Clerk for her assistance and the complainant for the detailed submission in respect of the complaint and related matters.

Public Report

This report is forwarded to the Council of the Town of Kearney. The Municipal Act provides that this report be made public. It is suggested that the report be included on the

agenda of the next regular meeting of Council.

Closed Meeting Investigator

AMBERLEY GAVEL LTD.

Per: *Nigel Bellechamber*

Tax Message - 1

To: Brenda Fraser, Town of Kearey
705-636-0527

From: The Delegates - Yasmin
Tom V, Caroline V, Ely H.

Version Control: 2

Date: April 29, 2021

cc: Delegates (Tom V, Caroline V, Ely H.)
Township Peuy (inc. Mayor)
Council

Subject: Follow up to Council Meeting April 23, 2021.

Brenda:

Firstly, thank you for a well set up (and tested in advance of our April 23 meeting) & facilitated opportunity to present to Council. Apr. 23 Cindy & Lesley were instrumental in ensuring technology success the time around a proactive, well thought out process worked well for this will ensure there are no similar problems in the future. That do the learn once again.

Attached is a delegate form for the meeting in June (I don't know date of that)

I'd also like to advise/request as follows:

- Meeting Minutes will be faxed to Council / Kearey Township w/o Prod. and.

- There are also 2 other deliverables that we continue to receive input on. However, these will be ready/available by the time of our follow up meeting in June. The 2 documents are (i) & (ii) captured on the attachment.

In addition, as mentioned, there are follow up meetings being held with the Peuy Township Mayor, as we work in conjunction with the partners of the participant Snowmobile Clubs - these discussions are due for completion by May - early June 2021. An update on this status will also be available for our follow up meeting. Reference in the attachment as (iii)

Items (i) (ii) & (iii) will be shared with Council, well in advance of the June meeting.

Meeting Minutes of (April 23, 2021) can be used as a reference for the meeting purpose in June.

Any questions, please advise.

You (e the team & Council/Mayor) for your support. Hopefully can put this issue to bed soon, allowing us to move ahead with life priorities :-)

Regards,
Yasmin



8 Main Street, P.O. Box 38 Kearney, ON P0A 1M0

Telephone: 705 636-7752

Fax: 705 636-0527

Email: admin@townofkearney.ca

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COUNCIL MEETING DATE: JUNE 4 OR JUNE 11 2021 (PLS. ADD THE DATE)

GENERAL NATURE OF DELEGATION: (A) PRESENTATION OF UPDATES & INFORMATION TO COUNCIL RELATIVE TO THE DELIVERABLES FOR "HUMAN SAFETY ISSUE" - AN OUTCOME OF (I) INPUT RECEIVED FROM VARIOUS USERS (II) UPDATED RISK SUMMARY (III) ACTIONS & TIMELINES AS RESULT OF DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SNOWMOBILE CLUBS (2/3), IN COLLABORATION WITH NORM HOFSTETER'S SUPPORT THAT IS DUE TO OCCUR MAY - EARLY JUNE 2021.

(B) A WRITTEN COPY OF THE PRESENTATION IS REQUIRED WITH ALL DELEGATION REQUESTS GET INPUT FROM COUNCIL ON THEIR RECOMMENDATION FOR NEXT STEPS PASSED ON (A)

The personal information contained in communications directed to Council and its Advisory Committees is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, and will be used to assist Council and Committee Members in their deliberations. Questions about this collection should be addressed to the Town Clerk at 8 Main Street, Box 38, Kearney, Ontario, P0A 1M0, by telephone 705 636 7752, or by email brenda.fraser@townofkearney.ca.

Communications addressed to Council and its Advisory Committees will become part of the public record and will be placed on a public agenda and made available electronically through the Town of Kearney internet website. Anonymous communications sent to Council or to its Committees will NOT be accepted.

I acknowledge that personal information contained within my communication(s) may become part of the public record and may be made available to the public through the Council/Committee process.

(Initials)

AND ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL DELEGATES

SIGNATURE: [Signature]

DATE: 2021 - April 29

(AND ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL DELEGATES)

C:\Users\clindy.alfonso\Dropbox (Team of Kearney)\Kearney\Blenk Forms\Council\Delegation Form.doc

AGENDA COMMUNICATION TO: TOWN OF KEARNEY COUNCIL, MAYOR & CLERK – June 4 2021 Council Meeting

To: Town of Kearney Mayor, Council Members & Clerk CC: Township of Perry Mayor, Council Members & Clerk	From: Delegates – Tom V; Caroline V; Elvy M; Yasmin R
Pgs inc Cover: 7	Date: June 3, 2021
Subject: Communication in the absence of Delegation at June 4 th , 2021 Town of Kearney Council Meeting	

Request, as discussed: Please upload the following on website in time for June 4th, 2021 Council Meeting. Thank you.
i) This Agenda Communication Document; ii) Accompanying 3 *deliverables/documents*- referenced below

Good day everyone:

Cancelation of attendance June 4, 2021 Meeting:

We were advised yesterday that the Town of Kearney feels there is no value having Delegates attend the June 4th 2021, until additional meetings/discussions (currently in progress) are completed amongst Township members, Stakeholders & Delegates – these meetings are on target for mid-late June 2021, after COVID lockdown lifts.

We were looking forward to the June 4th meeting. There’s been significant and positive progress on discussions with stakeholders & partners (including with Mayor Norm Hofstetter), an excellent opportunity to share those with you.

In addition, our intent (as captured in the `Agenda` for June 4th meeting, submitted April 29th, 2021), was to briefly share key deliverables/documents with you and answer any questions you may have had. Albeit disappointed, we respect the decision and look forward to joining in the next Town of Kearney Council Meeting on July 16th 2021.

In the absence of our attendance, please review the *three deliverables/documents* included with this communication. If there are any questions or comments, please advise one of the four Delegates. Thank you

- i) User Input Documentary ii) Updated Risk Analysis Summary iii) Kearney Council Meeting Minutes - April 23, 2021.

