

Kahshe Conservation Committee Minutes July 7, 2014

Hosted: by Eleanor

Present: Bob, Eleanor, Clare, Rob, Greig, Alex, Ron, George, Chris Andrews (new member)

1. Minutes of the last meeting. Approved as circulated
2. Financial Matters: Kahshe Preservation Fund -Greig
Refer to the 2013 KLRA's Annual Report, page 14, for details

Motion: That the cost of printing the Good Neighbours' Handbook be shared equally between the Conservation Committee (Kahshe Preservation Fund) and the COM Committee (General Fund).

Moved by Eleanor, Seconded by Rob: Carried. Bob to convey this message to the KLRA Board.

3. KCC Terms of Reference: Approved by the Board
4. Subcommittee Reports:
Heritage Lands: Muskoka Conservancy: Bob referred to John Mertl's e-mail re a neighbour who may want to donate some property.

Healing Waters -Clare said he has 5 copies of Volume 1 and 26 of Volume 2. He still accepts stories and archival items for on-line publication.

Float for Ryde Parade -George said that Bill Irwin will have float in the Ryde parade with the assistance of Cathy and the Fingerle kids.

Applications to the Town -Bob reported that there were 10-12 last year, about average. The current Town Liaison process is that Bob first calls the Planning Department to discuss the application. He also consults with George, the Executive of the KLRA and others who are neighbours of the property and sends a letter to the Town to respond to the request for comment. He e-mails the letter to Clare who saves it on-line in the letter archive. When approval is given, a note is made on the file.

To check the archive, click here: <http://responsestorequests.blogspot.ca/>
The last applications are in the Board zone under Zoning Responses.

Suggestion: Rain water runoff has become an issue that may be raised when we consult at the Official Plan Review stage.

Stewardship -Ron advised that a 4th testing site under the MOE's Lake Partner program has been established below Cranberry Island, where water is more shallow and likely at greater risk of algal bloom formation. There are no MOE sampling sites on Bass Lake, but the District of Muskoka does carry out sampling on Bass Lake every second year.

Benthic Monitoring: August 21 9:00 Volunteers are needed to assist with the counting of benthic organisms. Details to come.

Ron also raised the topic of testing lake water for coliform contamination. Because of liability issues and the fact that tests of drinking water coliform levels change quickly depending on a large number of factors, the Lake Steward program does not include this type of testing. The general rule is to maintain an effective septic system and don't drink the lake water (unless it is treated properly).

PS The Stewardship report is awesome!

5. Educational articles for the Krier:
 - a) We discussed the issue of trying to get cottagers to replace their old **2-stroke outboards** with 4-stroke or more current 2-stroke motors, but the decision was to not write an article on the topic, as contamination from outboard motors is a complex issue.
 - b) **Eastern Hognose Snake**: Article re benefits, conservation. Rob will ask Rob Wilson to write it.
 - c) **Shoreline Maintenance**: for the summer Krier. George to draft and Ron to edit prior to circulation to KCC members.
6. Good Neighbours' Handbook: It's done! Well-written, friendly tone.
7. Shoreline mapping: To determine the disturbed areas of the shoreline. It would be useful to know the percentage of the shoreline that has been disturbed in our discussion with the Town on the upcoming review of the Official Plan. For example, Planners might require buffer zone maintenance in new development.
8. Shoreline Revitalization Plan: This idea should be promoted early in the season in the Krier. An assessment could be done this summer in preparation for next year. Bob will speak to Gary about some revitalization of the Nagaya beach, which we own and control.
We should have before and after photos of the area that was renaturalized near the dam.
9. Action Plan for 2014-15:
 - a) Gravenhurst Official Plan is being revisited as part of the 10 year cycle.
-Our involvement would compare the Planners' perspective to our perspective.
 - b) George will check fishing level facts with MNR and Ron will follow-up with the operators of the bass fishing contest that is held at Rockhaven in later July or early August
 - c) Note the fish spawning sensitive areas on the map on the web site.
10. Next Meeting: Bob to establish by e-mail