

LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETING TOPICS/KEY MESSAGES

(Note: Some topics may not be applicable to all associations and direction to the Town's website as a resource would be of assistance. Also, there are many Town services impacted by COVID-19. The CAO's Report and Appendices dated June 16 details those impacts on a service by service level)

Muskoka Regional Centre	<p>The Town is still awaiting the property to be placed on the open market and confirmation of the manner in which they intend to do that. COVID-19 has of course played a role in delaying the process according to Infrastructure Ontario.</p> <p>We continue to push the mindset that the province should prioritize the long term economic, environmental, social and cultural gains that this proposal would bring over short term financial return.</p> <p><i>Contact: Glen Davies, CAO</i></p>
Zoning By-law Updates	<p>Once public meetings are occurring again, the Town will continue to update its Zoning By-law on an incremental basis through housekeeping amendments to ensure the regulations meet the intent of the recently approved Official Plan.</p> <p>It is worth noting that the Local Planning Appeals Tribunal (LPAT) remains on hiatus based on COVID-19. We are unsure what their approach might look like when they begin functioning again, or what the timing might be.</p> <p><i>Contact: Scott Lucas or Melissa Halford, Community Growth & Development (Planning)</i></p>
Community-based Strategic Plan	<p>This Plan remains in place represents the guiding principles by which the Town operates. The Plan is intended to provide a longer term strategic direction to work towards that has community and stakeholder input and buy-in, with short term actions.</p> <p><i>Contact: Glen Davies, CAO</i></p>
Taboo	<p>Taboo has continued communicating with staff regarding their development thinking and has received building permits to redevelop the area where the hotel existed. Time has passed however, and they continue to revisit their development concept.</p> <p><i>Contact: Scott Lucas, Community Growth & Development</i></p>
Sign By-law	<p>Sign By-law is in place as of the fall of 2017. This came at the direction of Council in an effort to reduce sign clutter throughout the community. A proactive approach has commenced to clean up unauthorized signs from road allowances and utility poles as well.</p> <p><i>Contact: Andy Jones, Community Growth & Development (Building/By-law)</i></p>

<p>Open Air Burning</p>	<p>Open air burning is restricted by local By-Law, including a prohibition on burning throughout daylight hours. Complaints investigated by the By-Law Enforcement office. A survey was undertaken in mid to late 2019 about the appropriateness of open air burning in urban settings, and Administration are bringing a report forward in the next month or so summarizing the results of the survey.</p> <p><i>Contact: Dustin Gronc, Community Growth & Development (By-law)</i></p> <p>NOTE: If the Fire Department is required to respond to an emergency situation as a result of a Burning By-Law infraction, cost recovery invoicing will be ascribed to the property owner, even if caused by renters. Invoices reflect cost of response (\$465.42 per hour for each responding truck plus cost recovery for all FD wages incurred).</p> <p><i>Contact: Todd Clapp, Deputy Fire Chief</i></p>
<p>False Fire Alarms</p>	<p>Property owners are being invoiced for the response to fire alarms where no emergency exists. One written warning will be issued (except in the case of contractor error – no warning), then cost recovery (per hour rate for each responding truck plus cost recovery for all FD wages incurred).</p> <p><i>Contact: Todd Clapp, Deputy Fire Chief</i></p>
<p>Fleet Replacement - FES</p>	<p>A report is forthcoming from the Fire Chief as it relates to fleet needs over the coming years. COVID-19 has delayed the presentation of this report.</p> <p><i>Contact: Larry Brassard, Fire Chief</i></p>
<p>Downtown/Wharf Revitalization</p>	<p>Several components of the Downtown Revitalization program are continuing including the Community Improvement Plan funding program. In 2019, Council endorsed several grants that will result in continued aesthetic and structural improvement to this area. The program is on hold at the moment as a result of COVID -19.</p> <p>The Town also initiated the development of a Wharf Revitalization Plan. Extensive work has gone into engaging the community and preparing that document, although next steps are on hold as a result of COVID-19. The same can be said for the Tourism Destination Strategy. Both of these strategies were funded by higher levels of government.</p> <p><i>Contact: Jeff Loney, Community Growth & Development (Economic Development)</i></p>
<p>Opera House</p>	<p>Summer theatre has been cancelled, and while the building may not be formally closed for the year, we are focusing our efforts on 2021 programming and performances. In reviewing industry standards, it is unlikely any performances will be</p>

