

The Township Of McNab/Braeside



Agenda Public Recreation & Culture Committee Wednesday, November 1, 2023 - 6:30 p.m. Council Chambers

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Present - M. Arseneau, M. Landry, T. Bahm, K. Haelssig, D. Carson, L. Hoddinott

Regrets - Mark MacKenzie.

Staff Present: Andrea Lamontagne, Recreation Director, Recording Secretary

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

We acknowledge that we are on the unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe Peoples.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm

2. **DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest declared at this time.

3. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

3.1. Dated November 1, 2023

RECOMMENDATION

Moved D. Carson, Seconded A. Kalnins

THAT the Agenda dated November 1, 2023, be adopted.

CARRIED.

4. **DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

Nil.

5. **ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Moved A. Kalnins, Seconded M. Arseneau

A. Kalnins noted that the documents for H. Lang's presentation were not included in this package. He noted that it should be included that, H. Lang spoke of a grant application that she, R. Smith and Rotary Arnprior, are working on under the Community Conservation Action Program. The 10K grant is predicated on matching funds. If successful, funds will be used to hire an interpretive biologist to give educational outings and presentations at the property.

5.1. [September 13, 2023 - Draft Meeting Minutes](#)

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Moved A. Kalnins, Seconded M. Arseneau

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Meeting minutes from September 13, 2023, be adopted after edits to include the amendments noted.

CARRIED.

6. REQUESTS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Nil.

7. REPORTS

Nil.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

8.1. [Discussion Notes Oct 4 2023 - NO Quorum](#)

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Moved by M. Arseneau, Seconded by Haelssig

D. Carson noted that the group discussed the pro's/cons of a dog park at Red Pine Bay and Burnstown Beach. In addition, it was noted that the Scout Building and look-out property adjacent to it was discussed. L. Hoddinott noted that the group had discussed moving the honeybees at Clay Bank Nature Park for Outdoor Learning from the waterfront next to the Community Gardens for the 2024 season.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Discussion Notes from October 4, 2023, be adopted after edits to include the amendments noted.

CARRIED

8.2. [Arnprior Agricultural Society \(A.A.S\) Presentation](#)

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Moved M. Arseneau, Seconded T. Bahm

The presentation that S. Howard and S. Mullins-Campbell gave on October 4 was shared with the committee. A.A.S. is proposing an educational workshop directed at teaching children where food comes from. This workshop will use hands-on examples such as how wheat starts in a farmer's field through transitions to reach a final product such as pizza dough. Farm safety, the environmental benefits of farming and hands-on opportunities for children to learn about farming equipment and farm animals will be included.

A.A.S. is requesting the

- Use of the JAG hall, kitchen and grounds for 1-day late May (ideally Thursday or Friday)
- MB Staff not required
- A.A.S
 - will ensure that grounds are cleaned of animal debris after the event
 - provide liability insurance
 - supply rubber mats for the base of the rink
- A.A.S is open to extending the hours to accommodate an open drop-in for the community after school hours.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT it be recorded that all committee members support the Arnprior Agricultural Society's request to waive the facility rental fee for the use of the John A. Gillies Recreation Centre for the purpose of the 'Farm to Family' educational event, and FURTHER, that the Recreation Department promote

the event by advertising on the Township's social media platforms and the website calendar.

CARRIED

8.3. [Township Property List](#)

Moved by Haelssig, Seconded by M. Arseneau

The committee reviewed the property list and contributed insights to consider when preparing the Recreation Master Plan. Unless otherwise stated, these suggestions are to help build long-term and short-term projects, there was insufficient time to cover the entire list, remaining properties will be discussed at the December 6, 2023, meeting.

- Braeside Beach
 - Blockades between the parking lot and the path leading to the beach prevent maintenance vehicles from entering the beach. The blockades were placed years ago, as T. Bahm noted, to prevent snowmobile access as erosion is a concern. She further noted that gates were not an efficient deterrent as they were driven into and damaged by snowmobiles.
 - An access path from the Algonquin Trail to the boat launch would alleviate the issue of damage to the shoreline from snowmobiles.
 - In order for needed maintenance (dragging/adding sand) the blockades will need to be removed temporarily.
 - The beach is a wonderful resource and would offer an alternative for residents when Burnstown beach is overpopulated. Much work would be required to bring it to full potential, including items noted above, brush clearing, and the addition of picnic tables will be needed.