Delegation Request for next Council Meeting July 16th, 2021:

A Delegation Request for July 16th has been submitted today. We would much appreciate prioritization for a few reasons:

- It would be relevant to evaluate outcome of various discussions that the many partners engage in over May-early July
- Answer your questions on documents we submitted (User Input Documentary; Updated Risk Analysis Summary)
- Complete key discussions with you & get your consensus, as we work closely to meet key timelines

The priority is to establish a resolution prior to 2021 Snowmobile Season, thus mitigating or significantly reducing the documented Risks. Our understanding is that Trail Map Updates occur in September each year, therefore the need to target resolution completion, prior to Aug 31, 2021. We hope you are in agreement with this approach.

As Reference: A snapshot of Activities (some complete and others ``in progress``) taking place prior to the July 16th 2021 Kearney Council Meeting are captured below. Your participation and support on any of these would be much appreciated.

<p>Action 4 - TP Council Meeting 17-03-21</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request/Schedule Meeting with Mayor Norm Hofstetter to understand status of his discussions with Snowmobile Club Owners Presidents. (Meeting date: March 31st, 2021) • Mayor Norm required additional time to have discussions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Snowmobile Club Owners –COMPLETE (May 14 2021) b) Kearney Township Council* - ON TARGET (June 14-26, 2021) c) Decision next steps with Kearney Council on executing change – ON TARGET July 16, 2021. Attendance TBF by Town of Kearney) <p>* It has been recommended by Mayor that the most efficient way to address this is through a `walkabout or walkthrough` of areas that can be used as alternates. A great idea, Delegates concur. Based on discussions late May with some Township members, the request to include a Delegate (an avid snowmobiler) to jointly partner with the Township & other stakeholders (Club President(s) in this activity. Thank you for being open. (Meeting Minutes with Perry Mayor for details & Delegate availability)</p>	<p>Members of Township of Perry; Town of Kearney; Other Appropriate Stakeholders; Delegates</p>	<p>IN PROGRESS Note: For purposes of efficiencies for all partners involved: -Requests from Delegates for relevant meetings with Mayor Norm Hofstetter will continue to be routed through Town Clerk Beth Morden. - Any other meetings (including walkthroughs of specific areas etc, as initiated by the Townships, will be routed through Township of Perry). Thank you both – the process has worked well for everyone.</p>
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Appreciation – For successful continuation of collaborative discussions (local levels)

The Delegates and several others (including Users, other stakeholders and partners) express their **appreciation**:

- Mayor Hofstetter’s leadership: Initiating talks with local Snowmobile Clubs, sharing documents & obtaining support.
- Mayor Ballantyne, Council Members Town of Kearney; and Council Members, Township of Perry: Your continued engagement & focus on this Issue; your empathy and ongoing support in executing the appropriate resolution.
- Snowmobile Club Partners inc. OFSC Dst 11; Highland Rovers; Almaguin District Snowmobile Club: Thank you!
- Our Town Clerks and Administration Team Beth, Amy, Erica, Brenda, Lesley, Cindy: Thank you!

- End of document -

Presented by: Presenters/Delegates - Tom V; Caroline V; Elvy M; Yasmin R

Presented to: Council Members & Mayors of Town of Kearney and Perry Township; And See Note 2 below

Document Scope:

- *Preliminary Detailed User Input Report*, summarizes that received from a partial group of Users (non-recreational motorized; non-motorized; Other motorized and non-motorized), as described in *Report Human Safety Issue, Impact Summary (Feb 2021)*
- The consolidated format lists each comment received, using numbered bullets; some reflect 'joint/consulted' resident/family input. Some edits were made to remove inadvertent mention of personal references or context, again in the interest of privacy constraints
- The consolidated format excludes personal information and/or indicators (names, addresses, situational references) due to privacy constraints, as confirmed/agreed upon in discussions with key stakeholders/authorities and Townships. The origin of the input source will remain confidential for duration of discussions and beyond the date(s) of satisfactory resolution of Human Safety Issue.

Notes:

1. Some Users have requested additional time to provide their Input (due to work and schedule priorities). This Preliminary Document will be updated further and re-issued as a Final Report by a target date of June 15, 2021
2. For 'transparency' and consistency in communication, *Preliminary Detailed User Input Report* will be shared with appropriate Stakeholders /Authorities (discretion will be used), after it is submitted to the two Councils/Mayors (Kearney & Perry).

CONSOLIDATED USER DETAIL INPUT (Part 1 of 2. Part 2 will be shared via facsimile by June 15, 2021)

1. On many occasions during 2020/2021 Winter we have experienced large numbers of snowmobiles running "way above" the posted legal speed limit and failing to stop at the posted stop signs on both Woodland lane and Fisher lake & Emsdale lake Road. This represents a danger to people and vehicles that happen to pass by. It is a very dangerous situation and the trail needs to be moved out of this residential subdivision as a result of this danger
2. We have discussed our experiences together. We have found that the only situations we have seen is when we are leaving our community turning left, on fisher lake and go up the hill (towards Emsdale Lake). We feel that this is because the snowmobilers stop/ look at snowmobile stop sign, then continue but do not see the car entering the intersection due to snowbanks.
We are wondering if there have been discussions to make this a three-way stop (adding a third stop sign), prior to asking for the trail to be moved. I have read the updates provided (thanks for sharing) and have not seen any mention of this option. We feel that having a three-way stop could help with many of the situations at that intersection.
3. We are avid snowmobile and ATV trail users and specifically selected to move to this area due to the location of the trail. We understand that there are some concerns and support a change being made for the community safety.
 - o However we would be also interested in looking into/ understanding what other options have been investigated and suggested to the town/ snowmobile club, as the trails bring a lot of revenue to the community as a whole.
 - o If this is a systemic issue, does moving the trail to another street fix the issue or just move it elsewhere?
We want to ensure that our neighbourhood is a safe place and still support the community and value that these recreational sports bring. We hope that our suggestion can be considered and a solution is put into place that covers both safety and the revenue brought to our town though these sports.
Thanks, we value the ask for the community experience and feedback.
4. We experienced 2 occurrences as a User: 1) The first one right at 70 Woodland Lane, which involved the OPP and resulted in the snowmobiler being charged with failure to stop. He also had severe damage to the sled because he hit the front of the truck that was being driven by the User. The snowmobile came up over the hill, out of the trail from Patton Road and the User was exiting from the driveway of 70 Woodland Lane. 2) A second incident occurred, where one almost hit us in our vehicle, just as we approached the portion of the road, right where the trail exits the swamp onto Fisher Lake Road – ie just about at 79 Fisher Lake Road/Lane. We were coming up the hill towards this section, making a pass out to the end of the road and the snowmobiler didn't stop at the sign and therefore didn't see us coming because he was going too fast and we didn't see him until he was almost upon us (again as he didn't stop and was driving too fast coming off the swamp).
In the 30 + years we have been here, there have been a lot of incidents, most of them unreported. But in the more recent years, they move 'way faster' and are a lot more disrespectful of their surroundings. Due to these safety issues, we have unfortunately stopped snowmobiling as a family activity.
Hope you get more support from our community council. Will sign in for June 4th meeting if I am not too busy at work.
5. With the exception of January 2021, it's rare that I am at the cottage in winter – although, that will change soon. Two incidents come to mind that I've experienced during two March breaks before COVID restrictions took place.
 - 1) The first was a walk down Woodland Rd. with my older large dog on a lovely sunny day. I heard snowmobiles, not unusual, but couldn't tell from where, since sound travels. Two snowmobiles came up on the hill pretty darn fast, but as soon as they saw us, they throttled right down and passed by us with a friendly wave. Okay, not so bad, but we were spooked by the commotion. 2) The second incident happened a couple of years later, again during March Break. This one was not a good encounter. Two sleds came flying up from the hill side by side from Patton

