Kahshe Conservation Committee (KCC) Minutes August 8, 2019

Present: Bob, Clare, George, Greig, Dave, Ron, Rob

Regrets: Eleanor

In Eleanor’s absence, we decided to write her a thank you note for all the years of her dedicated service to the conservation of the lake. Clare will draft and send to Bob.

Minutes of the last meeting - Clare

Matters arising:

-Rob (and Allyn) wrote an article for the Krier on the Emerald Ash Borer.

-Greig wrote an article on the clear cutting incident.

-Ron is collecting articles written by members of the committee for the Krier to be archived on the web site. He has 9-10 already. Clare will create a page for the articles.

-Dave will send his article on mountain biking near Kahshe to Keith for the Krier.

-Ron will write an article on blue-green algae for the Krier.

2. Financial Matters: Kahshe Preservation Fund –Greig

Opening balance $9383 Closing balance $8,935

$500 to the Muskoka Conservancy.

3. Subcommittee Reports:

Heritage Lands: Muskoka Conservancy –Ron

No meeting this year re the cranberry marsh.

Healing Waters –Clare

Many positive comments on the books. John has all copies in his inventory.

Applications to the Town –Bob

11 last year, all straightforward.

Bob attended a meeting with lake association presidents and the new Mayor, who wants to engage lake associations.

Stewardship –Ron

Testing water as per usual.

The Love Your Lake crew is visiting 720 lake fronts and is currently over half completed.

The Town has initiated a septic system re-inspection program effective August 2019. Ron is awaiting a response back from Kevin Lehan at the Town regarding the scope of the re-inspection program and will generate an article for the Krier regarding the responsibilities of property owners for septic system maintenance and specific activities not covered by the Town’s inspection program.

4. Educational articles for the Krier -Rob, George, Ron

Refer to Minutes for suggestions

5. Invasive Species -Ron

Ron received a grant from the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) in 2017 to sample for zebra mussels and spiny water fleas. Six sites sampled and reported. None detected.

In 2019 the Provincial government cut the funding support for the OFAH but a group of Lake Stewards acted to keep the program going on a volunteer basis. Ron opted in and shared a sampling net among Stewards for several lakes – Two samples from Kahshe and one from Bass Lake were collected in July 2019 and the samples are at the lab. Report to come. The cost of this sampling will be just over $110.

Rob mentioned that traps are set for the emerald ash borer.

MOTION: That Ron buy a net to test for invasive species for up to $1,500.

Moved: Rob Seconded: Dave All were in favour.

6. Clear cutting issue -Bob

A letter was sent to the mayor and councilors concerning the KLRA’s disappointment that the Town did not enforce the tree cutting bylaw in this case.

7. Town Official Plan Update –Bob

Other business:

- Rob suggested that funds in the Conservation Fund be used in updating the Lake Plan at some point.

-A Rob Roy replica is being built. The suggestion was for an antique boat show on Kahshe.

-Ron mentioned spending some of our finances on loon nesting platforms, but will check with Missy Mandel, the Loon Steward on the advisability of that action.

-Dave mentioned the beaver dam on Gartersnake River that is preventing fish spawning there. Might we help remediate fish spawning on Bass and Kahshe Lakes?

-There was an item on a Hydosweep device on Facebook with some enthusiastic responses as well as some cautionary notes. This is not ecofriendly and requires a permit from MNRF. Rob will prepare an article for the Krier to ensure that members are aware of the impacts and permit requirements.

-George will report on the many issues with private buoys.

Next Meeting: Next summer