

McRae Beach Association
Spring Meeting - Sunday May 29 2022

Executive

Jane Kidner, President
Maria Vlachos, Secretary
Rita DeBellis, Member
Lubke Storey, Treasurer
Maggie Thompson, Vice President

In attendance

Guests:

Lee Simpson & Jim Greenshields, Lake Simcoe South Shore Residents Association (LSSSRA)

Residents:

Al Ray
Dennis Walker
Bruce & Cathy
George
Elaine
John M.
Rob & Dale
Sheila & Roger
Michael & Shawn
Rhonda Woods & Gary
Brad Walker
Pat Roughly
Elija P
John on Ashwood
Ken Jenkinson
Doug Jenkinson
Sandra
Susan & Donny
Josie

President - Call to Order

1. Motion to Approve the Minutes from September 2021 AGM – Approved by Kathy;
Seconded by Rhonda
2. Motion to Accept Lubke as Treasure – Approved by Bruce; Seconded by Estelle.
3. Motion to Approve Maggie as VP – Approved by Roger ; Seconded by Eija.
4. Treasurer's Report – Lubke
 - Overview of financials
 - 2021 Tree Removal – required by city. Increased annual park maintenance cost

- Membership dues – 1/3 are paid – Request for all those who have not yet paid to make payment by e-transfer or drop off at Maria's.
5. Report on Spring Clean-up - Huge thanks to Jim Baines for organizing the Spring clean-up of Duclos Point Road, and to all of the volunteers who came out to help clean up the garbage. Over 30+ bags of garbage were collected. A few association members did not get emails. Maria agreed to review the list and make additions or corrections.
 6. Road repair by the City – Jane agreed to follow up with the City to find out why the promised repairs have not yet been done to the side roads off Blue Heron. South McRae roads were not included in the City's work order for repair. A member inquired about how best to have the south shore roads repaired. Rhonda suggested that she reach out directly to the Mayor Margaret Quirk. It was also suggested that it might help to canvas neighbours door to door and create a petition. Maria agreed to add residents of the south shore to our emails.
 7. Donation of Muskoka Chairs for Permanent Installation on the North Beach - In our last AGM we discussed the donation of two heavy resin Muskoka chairs by the family of former resident 75 BH Nino who passed away. Pat and Sheila Massey are organizing and facilitating the donation and willing to do the installation. Anyone interested in helping to decide the location is welcome to join us after the meeting.
 8. Reminder about Beach Etiquette - A friendly reminder that there is no parking on the beach, no drone use, and no drinking, as per the McRae Beach Constitution. Infractions can be reported to city by law officers. Pat noted that legally drones are allowed in public parks. Jane agreed and noted that our Constitution takes precedent since it is private property.
 9. The Link and Causeway – Report by Lee Simpson & Jim Greenshields, LSSSRA
 - Not for profit that recently has been incorporated
 - There has not been a good flow of information on process
 - They live adjacent to Sibbald Point Park
 - They were told the property was purchased to build cottages, but little information was provided
 - More recently they were invited to learn more about the causeway project and the intent.
 - From an environmental perspective, the Chippewas were to decide what was to be done and what was the best for their interest.
 - They challenged it and were told they were not party to it.
 - They decided to hire lawyers, who looked into what was happening and found no information.
 - Were told in February 2022 they would be notified if anything was happening. Then in early May someone saw that they filed the assessment on a website.
 - The filing of the assessment starts a clock ticking that ends today (May 29)
 - Interested parties are allowed to submit their comments by the end of today.
 - Their mandate is to take all the comments before deciding whether to green light the project or hold. The federal Minister Ind. Affairs and Water can decide whether to allow it to go on.
 - Trying to gain as many people in their membership as possible – request for our members to join their organization as well. Send your email to Lee with request to be added to their association

- The money for this causeway project is funded by the Bank Canada. A federal body that was created to spur economic growth to help people get to where they want to be. This is the first project that's been applied for. This information will not become public. They have \$200 Million secured. They will provide the other \$250 M to build the causeway/bridge
- Causeway on each side with a bridge in the middle. Water is still
- Question about the purpose - convenience? safety? business development? expand residence? A casino? In their own filing there is conflicting information about what it will be. Health and Safety and convenience is the main thing. They believe this is the only option. In the zoom call there were questions about whether there is a casino going in. They said absolutely not.
- There have been challenges about why putting a bridge would be for safety; others see it as a way to build and fully develop island; and in the other section they discuss economic development; it is unclear what their statement is and what direction there is. They say its a cost savings to not running the ferry.
- It will be by loan and they will have 35 years to repay at 1% interest; but there must be a business plan to explain how they will pay it back.
- Question about rumours of a hotel and golf courses, and small and large resorts being planned.
- The lawyers are to figure out the heart of what this entails.
- Question about cost of legal fees –To date their association has paid. What happens next is a budget that will be put out. Donations will be a part of it.
- Question about the height of bridge. 90 feet; Centre section 800 meters.
- Question about whether our lake will end up as swamp land? How do we fight this? Is safety our only concern? There are other ways of transporting people safely ice breakers etc ... They have categorically said they are out.
- Question about why not a tunnel - 4 options were summarized. In that discussion there was a tunnel discussion but it was never costed out.
- Question about the causeway going from Duclos point to Island – it was dismissed as they don't own property and the depth was too expensive to fill in. 2 options.
- Bottom line – we have 180 days to figure out our steps . If impact assessment is green lighted or if they want a full environmental study involved. We have to make sure then we are in a position to challenge it. Today is the last day to submit your objection.

Call to our members - to submit your individual comments today requesting a full environmental assessment and analysis of all options. All different alternatives must be properly researched. There hasn't been enough information or time given. A link to the site will be sent to all members today.

Bruce and Kathy - Motion to also have the Executive write and submit a joint submission on the official government site on behalf of the McRae Beach Association and file it before the deadline at the end of today to indicate the MBA which represents 150 property owners register their opposition to the proposed causeway and request a full environmental impact report – Motion approved by Jane. Seconded by Maria.

Jane - agreed to draft the submission and file it before today's deadline. A copy of the joint submission that was filed is included at the end of these Minutes.

10. Close of Meeting – Thank you for everyone who has joined us today. We have to wrap it up at this point. Thank you to our special guests Lee and Jim who will stay following the meeting to answer any additional questions.

SUBMISSION on behalf of the McRae Beach Association

On behalf of the McRae Beach Association, which membership includes approximately 150 residential homes and cottages, we would like to state our strong objection to the proposed Fixed Link project, and hereto file our comments.

We believe that there will be significant ecological and environmental repercussions should this Fixed Link be allowed to be constructed as presented. The McRae Beach Association, in agreement with the Lake Simcoe South Shore Residents Association (LSSSRA), urges Impact Assessment of Canada, the Minister and staff at Environment Canada to require a full and complete Environmental Assessment.

We are also concerned that very few alternatives to the proposed Fixed Link were properly researched or presented. It is important in a project of this size with so many environmental concerns and stakeholders involved, that all viable alternatives be properly researched, presented and assessed in advance of any decision.

Thank you for taking our concerns seriously.

Jane Kidner
McRae Beach Association President
66 Blue Heron Drive