Rd., with a third sled following behind. This time, there was no slow down with the third driver briefly glancing back at me as they continued on their way down Woodland Rd. I get the thrill of speed on a snowmobile. I've had that fun myself. There is a time and place for that, but not on a shared road used by others in a variety of ways.

Feel free to use my experiences during the town meeting. I will be listening to the meeting with interest on the 4th.

6. Dear Sir or Ma'am: This letter is in regards to the impact of having the Snowmobile club's D Trial coming through Woodland Lane/Fisher Lake Lane/Patton Road. We live on one of these impacted roads and this has been a safety concern in my family for years. The amount of traffic and speed at which they operate along this section is a big concern not only for myself, but also for other Users (snowmobilers or regular motorized traffic) and here are the reasons why

We get our driveway plowed (with a tractor, as some residents do), and large visible pilons are placed on the road to caution Users. Also note that tractors can only go at a particular speed. The visible pilons seldom slows them down and in one incident, they rode right over the pilons. The tractor cannot be operated any faster than it goes, nor can it be quickly moved off the road when the approaching 'high speed sounds' are heard (sometimes). This causes significant stress, each time the machine is operated/used, knowing these high speeds and non-stop at the stop sign, can likely cause a severe collision.

Recently, the snowmobile club after becoming aware of the concerns, placed an additional large STOP sign at the top of the hill and a 30KM/HR sign on the road coming off Patton Road, onto Woodland Lane. However, this sign is not followed in most cases and again operating the tractor for winter plowing, snowmobilers came flying by me almost like they were on a "bucking horse" to avoid hitting me. Or they would end up going into a "long slide".

The common gestures of the "hands up" and "stare down" from snowmobilers happens during the operation of the tractor, as if it was the fault of the operator and that they shouldn't be present at all. The problem is that they are not following the posted signs for speed and/or stop signs or take caution and slow down due to the pilons being placed in clear view (see above). Again, this causes a great deal of stress, time and time again, each day the machine is operated. The biggest fear/concern is about the repercussions of one of those snowmobiles colliding with the operator, and though it is unthinkable, somebody is going to get hurt or killed sooner or later.

Woodland Lane walking north towards Patton Rd is a wonderful walk and has been for many years. I and my family enjoy this walk very much. This has continued to change over the recent years. It is impossible to walk once the d-trail is open because you cannot share this road with the snowmobilers, though that is how we understand it should be. They operate way too fast for safety and the volume is way too high to enjoy it in any capacity.

The same dangers apply, if one remains on Woodland south and Fisher Lake lane. I walk on this road with my dog and it is impossible to get any sort of enjoyment or exercise. Most snowmobiles speed past (excessive and over the posted limits), don't move over to make room for pedestrians and the volume is just too great for safety (All this has continued to worsen over the years). If they do go past you, they are 'burring up' the snowbanks and make gestures or 'stare' down, as if you are in their way.

My driveway is not a toilet or a garbage pail.....Group breaks are common (including during COVID lockdown times). I have a wide opening to my driveway and group breaks are common. Urinating all over the driveway and leaving coolant jugs and water bottles on the driveway is not appreciated.

We are not against the having snowmobiles using trails, it's good for the local business and the benefits go on. However, as a member of this community, with a family of young children and pets, we are not able to use this portion of the road because of a huge safety concern and strongly believe this trail should be moved.

7. We are avid snowmobilers and get as much use out of the trails as we can but with the pandemic and our work schedules we don't get up to enjoy the cottage as we would like. I have seen firsthand what goes on during snowmobile season with riders cutting through our property and speeding down the road past our cottage so I fully understand why other Users, including permanent residents are requiring the trail to be moved. The safety factor is the main reason and it is only a matter of time before something happens. We enjoy the convenience of the trail running by our cottage. However it is no big deal if we have to drive down the road to catch the trail elsewhere and keep everyone safe. We enjoy our time at the cottage and like the fact that our neighbours also keep an eye on things and inform us of any activity around our cottage.
8. As a cottager, we have had no personal experience of danger, but have had some winter walks spoiled by the terrible exhaust smell of snowmobiles (maybe a lot are still two-stroke?), which just hangs in the winter air. Also, the incessant whine of snowmobiles on weekend echoes across the landscape and to our cottage, which must be at least ¼ km from the trail, maybe more.
Working with the town and the trail users is clearly the way to go, though except as a means of transportation I believe that snowmobiling/ATVs are exactly the opposite of the way we should be using and preserving the countryside.

9. May 29, 2021 RE: Recreational Vehicle Safety Concerns. To the Township of Kearney, We are new Kearney residents and have two small children ages 3 and 6. On several occasions, we have been walking on Fisher Lake Lane/Road-Woodland Lane-Patton Road and experienced the use of recreational vehicles in a manner that we feel has put our family's safety at risk. This was discovered within a week of moving into the community.

On one occasion, the snowmobiler was zig zagging across the road, leaving very little space for our family to move out of the way. On another occasion, the snowmobiler came up the hill on Fisher Lake Lane, going towards Woodland Lane so fast, they were only visible at the last moment, and I had to push the children into a snow-bank to move them out of the snowmobile operator's direct path.

