

# Natural Environment and Lake Stewardship Committee

## Sunday June 19, 2022

*Written by Karen Laustsen, Chair*

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### **Board Member Attendees:**

Karen Laustsen  
(Chair)  
Claire Huene  
(Co Chair)

Connie Beaton

Karen Foudy  
(Council Rep.)

### **Public Attendees**

Bruce Mc Donald

Warren Wilson

### **Regrets:**

Sharon Cockx, Debbie Brotzel Ade MacDonald-Smith

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Meeting called to order K. Laustsen at 2:00 PM.

### **1. Agenda**

- The purpose of the meeting was to review the Committee's Annual Report.

### **2. Approval of Prior Minutes**

- The Minutes of the November 21st NELS meeting were approved December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021

### **3. Objective: Review of NELS 2022 Annual Report**

#### **3a. Protection of Arkayla Springs**

- Karen has been in contact with Rod Keller and Western Sky Land Trust (WSLT). Rod Keller has suggested for ease of initiation and to develop a portfolio of information that we should start by drafting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which is not a binding document and could be modified over time. He is not interested in forming a partnership with Western Sky Land Trust. It was suggested in the meeting that maybe the SVGL could still pursue an arrangement with (WSLT) for our West End Spring. This could relieve us of further responsibility and perhaps help in preserving the area properly before and during the 1A Highway construction. It would also be useful to consult with other landowners in the area (e.g. Eric Butters) who have successfully protected lands, as well as organizations like the Big Hill Springs Preservation Society.

#### **3b. Carraig Ridge Update**

- To the NELS Annual Report, Karen will add a brief summary of the two reports that were sent out on behalf of Carraig Ridge by Water Smart.

### **3c. Disc Golf Course**

- Karen Foudy brought Council's current position to the disc golf course issue to the NELS meeting. Both Council and NELS would like to resolve this situation without animosity and in a timely manner. Karen Laustsen and Claire Huene will meet with Council in the near future to clarify the boundaries of the protected grasslands. In the meantime there is still a request in place for Villagers to not use the disc golf course.
- Council recognizes the significance of the grasslands on the northern escarpment, and in order to protect the hillside has proposed to relocate disc golf course holes 1-5 to the area between the highway and the northern edge of the escarpment.
- NELS and Council have a difference of opinion on the area between the highway and the escarpment re: protected or not. Therefore we agree to meet to discuss this further.

### **3d. Initiatives for 2022-23**

- We are limiting ourselves to a small number of initiatives this year due to limited manpower on the Committee. These initiatives include:
  - Continuing to work toward protection of the Arkayla Springs
  - Continuing to address issues related to the Carriag Ridge Development as required
  - Continuing to work toward the resolution of the disk golf course issue with Council in a timely manner.
  - Researching the upgrade of the village compost area and presenting this to Council in September. We will investigate how other summer villages handle their compost (e.g. Gull Lake), as well as the costs for SVGL to "start fresh" by removing the existing fill.

## **4 Education and outreach possibilities for future discussion**

- Display of native plants and insects
- Presentation by bat expert at SVGL
- Hydrology and geology that governs our well waters
- Arbour Day Tree Planting event
- Archaeology of the area (Iris Morgan)
- Gardening topics (weed control, native plants , best annuals to grow, naturalization of landscapes, willow staking)

## **5 Wrap-up**

- We need of more NELS Committee Members and will extend an invitation to SVGL residents at the AGM on June 25. There are many more exciting projects that we would like to initiate if more committee members can be attracted.
- We will establish dates for quarterly meetings and announce at the June 25 AGM.

### **5b. Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM

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Certified by the Secretary of NELS this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

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Karen Laustsen