

# **The Natural Environment and Lake Stewardship Committee**

## **Summary of Concerns Regarding the Disc Golf Installation**

(September 19, 2021 – following public NELS Committee meeting

Held on Saturday, September 4, 2021)

In the documents attached to the Minutes of September 4, 2021, the Natural Environment and Lake Stewardship (NELS) Committee has taken the time to do their due diligence and respond to Council's letter dated July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. A Natural Environment and Lake Stewardship (NELS) Committee meeting was held on September 4<sup>th</sup> and a clear consensus was obtained from the NELS Committee members in attendance, and generally supported by those interested villagers in attendance, on a fact-based clarification of the major points in NELS' letter circulated by Ghost Lake Live July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and explained in the context of the reply circulated by the Mayor and Council on July 30, 2021.

**NELS' original concerns remain and ought to be addressed at the next Council meeting:**

1. **The north escarpment is intended to be a protected natural area with everything that entails in terms of use and development.** (As described in the SVGL Sustainability Plan and the SVGL Municipal Development Plan, in accordance with the statutes and definitions established in the Municipal Government Act. See related Appendices for details).
2. **Council did not discuss either its intention nor its decision to build the disk golf course on the north escarpment with NELS or the GLV Community at large.** (There is no public record of this in any Council agenda or meeting Minutes between summer 2020 and the present. For many reasons, both ethical and legal, this is a very serious problem. See attached Appendices)
3. **Council proceeded to allow the construction of this disk golf course in a protected natural area even when asked by the NELS Committee on June 16<sup>th</sup> to allow for their input.** Who made this decision, when, and by what authority?

In view of the complexities and serious concerns arising from this issue (as identified by NELS in the attached Appendices) and as voiced by interested Villagers at the recent NELS Committee Meeting on September 4, 2021, the NELS Committee, meeting on September 19, 2021, confirms and again requests the following urgent actions from Council:

1. To announce an immediate moratorium on use of the disc golf course in its current location.
2. As soon as possible, for Council to host a formal public discussion\*\* of the issue with the active participation of the broader GLV Community; it may be worthwhile to survey Villagers prior to a public discussion with questions agreed upon by both Council and the NELS Committee.
3. To move the disk golf course entirely off of the protected north escarpment to a more appropriate location in the village.

\*\* As a point of clarification, it is the NELS Committee's view that should Council choose to not relocate the disc golf course from the north escarpment, it must then proceed immediately with a proposed amendment to the Municipal Development Plan (MDP), with the required Statutory Public Hearing.