While the majority of the recreational vehicle operators appear to be respectful and slow down and give space to my young family, it is the exceptions to this group I feel create great danger for our community. During peak snowmobile season we no longer feel comfortable walking on Fisher Lake Lane/Road-Woodland Lane-Patton Road, and the children are afraid every time they hear a recreational vehicle approaching.

I have trust in the township to do the right thing and protect the safety of my young family and this community by reconsidering the parameters of the trail before there is a tragic accident. Your leadership in this matter will help ensure the safety of our community and its children for years to come.

Sincerely, X

10. Following are some of the concerns regarding the snowmobile trail that passes through Fisherlake subdivision.

We have lived here year round for over 15 years. As the years have gone by, snowmobile traffic has increased dramatically, with less regard for speed, signage and willingness to share the road. As a consequence there have been some close calls with collisions. With the high snow banks there is reduced visibility. In addition the increase in noise levels has also increased dramatically. A proposal to move the trail from this section of the community, will be safer for everyone who is a User on these impacted roads.

11. In areas maintained by Town, they cut the snowbanks down, so when exiting a driveway you have a chance to see what's coming at you. In our case, we don't have – you exit your driveway, taking a chance and hoping for the best. The town has a Road allowance for two trucks and we have the width of two snow blades. Snowmobilers tend to ride the banks and pack them down, making it harder to keep the road wide enough to pass safely.

Walking as part of our need for exercise and access, is a challenge. We have no idea what these snowmobilers are going to do. And we are at their mercy. Some of them believe this is a trail not a 'commonly shared' road and that we, as pedestrians, should not be walking on the trail. As time has passed over the recent years, the volume of Users (non-snowmobilers) has continued to grow – more Users walking dogs, walking with children, pulling children in toboggans or sleds, attempting to cross country ski and snow shoe (along the sides of the roads where we live and or on the lake). This needs to be taken into consideration.

12. The snowmobiles are very powerful machines, with capability of high speeds and power. They use the road/section mentioned above for 'dragstrip' and stunt driving. On many occasions, young children (including an incident with a 12 year old) are on the rear seat of these power houses. It is a very dangerous situation that continues to play out along these sections of the roads. These machines need to be routed on roads that are able to support that level of speed. This allows pedestrians or other non-motorized Users, to see them and get out of their way, unlike what we as Users experience.
13. When exiting my driveway, I need a 'spotter' to make sure a snowmobile isn't flying by either hit me, my family and/or my vehicle. Snowbanks are high and so is the non adherence to speed and stop signs. The other danger was if you are walking and snowmobiles speed by you or towards you, you have nowhere to go due to snowbanks and because of how close the snowmobiles get to you, at the speed they are going.
14. As a fulltime resident, I have experienced many negative interactions with snowmobilers on the Woodland Lane/Fisherlake Rd.section of the D- trail. February 28, 2021 I have video of two sledders not even slowing down for the south-bound stop sign at that intersection, speeding straight through. A police report was made. A week later a sled coming north from the lake portion of the trail onto Fisherlake Rd., slid to with-in 6 inches of side swiping me because they didn't stop at their stop sign. These are just two of the many negative interactions.

- End of Part 1 of 2 of this document. Part 2 of 2 of this document will follow by June 15, 2021-

**Report - Human Safety Issues due to Recreational Vehicles Use of Portion of D Trail
(ie, Snowmobiles and All Terrain Vehicles-ATV's)**

**UPDATED RISK ANALYSIS SUMMARY Part 1 of 2*
Interim DRAFT Report @ May 31, 2021**

Presented by: Presenters/Delegates - Tom V; Caroline V; Elvy M; Yasmin R
Presented to: Council Members & Mayors of Town of Kearney and Perry Township;

Document Scope:

- Updates in this document include those since first published report (February 2020; 1 year ago) and highlighted using revision tool.
- Updates made, prioritize snowmobile traffic related risks only (along the impacted route) – due to time sensitive discussions.
- *This document DOES NOT include Updates for risks and related impacts of ATV traffic. Updates will be addressed in Part 2 of this version, in conjunction with discussions with appropriate stakeholders & partners. Target timeline: Q3/early Q4 2021.
- Input in this document is as result of feedback received from many Users, including those more directly impacted by the risks
- For purposes of 'transparency' and consistency in communication, this document will be shared with appropriate Stakeholders /Authorities, after it is submitted to members at both Township of Perry and Town of Kearney.

CONTEXT:

- **BACKGROUND:** Due to increases to escalating risks since the D-trail was routed along the said impacted route (captured below), and with fear continuing to grow among Users (and family/friends), the need for a greater 'call to action' was required. This was due to engagement of authorities/partners, by some Users in the past, resulting in negative or no-outcome. Research and consultation was done relative to the "appropriate process" for resolving community centric issues related to human safety & health. Due protocol and process was then followed by engaging all appropriate partners, identifying & communicating the issues/risks, providing input on recommendations for change. Many partners have witnessed (and experienced) the nature of the issues and risks captured within this report.
- **ISSUE SUMMARY (The impacted route, a small portion of the D Trail):** Fisher Lake Lane/Road-Woodland Lane-Patton Road (also commonly referred to as a Concession Road) has been subject to numerous (and in many cases 'significant') human safety related occurrences, since 2012 approx., with escalating incidents 2015 through 2021.
- Many of these risks and issues are well known to many community members & stakeholders, both within the Town of Kearney and surrounding Perry Township (Based on awareness: a) as Users and/or b) as result of hearing about incidents/occurrences shared with municipal and/or enforcement partners). To-date no actions have been taken to officially eliminate these risks to human life and safeguard impacted Users (users and non-users of recreational vehicles)

RISK ANALYSIS SUMMARY

- A Risk Analysis has been updated ~~completed to assess the above Issue.~~
- **Summary: A total of 40 12 Key Risks have been identified, with details below:**
 - Catastrophic: 3
 - Severe: 3
 - High: 6

Input based on following key principles of Risk Assessment, which included research & monitoring, studying patterns, volumes and speed of the motorized recreational vehicles (snowmobiles and ATV's); consulting with key stakeholders impacted by the Issue; consulting with partners and stakeholders who are like riders (of snowmobiles and atv's) and key community leaders (within and outside our municipality).

