

# Summer Village of Ghost Lake Natural Environment and Lake Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes

March 16 / 2019    Laustsen cabin - #711 Summer Village of Ghost Lake

Karen Laustsen – Co-Chair  
 Bob Miller – Co-Chair  
 Bruce MacDonald  
 Connie Beaton  
 Robyn Carrier-Council Liason

## Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Notes

## Minutes

	Agenda Item	Discussion/notes	Action/notes
	Call to Order and Welcome by Co-Chair	Meeting started at 10:15 AM	Purpose: To plan Spring/Summer/Fall projects for the 2019 season and respond to Council requests
1.	Water Testing Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Alberta Lake Management Society final report is now available and will be sent to Council for review and for posting to the Village website.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bob to send the report to Council Administration for posting on the Village website.</li> </ul>
2.	Willow Staking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>West Spring planting to improve aesthetics, provide habitat and eventually act as a deterrent to cars trying to access the lake through Village lands leased from TransAlta</li> <li>Harvest 2.0 to 3.0 ft long ¾ to 1.0 inch diameter branches from local willow bushes during the dormant season and then soak in water for 5-7 days. Plant stakes to create new willow growth.(September,2019)</li> <li>Education and outreach project since will need volunteers</li> </ul>	Karen et al to collect willow branches in advance and soak for one week. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Karen to advertise this as a volunteer educational opportunity.</li> <li>Planting of 20 to 30 willow stakes over the West Springs area.</li> <li>Exact timing dependent on tree relocation project</li> <li>Bob to borrow tools for drilling a pilot hole</li> </ul>

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3.	Leaf and Grass Collection Area	<p>The current collection point has become an eyesore and is extending South into the garbage bin area. There are no physical boundaries defined.</p> <p>Contacted Alberta Environment and Parks and they consider this a Class II Compost Facility</p> <p>This type of facility would require temperature and groundwater monitoring which is beyond our capability.</p> <p>Received Council direction to remove current composting materials from south end (so facility is more of a “collection point” than a “compost pile”, but leave soils on north end in place for now (rather than removing or spreading them).</p>	<p>There has been a decision made to utilize volunteers with equipment (tractor and dump trailer) to remove the active compost annually.</p> <p>Clear signage will be developed to keep the dump area from encroaching onto the roadway (Karen to do)</p> <p>Bob Miller will be the point contact to organize this annual transfer of materials from the collection point to a local landfill site outside the village.</p>
4.	Tree Protection Policy	<p>Draft of Tree Protection Policy needs to be edited before it can be accepted by Council</p> <p>NELS was asked to give an opinion on the preferred location of the replanting of the 13 trees that were unexpectedly removed from the golf course in the Fall, 2018..</p>	<p>The Draft Bylaw has been edited by Committee members and sent to Council Administration</p> <p>NELS recommends that the 13 new trees be either (1) replanted on the original golf course sites from which they were removed; or (2) used to fill in gaps in the trees planted along the 1A Highway.</p>
5.	GWAS State of the Watershed Report	<p>How can we summarize the results of this report for the Ghost Lake Village. It is important to understand the health of the watershed..</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bob Miller is on a committee that will be releasing a printed and pdf summary paper. The main report, completed in 2018, can be downloaded from the Ghost Watershed Alliance Society website.</li> <li>• If Council is interested, Bob can arrange for a 20 minute presentation of the State of the Watershed report at the Village’s AGM in June, 2019.</li> </ul>
6.	Concern about the parking to access potential new docks at the villages west end (ON HOLD)	<p>Concern was expressed at the NELS meeting that the natural area adjacent to any new dock location could become a parking lot for trailers and vehicles when people access their docks, should new docking areas be developed in the west end</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to set up a meeting with the Dock Committee and the Public Works Committee to understand how they are planning to handle vehicles at the new site (Karen and Bob to arrange joint meeting)</li> </ul>
4.	Shoreline (ON HOLD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erosion control on east end completed in 2018. Many thanks to Council and Kevin Foudy.</li> <li>• Status of dredging and dock improvements unknown.</li> <li>• Again, dependent on relationship with TransAlta.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate with dock committee and council. Status of Matrix study/documentation?</li> <li>• Request update on TransAlta lease negotiations from Council at June AGM.</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The fluctuating lake levels has impacted the fish in the reservoir, even though TransAlta has tried to contour the reservoir. bottom at the west end. Fish still end up stranded in small pools.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NELS to be vigilant this spring and to check on the drained areas to try to mitigate the loss of fish and liaise with TransAlta on these efforts.</li> </ul>
5.	Land	Gus Yaki will be coming out to the Village on Sunday May 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2019 to do a study of our native plants and engage interested villagers in learning about native plants in the village.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compilation of a visual record of the native plants by Gus Yaki will be done courtesy of Connie and Bruce MacDonald.</li> <li>Organize hand-picking crews. Possible monetary incentive?</li> </ul>
6.	Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arrange next NELS meeting for later in May.</li> </ul>
7.			