- The Scout Building Osborne St. Braeside
 - The committee feels that this building would be an ideal rest stop / Trail Head for Algonquin trail users.
 - The building will require extensive renovation, including a new roof, removal of walls, electrical repairs.
 - Suggestions include; opening the building on 3 sides, add a seasonal washroom, add a trail map, add seating.
 - The shoulder on Osborne St. should be widened for safety and accessibility; this would facilitate access from Red Pine Bay-Braeside Beach-Scout Building.
 - The committee feels that parking at this property should be prohibited for several reasons; space, safety, blocked views, erosion of the bank.
 - M. Arseneau noted that clear signage will be needed to alert drivers of increased pedestrian traffic.
 - There is a beautiful look out next to the building that will require moderate clean up and the addition of a safety barrier as there is a steep drop down to the Braeside Beach.

- Burnstown Beach
 - Members discussed the addition of a paid parking system to help alleviate parking problems and provide some revenue to support the

increased maintenance issues as a result of the influx of visitors. All members, with the exception of A. Kalnins, were in support of a paid parking model during peak season; June 15 - September 15.

Committee members felt that residents should be provided 1 parking pass annually and that secondary passes would be available at a resident rate. The type of parking system, rate and logistics will have to be further explored. L. Hoddinott suggested that the woodworking program at St. Joseph's school may be a good resource to build a parking kiosk.

- As a long-Term consideration, T. Bahm suggested extending the dock to allow for better boat traffic flow.
 - Attention will be needed sooner to replace the wood slats on the dock.
 - From a maintenance perspective, approximately 12 loads of sand will be needed for the 2024 season.
 - The committee would like to see MOBI mats added to support those with accessibility needs.
 - D. Carson felt that the area near the red gate would be a good location for a future dog park. K. Haelssig strongly discourages this. As a resident of Burnstown, she is concerned that this would add to the traffic concern in the community, specifically at the beach.
 - A local resident drags the beach daily; this service is an immense contribution to the property and of incredible assistance to the Recreation Maintenance team. For future considerations, a 4x4 with a harrow attachment would be required for the department to undertake this task.
- Clay Bank Nature Park for Outdoor Learning
 - The Committee feels that responsibility of the dock at this property should be that of the Township's, not the Arnprior Fish and Games Conservation Club (AFGCC) as it currently is. In 2013, the club purchased the dock and maintains repairs, installation and removal in exchange for boat launch passes for club members. The dock was damaged this summer, from a possible act of vandalism, the bolts were severed from the legs of the dock; the front end of the dock was submerged under water. The club was notified on August 1. Repairs were not completed. With the agreement set to expire on March 4, 2024, the committee made the following recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Township assume ownership of the dock and purchase the dock from AFGCC. Two suggestions to transfer the ownership of the dock; 1) offer 35 boat launch passes valid at Clay Bank and Waba launches for 2024 (the same conditions as now) however, the club would no longer be responsible for the dock. 2) offer to purchase the dock 'as-is' from the club.

MOVED - L. Hoddinott

CARRIED.

- The Bee display is situated on a large grassy area in front of the water. The committee recommends moving the bees to a more sheltered area near the community garden. This would address concerns with bee stings that were voiced this year (an employee was stung multiple times while mowing) and would open this prime

area for other leisure activities. Further, a formal agreement is needed to ensure that the bee owner has proper liability insurance coverage and to clearly outline the number of bee boxes permitted. It was noted by the maintenance team that the number of boxes this year was considerably more than the previous year. T. Bahm said that clear signage is needed to inform visitors that bee boxes are at this site and to indicate the location of the boxes.

- There is a fee to rent a Garden Box in the Community Garden.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the fee to rent a garden box be waived for groups who grow for the purpose of donating the goods to the food bank.