<u>Risk #</u>	<u>Severity of Consequence</u>	<u>No. of Risks.</u>	<u>Risk Category, Location & Description</u>	<u>Probability & Timing</u>	<u>Risk Management</u>
1	Catastrophic	3	<p>Human Safety</p> <p>i. Coming off Fisher Lake onto Fisher Road; ii. Coming off Woodland Lane & Fisher Lake Rd onto Fisher Lake; iii. Using Fisher Lake Road <u>as trail</u> (going towards Woodland Lane & Patton Road and vice versa) (All of the above happening while signs and speed limits are not being followed AND vehicular and pedestrian and non-motorized traffic continue to use the main Fisher Lake <u>Road/Lane</u>, Woodland Lane and Patton Road either from a said property onto the respective roads OR as a means of access into and out of the Town of Kearney)</p>	High-Short Term	Avoid – due to severity
2	Severe	2	<p>Human Safety</p> <p>i. Coming off Patton Rd onto Woodland Lane (It is near impossible for 2 residents in this vicinity to get out of their driveways, without getting involved in a severe accident. Families here are older adults; with pets; young adults with pets and young children (A human chain was formed by a few community members across this section of the road in FY2019 to allow a young family, with 3 young children in their vehicle to safely get into their driveway) ii. Coming off Fisher Lake Lane onto Fisher Lake Rd (especially with larger vehicular traffic inc service providers of fuel and maintenance vehicles such as utility companies) Note: Potential for a snowmobile rider to be impacted by this risk is also severe.</p>	High-Short Term	Avoid – due to severity
3	High	24	<p>Human Safety</p> <p>–i) Coming off snowbanks from Fisher Lake (while the Fisher Lake Trail has high volume) and coming right onto Fisher Lake Road and going towards Woodland Lane & Patton Road (Above taking place while vehicular (recreational and non-recreational) and pedestrian and non-motorized traffic continue to use the main Fisher Lake <u>Lane/Road</u>, Woodland Lane and Patton Road either from a said property onto the respective roads OR as a means of access into and out of the Town of Kearney) Despite occurrence is low, the risk continues to remain High Note: This potential for a snowmobile rider to get impacted by this risk is also high ii) <u>Coming from Emsdale Lake Road (pit/corner of EMLk Rd and Fisher Lake Road) around curve and onto Emsdale Lk Rd going towards Kearney Road. There is no stop sign here. There have been numerous 'near misses' with snowmobiles, as they drive too fast and in large volumes (back-back). They are therefore unable to stop or slow down easily when approaching motorized or non-motorized traffic occurs (as seen/reported by many Users). When snow banks are higher, the risk is further compounded.</u> <u>The recommendation is to have a STOP sign installed at that junction. There has also been a known incident of a collision between non-recreational vehicles (minor).</u></p>	High-Short Term	Mitigate – Through careful (and fear based visual checkpoints by those likely to be impacted)

4	SEVERE with HIGH potential for Catastrophic based on incidents witnessed/ documented Feb 2020-Mar 2021	1	<p>Human Safety</p> <p>i. Riding along snowbanks alongside and across! the majority of driveways (NOT just the road allowance section of the driveway). This has started happening BOTH when the banks are full and high – more as a fun-filled activity (mainly Fri – Sun) OR when the impacted section of the Fisher Lake Lane/Road and Woodland Lane (along which trail runs) – has lesser snow/cushioning)</p> <p>(Based on documented data/footage and based on witnesses observing behaviour): It is near impossible for 7 residents along this route to get out of their driveways very often, when there are any significant snowbanks alongside the road, without getting involved in a severe accident. Motorized traffic coming out of driveways (residents, visitors, delivery trucks, fuel supply trucks to name a few) have had very close run-ins with this kind of activity.</p> <p>In addition, non-motorized traffic (those walking out of their driveways, while still ON their driveways have had close ‘misses’ several times, due to this behaviour</p> <p>Clear examples based on multiple user’s witnessing these (and data/footage of the impacted areas) include – public and portions of private property where the trees have been completely trampled upon/squashed (and no longer growing in the Spring) on sections where they have left the roads and are intentionally driving on snowbanks that run alongside OR on private property</p>	High-Short Term	Avoid – due to severity
4 5	Medium-HIGH -as impacts are currently unknown	3	<p>Health Impacts</p> <p>i. <u>Air Pollution:</u> It is a known fact that exhausts contain often dangerous levels of airborne toxins including nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, ozone, aldehydes, butadiene, benzenes and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. In areas where the air flow is more restricted (or on days when there is moisture present or low winds, the smoke is often smelled inside several households and along the road that is traveled by non-vehicular traffic). No formal research or studies have been conducted to evaluate this.</p> <p>ii. <u>Water Pollution:</u> With Fisher Lake being the size it is (small and contained), the volume of traffic on this lake has a potential for risk of ground and surface water contamination, and the resultant impact to the health of the residents from and around the impacted area (majority use the lake water for human consumption). No research or studies have been conducted yet to evaluate this.</p> <p>iii. <u>Dust Pollution (ATV’s only):</u> In addition to exhaust pollution, dust clouds can lead to significant respiratory issues for non-vehicular users, particularly as all the impacted roads described above are dirt roads. Continued exposure can often lead to an escalation in breathing and other health impacts. No formal research or studies have been conducted to evaluate this/expertise and resources unavailable at this time</p> <p><u>NOTE: THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL USERS (MANY OF WHO ARE SENIORS OR PARENTS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN - MANY WITH SIGNIFICANT HEALTH CONDITIONS, INCLUDING RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS) WHO HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERNS. OTHERS HAVE MORE RECENTLY EXPRESSED A CONCERN RELATIVE TO IMPACTS TO WATER, PRELIMINARY INPUT ON THIS IS INCLUDED WITHIN THE USER INPUT DOCUMENTARY OF MAY 31 2021. AS A RESULT, RATING HAS BEEN CHANGED TO “HIGH”. UPDATES TO THE ABOVE SECTION WILL BE ADDRESSED IN THE NEXT VERSION OF THIS REPORT AS SOME USERS REQUIRE MORE TIME TO PROVIDE THEIR SPECIFIC FEEDBACK (Some have indicated they are also in consultation with their medical partners to better understand if there are any impacts as result of the excessive impacts due to Emissions and Dust impacting them) TARGET MID 2021</u></p>	Unknown; Short-Medium Term	Avoid – Due to the landscape, terrain and the inability to regulate noise levels.
6 5	Medium-High-	1	Noise Pollution	Unknown-Short –Long Term	Avoid – Due to