	<p>occurring in the facility for the remainder of the year.</p> <p><i>Contact: Krista Storey, Community Growth & Development (Opera House)</i></p>
Activity Guide	<p>Given the uncertainty around what will be able to be scheduled in the fall/winter, staff are looking at alternative forms of programming and communications on what might be available at that time.</p> <p><i>Contact: Shawna Patterson, Community Growth & Development (Recreation)</i></p>
Garbage	<p>Waste disposal falls under the jurisdiction of the District of Muskoka so questions are best answered by them. This includes inquiries/questions related to the bin site work being undertaken.</p> <p><i>Contact: District of Muskoka</i></p>
Bear Control	<p>Falls under the jurisdiction of the MNRF and/or the OPP. If there are issues, or if there is a request for educational information, those agencies should be contacted.</p> <p><i>Contact: MNRF or OPP</i></p>
Budget/Taxes	<p>Council approved a 2020 Budget with a nominal 1.6% increase. As a result, the tax rate on Gravenhurst residential properties has declined for the third year in a row. In other words, absent any phase in of assessment increases or new assessment, municipal property taxes have actually declined.</p> <p>COVID-19 has significantly affected Town operations but timely cost-saving measures will ensure that the pandemic will not negatively impact the Town financial position. The Senior Leadership Team is taking whatever steps are required to ensure future re-openings and service delivery is done in a safe, sustainable manner while working within the budget approved by Council.</p> <p><i>Contact: Val Sequeira, CFO</i></p>
Asset Management	<p>The Town has over \$80 million in infrastructure and facilities.</p> <p>The 2020 Capital Budget and Multi-Year Plan was based on the asset management plan and supporting Engineering Studies previously approved by Council..</p> <p>This is the plan to repair/rehabilitate/renovate Town assets and is a significant step in the right direction.</p> <p>A few noteworthy significant projects approved by Council include:</p>

	<p><u>Roads</u></p> <p>Sparrow Lake Route D – Eldeberry to Sparrow D Sparrow Lake Route D – Eldeberry to Southwood Barkway Road – Muskoka Road 20 to Merkley Jones Road – Winhara to Crawford</p> <p><u>Bridges</u></p> <p>Hopkins Bridge Sniders Bay Bridge</p> <p><u>Docks and Landings</u></p> <p>Franklin Park Dock Improvements Riley Lake Dock Improvements Muskoka Wharf Dock Improvements (Phase 1)</p> <p><u>Parks</u></p> <p>Muskoka Bay Park Ball Diamond Improvements Gull Lake Park Ball Diamond Improvements Wharf Ball Diamond Improvements</p> <p>Council has strongly supported investment in Town assets over the past 4 years and additional support is required in the future to continue to address the outstanding infrastructure deficit and keep us on track.</p> <p><i>Contact: Andrew Stacey, Infrastructure Services</i></p>
North Morrison Landing	<p>Following the completion of an Environmental Impact Study both engineering and tendering documents have been developed. The environmental considerations identified within the aforementioned study have allowed for a minor expansion to occur while both improving the functionality of the parking lot and allowing the current dedicated parking provisions to remain in place. Unfortunately the onset of Covid-19 has presented challenges with engagement of stakeholders; however plans are underway to seek out an appropriate forum. Despite this as an initial step Town staff will be moving forward with the procurement of an additional floating dock in advance of the parking lot construction.</p> <p><i>Contact: Andrew Stacey, Infrastructure Services</i></p>
By-law Enforcement	<p>Property/behavioral complaints are increasing substantially. Some of this based on the seasonal nature of the activity, but the Town is increasingly becoming involved in COVID-19 related matters from an enforcement/monitoring perspective.</p> <p>Should members of the public wish to complain and be kept informed of next steps, there is a formal complaint process that can be initiated using this form:</p>

	<p>https://www.gravenhurst.ca/en/services-and-info/complaint-process.aspx</p> <p>Utilizing this process allows staff to appropriately track activity and ensure accurate and timely communications with the complainant. This process also puts the municipality in a better documentation position should a matter advance to legal proceedings.</p> <p><i>Contact: Dustin Gronc, Community Growth & Development (By-law)</i></p>
<p>Dealing with outstanding open Building Permits</p>	<p>Since 2016 the Town has put in place a process to address outstanding open building permits. Open building permits pose both a potential liability to the Town and risk to the home-owner.</p> <p>In many cases homeowners are unaware that contractors have not closed permits for previous renovation. Or they have purchased property that had open building permits on them with no knowledge this was the case.</p> <p>Most homeowners when contacted make arrangements to close these open permits. Where permits are not closed, homeowners are charged an annual maintenance fee to keep the permit open.</p> <p><i>Contact: Andy Jones, Community Growth & Development (Building)</i></p>
<p>Septic Re-inspection Program</p>	<p>COVID-19 has disrupted our proactive septic re-inspection for the 2020 season. As a result, program has been suspended until 2021 at the earliest.</p> <p><i>Contact: Andy Jones, Community Growth & Development (Building)</i></p>