

Echoes from Barkmere – April 2017

Here is a summary of the last council meeting held Saturday, April 8 2017.

- Montcalm approved a resolution for the repair of the bridge on chemin Larose, which gives access to Duncan road, just before Lake Charest. Every spring, this portion of the road is flooded.
- The town has voted a resolution for the purchase of furniture and appliances for the new municipal building for a maximum amount of \$8,500 before taxes.
- The Town has voted a resolution for the purchase of a surveillance camera system in the amount of \$5,000 before taxes. One of the reasons why we moved the Town Hall near the water was so that our cameras could point towards the landing. There were a few thefts in the previous years where the boats are parked. These cameras will also help to identify the culprits and to deter theft. There will also be cameras near the garbage container that will help to prevent illegal garbage dumping.
- The Town has approved a resolution to purchase a pontoon boat for a maximum amount of \$25,500 for the environment team to provide the needed infrastructure for our efforts in trying to control and eradicate milfoil. The pontoon boat will permit transportation of divers, volunteers and equipment. The investment is important because we will need to use it every year. Also, the boat will be used for other municipal needs such as large item collection, transportation of materials, installation and repair of buoys, etc. The town will also investigate the option to lease or rent a pontoon boat.
- We have hired an environmental technician for the summer, Ms. Annie Létourneau, to help us in our fight against milfoil. She was one of the divers that participated in the removal of milfoil last summer. She is therefore very knowledgeable of the problems at the lake. She will also do an inventory and determine the coordinates of the plants, hire and coordinate volunteers needed for canoe/kayak assistance, and will

manage the team of divers. She will also help with other CCE projects like water testing, shoreline restoration. Ms. Létourneau is a bio-chemist and very qualified for this job. It is thus very good news for Barkmere to have the chance to work with her.

- All docks at the landing are rented. The Town is worried that there will be lack of rental space for boats. The boathouse owned by the Estate of Mrs. Elsie Miller, rented to Mrs. Delia Miller, was demolished this winter and we do not know if these spaces will be rebuilt and available this spring. To cover this possibility, the town has bought supplementary docks that will be installed in the right of way of the town, in between the 2 green boathouses rented by Gordon Miller, at the left of the landing when looking at the lake. The cost is entirely covered by the excise tax subsidy received by the Town.
- Mayor Trépanier informed us that FILAU (high speed internet) has been transformed into a not-for-profit organisation to move things faster (no tenders needed, etc.). The best location for the antenna was Bald Mountain which would cover the whole village and a good part of the Lake, but the property owner does not want to lease the sight. They will try to contact the proprietors of lots situated behind the site of the old town hall, if studies show that the village can be covered by an antenna there. For the lake, another solution is being studied: to put an antenna on the municipal building, and to relay the signal from residence to residence, in zigzag fashion, around the lake. They plan to offer high speed internet to Barkmere during the upcoming summer season.
- Below, a picture of the lake taken last Saturday. We are not there yet!

Once again, for more details, consult the minutes of the council meeting that will be posted on our website next month.





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