as impacts are currently unknown	<p>It is well known that noise pollution from snowmobiles can be heard from vast distances, severely affecting the winter soundscape and thus having significant impact on humans, habitat and wildlife.</p> <p>In the context of the current situation, the impact to human health is significant due to the road-scape and the speed. The risk of NIHL (Noise Induced Hearing Loss) is well documented. Notwithstanding NIHL is also a major cause of numerous diseases or disorders, particularly in a more vulnerable population – seniors, children and those with disabilities.</p> <p>Also present are the regular impacts of “open throttle” activities and those of machines with high performance engines (all mostly present during the Thurs-Mon windows). This risk is primarily related to Snowmobiles. ATV’s are less of an impact.</p> <p>Once again, no formal research or studies have been conducted to evaluate this/expertise and resources unavailable at this time.</p> <p><u>NOTE: PRELIMINARY INPUT ON THIS IS INCLUDED WITHIN THE USER INPUT DOCUMENTARY OF MAY 31 2021. THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL OTHER USERS WHO HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERNS, AS A RESULT, RATING HAS BEEN CHANGED TO “HIGH”. UPDATES TO THE ABOVE SECTION WILL BE ADDRESSED IN THE NEXT VERSION OF THIS REPORT AS SOME USERS REQUIRE MORE TIME TO PROVIDE THEIR SPECIFIC FEEDBACK. TARGET MID 2021</u></p>	the landscape, terrain and the inability to regulate noise levels..
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NOTES and CONTEXT:

- Above summary is based on averages of the *visual observations* of the impacted areas captured above over period 2018-2020-2021 May 31
 - Input provided by various Users of these areas. - This also includes from other fellow snowmobilers and ATV-ers who are also impacted by the majority of recreational vehicle users.
 - Notes for Risks 1, 2 and 3 – THIS SECTION WILL BE UPDATED IN THE NEXT VERSION OF REPORT*:
 - Ignoring Posted Signage (Directional; Trailhead; Warning & Speed Signs):
 - The Stop, Yield, Slow Signage are rarely adhered to.
 - (Based on research 95% of cases don’t follow the signs, at any given time or day).
 - The Speed Restriction Signage is also rarely adhered to
 - (Based on research; 95-98% during the Thurs-Mon timeframe do not follow it; 40% do not follow it during the Tues-Wed timeframe).
- Speeds are most often well in excess of 50kmph on average (ranging from the polite 20kmph by local residents or Kearney and surrounding town riders to well over 90kmph)

*(A more updated Risk Analysis will follow early-mid 2021)

END OF DOCUMENT



705-382-2900
www.almaguin-health.org

Minutes: May 7th, 2021 Via Zoom

Present: Dennis Banka, Rod Ward, Tom Bryson, Barbara Marlow and Lyle Hall, Brad Kneller, Marianne Stickland, Carol Ballantyne and Cathy Still (arrived at 11:07)

Regrets: Norm Hofstetter,

Guests: Jeanette Smith – ACED and Kevin MacLeod, BFFHT Executive Director

Secretary: Erica Kellogg

Call to order at 11:00am by Chair Rod Ward.

1. 2021-041 Moved by Barbara Marlow and Seconded Brad Kneller
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Centre Committee adopt the minutes from April 7th, 2021, as circulated. Carried.

2. **Delegations:** None at this time

3. **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:** None declared

4. **Resolutions passed:** Resolution 2021-42 MAOHT to support. Deferred.

“THAT The Almaguin Highlands Health Council does not support the creation of an ‘Almaguin only’ Ontario Health Team at this time. Should there be a significant negative change in the relationship with MAOHT, the Almaguin Highlands Health Council will re-evaluate the Almaguin Highlands Ontario Health Team application”.

4. Items for Discussion

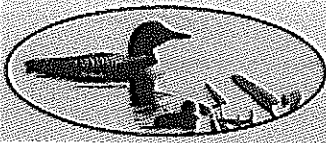
- a) R. Ward informed the Committee he presented to Almaguin Community Economic Development during their regular meeting held on April 19th, 2021. R. Ward has also been asked to present to the Township of Perry and the Strong Sundridge Joly Medical Committee at their next meetings.
- b) R. Ward also updated the Committee on the MAOHT meetings in which he has participated in. Speaking to the various Committees and working

groups, in total there is five working groups addressing various aspects of the MAOHT.

- c) Discussion regarding the resolution of support for MAOHT commenced. Members discussed boundaries, participation of service providers and progress made with both MAOHT, NNHWOHT and AHOHT. Members deferred the resolution, opting to have a discussion at individual Council tables prior to moving the resolution forward. If Councils would like R. Ward is able to attend meetings for further information.
- d) May's AHHC Status Report, R. Ward discussed the statues update.
- e) Treasure's report: received with no questions.
- f) Other business – non at this time

Resolution: 2021-43 Moved by Tom Bryson and Seconded by Marianne Stickland
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Almaguin Highlands Health Centre adjourn at 12:07pm to meet again on TBA. Carried.

DRAFT



Welcome to our May 2021 Newsletter

Included in this issue:

- Loons - Voice of the Wilderness by Carol Adamthwaite
- It's Black Fly Season by Doris Villemaire
- Our Past Winter Weather - An Update by Stan Walker

Loons – Voice of the Wilderness

Loons are one of the oldest birds in North America – 60 million years old! Many of us anxiously wait to hear their unique calls echoing across the silent lake signalling their return each Spring. With their intricately patterned black and white plumage they are also one of the most beautiful birds on our lakes.

The Common Loon is the variety that nests here on our Northern Lakes . They are adapted well for diving and fishing in the lakes. Their legs are set far back on their bodies. They do not walk well on land, but are excellent swimmers and agile under water.

In the water, they are able to sink like a submarine by compressing their feathers, lungs and internal air. Their bones are not light and porous like other birds. Their dense bones allow them to sink quietly under the water or remain partially submerged, almost unseen..