MOVED A. Kalnins

CARRIED.

- Short Term Wish List:
 - ✓ Trails mowed in the fields (this was done in 2022 but was not feasible in 2023 with the wildlife protection for the bobolink in place).
 - ✓ Viewing platform, 2-3 ft off the ground be erected
 - ✓ Address the erosion along the river bank
 - ✓ Scatter wildflower seeds
 - ✓ Add trail cameras as a level of security
- A. Kalnins asked if a yurt could be added to the property. L. Hoddinott informed him that it would not be permitted by the township referencing the septic issue, that this would give the impression of a campground, or residence, and that vandalism would be a concern.
- A. Kalnins noted that a Bioblitz was part of the Nature Fest event held in September. (*The primary goal of a BioBlitz is to get an overall count of the plants, animals, fungi, and other organisms that live in a place.*)
- L. Hoddinott felt that an ice rink skate way through the trails would be an ideal project for the long-term wish list. A. Lamontagne noted her concerns with maintenance, including the current inability to flood the rink.

McNab Centre Park (MCP)

- The aging building that houses the washrooms, multiple storage rooms and canteen is slated for re-build in 2024 as part of a capital modernization grant. The new building is targeted to be open for business in 2025. The Recreation Director will investigate a grant to add lighting to Diamond 4 and to add dug outs to diamonds 2 and 3.
- D. Carson requested that the department paint lines on the fence to indicate where the bases should be in case they are knocked out of place.

Dochart Park

- No feedback has been received.

Red Pine Bay

- L. Hoddinott would like to see something happen at this location for the 200th anniversary of McNab Township, as this is where the boat landed.
- T. Bahm would like to see signage posted for the safety of pedestrians crossing from the Algonquin Trail to access the property.
- The committee discussed the addition of a dog park at the far end of the property. The location was felt to be ideal as parking, is not a concern, the property is not a beach, and there is access to the river for dogs. L. Hoddinott suggested that a future idea could include a memorial wall; animal owners could purchase a brick with their pet's name engraved/ or ashes placed in a brick as a memorial. L. Hoddinott suggested that a working group be formed to undertake the Dog Park and Memorial Wall project and investigate options such as a fence donation by Purina, and sponsorship panels on the fence to help cover associated costs.
- M. Arseneau inquired about the submerged cribs. A. Lamontagne replied that she has been working to find the correct point of contact to remove the cribs. The Township does not own the waterfront and does not have the authority to displace the cribs as it would disturb the ecosystem. The cribs were left behind from the Gillies Mill.
- Staff member John Campbell has provided input that he believes that this location would make for a wonderful beach with minimal to moderate preparation. He felt that this would provide an alternative so that Braeside Beach could be closed to allow for the more extensive work required to be carried out.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Township Property List be accepted as information.

CARRIED.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10. NEW BUSINESS

- 10.1. Declaration of the establishment of the Township of McNab - Nov. 5 1823-2023

Accepted as information.

- 10.2. Ontario Senior Games
Committee Member to represent McNab/Braeside

Renfrew County 55+ Games is looking for volunteers. The Recreation Director is looking for someone to represent the Township. This position has been offered to Council and members of the Public Recreation and Culture Committee and will next be shared with the public.

- 10.3. Recreation Master Plan- Next Step
Public Input at Town Hall
Review of submissions to date.

[Recreation Master Plan Survey DRAFT V3](#)

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This plan is not ready to move to a Town Hall. Next step is to share the survey with the public.

Accepted as information

CARRIED.

11. DRAFT BY-LAWS

Nil.

12. PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

None.

Members of the public in attendance may ask questions regarding items relevant to the business discussed during the meeting.

13. NOTICE OF UPCOMING MEETING DATES

December 6, 2023 - 7:00 p.m.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

All written submissions, documents, correspondence, e-mails or other communications (including your name and address) may form part of the public record and will be disclosed/made available by the Municipality to such persons as the Municipality sees fit, including anyone requesting such information. Accordingly, in providing such information, you shall be deemed to have consented to its use and disclosure as part of the meeting process.