

Natural Environment and Lake Stewardship Committee

Sunday November, 21 2021

Written by Karen Laustsen, Chair

Board Member Attendees:

Karen Laustsen (Chair)	Ade MacDonald- Smith	Karen Foudy (Council Rep.)
Connie Beaton	Debbie Brotzel	

Regrets:

Sharon Cockx, Claire Huene

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

1. Agenda

- The purpose of the meeting was to review and prioritize NELS work items for 2022.

2. Approval of Prior Minutes

- The Minutes of the September 4th NELS meeting were approved on September 19th 2021

3. Objective: Review of List of Recommended Items to be Considered for NELS 2022

3a. Strengthen the tree buffer along the Highway. Would take into account the modified alignment of the 1A Hwy.

- Concern was expressed by the Committee that this is not a valid project at this point in time until the planned expansion and realignment of Hwy 1A is complete. Instead, the committee will identify which trees need replacement. The dead trees could be removed and replaced with donated seedlings

3b. Construction of a Community Garden (may include passive solar heating)

- The Committee members stressed the need to start small and construct some raised garden beds. The location that would not interfere with the planned water storage is along the South side of the library. This location would ensure sunlight and shelter from wind and deter deer. More study is required to determine if this is the best location and if it is possible to have a protective fabric cover to retain heat and minimize hail damage. In addition we would have to work out who gets a share of the harvest and what should be grown (ie. herbs, root vegetables, tomatoes, peppers squash etc).

- Note that there is no longer an option to purchase an existing greenhouse from Robin Carrier (403) 608-7130. She already has a buyer for the one in Cochrane and is not selling the structure at the Ghost Lake.
- There is a Village water well in the vicinity that may be tested as part of Flood Mitigation efforts but the timing of the well test is not known. The well could be a convenient water source for the garden. It is also possible to install rain barrels to capture rain water from the Community Centre.
- Investigation is necessary to determine if there is funding for construction of a passive solar covering which could enable year round use.

3c. Construction of an elevated path over the bog at the west end

- This project could be a joint effort between Public Works and NELS.
- Further study is required to determine the best materials and design. Karen Laustsen will look at the application of similar structures used by Parks Canada etc.

3d. Upgrade of Compost Area

- The compost area is currently an eyesore with weeds and an undefined areal extent. Preliminary investigation shows that this site may not be to code based on Alberta Environment's regulations for a Compost site.
- Discussion included the installation of fencing and signage plus turning of the soil to eliminate weeds and a greater understanding of the components of the site.
- It would be helpful to look at other Summer Villages to see how they deal with this problem (ie Gull Lake).

4 Objective: Education and Outreach Possibilities (Further discussion required)

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

5 Wrap-up

- Obviously there are many initiatives and we need to determine what items we need/want to focus on for 2022.

5b. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM

Certified by the Secretary of NELS this ____ day of _____, 2021.

Karen Laustsen