Male loons usually return first, establishing their territory and scouting out the lake. They have strict requirements for a nesting site. Because their legs are set so far back on their heavy bodies they require a site very close and level with the edge of the lake so that they can slide on and off the nest into the water. The nest site also needs a deep water approach, privacy, and protection from wave action. Islands are preferred for protection from predators.

Loons, unlike ducks and geese who may raise 10-12 offspring a summer, raise only 1 or 2 chicks. The eggs incubate for 29 days and usually hatch within a day of each other. One of the parents is on the nest 98% of the time during incubation. Loon chicks are hatched covered in down and can swim within a day. Once they leave the nest they do not return to it. It may be 3 or 4 years before they touch dry land again when they

themselves return to a Northern lake to breed. Chicks are still vulnerable after leaving the nest and rely on their parents who must oil the chicks feathers until their own oil glands develop. For up to 8 weeks the parents provide food until they can adequately feed themselves. They often ride on their parents backs for protection from predators and to stay dry and warm. At 2 weeks the young are half the size of their parents and are beginning to learn to dive. At 4-6 weeks they begin to grow the juvenile plumage which is similar to the winter plumage of their parents. By late October the young loons are beginning to fly and the parents leave first for the ocean. Loons are sometimes the last to leave before freeze up. The adolescent young will stay on the ocean for 3 -4 years until they develop their familiar black and white breeding colours and return to our Northern Lakes to nest.

Loon populations are struggling. Given their low birth rates, the dangers of spending 3 to 4 years on the ocean, predators, environmental issues, and human behaviours, it is easy to see why. Young chicks are prey to gulls, turtles, large fish, skunks and raccoons. On the ocean, oil slicks, storms, and plastics are a threat. When they return to our Northern Lakes, fluctuating water levels, reduced habitat, climate change, toxicity in the lake, lead sinkers and lack of fish, all have a detrimental effect on loon populations.

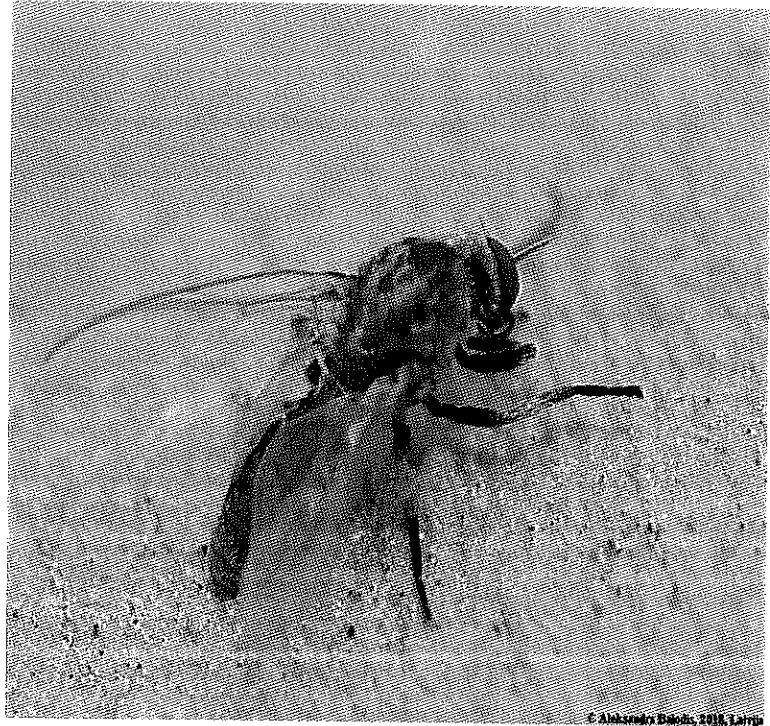
Our May 24 and July 1st holiday weekends come at one of the most vulnerable times in the life of loons. In May they are beginning to lay their eggs and incubate them. July 1 is often hatching time for the chicks. Fast moving Jet skis, and power boats can wash out the nest or drown the chicks who cannot dive to get out of their path. View the parents, chicks and nest from a distance using binoculars rather than approaching too close and cause them to feel threatened. Give them space !

Understanding loon behaviour is important. The familiar "tremolo" or "laughing" call is actually a distress call. If a loon gives this call, it means that you have approached too closely. Parents will try to lead you away from the chicks or their nest. They will abandon the nest if humans come too close or if they have been off the nest too long trying to divert humans from it. A loon rearing out of the water (the penguin dance) is a panic response; leave the area immediately.

Make your lake "loon friendly". Some things that may help encourage loons to continue to nest on your lake are:- warning signs around nesting sites and loon habitat, creating nest platforms, and encouraging other lake users to respect these icons of the North by giving them space especially while they are on the nest or caring for their chicks.

It's Black Fly Season

It's that time of year again...Spring yes... along with those annoying, biting pesky bugs...Black flies! They are the true north bug. They are especially abundant in our northern wooded areas and near any waterways like ponds, creeks, rivers and lake outlets. Black flies are often attracted to dark clothing, much like the shade or darker areas. To ward these pests away, try wearing bright colors or white clothing when you head outside. Unlike mosquitoes, black flies are



mainly active during the day especially if it's cloudy. These bugs are attracted to the increased levels of lactic acid odors from people who are exercising and doing manual labour outdoors. The smell of stress will play a key role in bug bites.

These nasty little critters tend to swarm around your head and skin before biting, and then sneak under your collar and clothing, biting any exposed skin, especially on the wrists, ankles, waistline, neck and hairline. Ouch! Their bites normally leave a small welt and a droplet of blood, and may itch for several days sometime causing an infection for those with allergies. Females have biting mouthparts, which they use to cut into the skin of birds and mammals to draw blood. The blood is then sucked up along a hollow channel.

Fortunately, the lifespan of Black Flies is short, lasting only 2-3 weeks. Hurrah! The Black Flies breeding ground is clear running water. Their hiding places are under leaves, twigs, and branches, or even in tall grass or under rocks.

Believe it or not, black flies do serve a good purpose. The larva is a significant food source for trout and other fish. Birds like the phoebe and flycatchers and bats feed on these small insects. There is a belief that black flies mean more blueberries; but there is no actual proof of this.

Using a topical insect repellent will help somewhat to deter these little insects. And if you have to be outside when the black flies are here the best approach is to wear a bug jacket. To lighten up the season, Robert Munch wrote a children's' book about black flies titled *Blackflies*. Then a very catchy tune was written by Wade Hemsworth called *The Black fly song*.

“And the black flies, the little black flies
Always the black fly, no matter where you go
I'll die with the black fly a-picking my bones
In north on-tar-i-o-i-o, in north.” Wade Hemsworth

Our Past Winter Weather - An Update From Big Clam Lake

Looking back at our past winter - it wasn't as bad as many I've experienced. "Ice on" date for Big Clam Lake was Dec 8 2020 and the lake was open again by April 9th. Our average temperature for January was (21.8 F or -5.7 C) February (15.5 F or -9.2 C) March (29.4 F or -1.4 C) and April (43.1 F or 6.2 C). Our coldest night was in February (-21.8 F or -29.9 C).

Total snowfall December through the end of March was 128 inches (325 cm) and the snowpack in the bush topped out at 39 inches (99.1 cm). Largest snowfall occurred in late February - 14 in. (35.6 cm). I have an 18" square piece of plywood in the hardwood bush that I use to measure snowfall depth after each storm. The board is then swept clean ready for the next storm. Snowpack was measured in the same area but it is an accumulated depth of undisturbed snow which takes natural compaction into account. I tried to pick a spot that wasn't sheltered and also wasn't subject to drifting. It should be noted that a light fluffy 10 inch snowfall could easily compact down to 3-4 inches after a few warm sunny days. The snow back here on Big Clam Lake had mostly disappeared by the end of March this year.

It initially appeared that we might have an actual early spring but the cold weather remained throughout April. I set up the external weather station and rain gauges on April 11 and recorded 1.87 inches (47.4 mm) of rain for the balance of April. While many birds arrived early, the serious business of starting to raise a new brood appears to have been delayed until early May. We saw our first hummer May 9th with the main crowd arriving a week later.

Thanks to everyone who helped with our litter cleanup at the beginning of May. While it is a year round job, we all need to continue to do our part to keep this beautiful area litter free. Please pitch in ! The picture on the right was this years collection of beer cans from Rain Lake & Echo Ridge. Not shown were 6 bags of garbage and lots of recyclables. We don't have a total count as others had already picked portions of the road.



We hope to have articles on Naturlizing Your Shoreline and Living With Wildlife in our June newsletter. Stay well, stay safe and enjoy our beautiful spring weather.

Important Information for Partners & Leaders

In the Simcoe Muskoka region as of Tuesday, May 25, the Health Unit has reported 11,726 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Simcoe Muskoka, of which 433 are reported in Muskoka with 389 recovered and five deceased. (Gravenhurst 73; Huntsville 122; Muskoka Lakes 104; Lake of Bays 20; Bracebridge 86; Georgian Bay 27).

To date 3,577 local cases have tested positive for the COVID-19 variant of concern UK B.1.1.7 (UK), 105 cases have tested positive for the P.1 variant of concern (Brazil), 19 cases have tested positive for the B.1.351 variant of concern (South Africa), 2 cases have tested positive for the B.1.617 variant of concern (India), and an additional 728 cases have screened positive (awaiting confirmatory testing).

There are currently no COVID-19 positive inpatients receiving care at MAHC. This figure continues to be updated weekdays on our website at www.mahc.ca/COVID-19.

Patient Care & Surge Capacity Planning

- Inpatient occupancy has continued to vary through May and averaged 97% occupied across both sites. Today, the HDMH Site is 90.5% occupied and the SMMH Site is 104% occupied.
- MAHC continues to isolate and swab all inpatients for COVID-19, which regularly impacts patient flow and bed assignment. Alternate Level of Care (ALC) rates in May have averaged 13 patients per day, per site awaiting a care destination outside of MAHC. Today, there are 25 ALC patients across both sites. In addition to vaccinating ALC patients, MAHC is also involved in vaccinating Dialysis and Oncology patients in line with provincial direction for Phase 2 primary priority groups of the vaccine rollout. To date, MAHC has vaccinated more than 250 people.
- MAHC COVID testing in the hospital (inpatients and Emergency patients) as of May 24 was approximately 7,365 swabs sent since the start of the pandemic.
- To date in May, there has been just over 2,500 visits to our Emergency Departments and a daily average of 50-55 visits at each site.
- Essential visitation continues to be restricted at both sites until further notice.
- MAHC continues to be available for “load balancing” across the system by accepting transferred patients to assist overburdened hospitals and support greater system capacity challenges. In this third wave of the pandemic, 16 patients have been transferred to MAHC.
- On May 19, Ontario Health revoked Directive #2 for Health Care Providers that temporarily ramped down non-emergent and non-urgent surgeries and procedures to build bed capacity and redeploy health care workers in light of increasing COVID-19 case counts and hospitalizations through the pandemic’s third wave. With this news, internal planning is underway at MAHC for a cautious, gradual and slow restart of non-emergent and non-urgent surgeries and procedures in

line with the restart requirements set out by Ontario Health. Ontario Health indicates it will respond rapidly should we see a worsening of the situation.

COVID-19 Community Vaccination

Information regarding vaccination of the public is frequently changing as the Province of Ontario moves through the phases of its vaccination program. The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit website at www.smdhu.org is the best source for timely information. Clinics are located in Bracebridge and Huntsville and are by appointment only. The District of Muskoka is offering transportation support to residents of the region who require transportation assistance to a vaccine appointment in Bracebridge or Huntsville. More info at www.muskoka.on.ca/communitytransit.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

MAHC currently maintains a stable position of PPE.

Assessment Centre

The MAHC-operated [Bracebridge Assessment Centre](#) operates 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. behind the South Muskoka site and continues to see increased traffic. Prior to the long weekend, the assessment centre had completed 735 swabs in May. Daily visits have dropped to an average of 50 per day in May to date. Appointments are required at both Muskoka's assessment centres and can be made by calling 1-888-383-7009 and selecting the option for the respective community.

Communication

MAHC's monthly COVID-19 newsletter will continue in June 2021. Recent COVID-related media clips:

- [Non-emergency surgeries can resume at some Simcoe County hospitals – May 19, 2021](#)
 - [MAHC CEO estimates there's a backlog of 500-700 elective surgeries – May 20, 2021](#)
-

*Working together to provide outstanding integrated health care to our communities,
delivering best patient outcomes with exemplary standards and compassion*

Huntsville District Memorial Hospital
100 Frank Miller Drive,
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