



## Echoes from Barkmere – September 2020

Here is a summary of the last Council meeting held Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> 2020:

- The Mayor came back on the public consultation meeting on the proposed changes to our urban bylaws, regarding boathouses and nocturnal lighting. The great majority of the participants agreed to eliminate completely the permanent night lights around the Lake, i.e. on docks, boathouses and on the shoreline zone of 15 metres. Arguments presented went from the deterioration of the natural beauty of the Lake to the dangers that these lights pose for navigation. Very few people in total expressed themselves in favour of these lights. But in the same vein, a good number of people asked that the Town acts to improve the navigation signals in zones that present more risks, following the rules of Transportation Canada.

However, most participants have expressed their worries about safety in the paths and stairways between the shore and the houses. Without allowing for permanent solar lighting, an article of the proposed bylaw should be introduced to allow for adequate but temporary lighting. Solutions like lights with motion detectors should also be considered.

Also, most people have requested to relax the rules regarding the lighting of buildings, allowing for more than one single light. It will be also important to consider the particular situation of cottages accessible 12 months a year by a road. Too little time having passed since the meeting, the members of the Council wished to take a bit more time to amend the draft bylaw, to

incorporate the preoccupations which were raised. They want to be able to adopt a second draft bylaw at the October or November meeting, in order to submit it afterwards to the popular approval process.

The mayor is thankful to all the people who participated in great numbers to the public consultation, despite the bad weather, the restrictions related to the pandemic and the difficulties for the virtual participants. He is also thanking those who sent their comments in writing. As the virtual participation to these meetings will probably become the new standard, we will have to improve the technology with one or more microphones in the room, and maybe one or more cameras instead of a laptop computer.

- The electrical charging stations have been installed. There only remains to connect them to the Internet, in order to collect the payments for their use, and to clear the ground to allow access. The Mayor reminds the population that these are slow charging stations (level 2, 30 amperes, not high speed), aiming to help out in emergency situations, and not to offer a service of commercial charging stations. Also, the sign for the Town Hall has been installed.
- Mr. Jake Chadwick, municipal councillor Environment, reports that the diving team of Anne Létourneau and Sylvain Miller has removed a total count of 147 milfoil plants, confined to Silver Bay only, compared to 187 last year. With our yearly efforts, we might be able to reduce its spread considerably. Also, we had a good level of participation in the surveying of properties by the owners through the Project CEAP (Community Environment Action Patrol). The only glitch was from the participants having difficulties in filling out the form with *google documents*.
- The Landing Configuration Committee was appointed consisting of: Luc Trépanier, mayor, Marc-Olivier Duchesne, councillor, Marc Frédette, councillor, Chantal Raymond, councillor, Charles Huot, Bruce MacNab, Chris Uchwat, Samantha McDougall, Kevin O'Shaughnessy, representing the Local Social Activities Committee, and Teresa Roti-Gillette from the BLPA. Following the survey this summer where we received your comments and good ideas, the committee will start their reflection and work on reassessing the needs of the citizens at the landing for the next 20 years or so.

- We have given a mandate to DWB Consultants to prepare a conceptual proposal for the construction of boathouses for the marina. They will give us options in terms of structure, costs, type of boathouse (floating or anchored) to help the Landing Committee in their decisions.
- In case you were wondering about the weird floating 'shack' pontoon seen on our lake, Mayor Trépanier informs us that it was removed from the water after having docked illegally at the municipal Warf. It received a fine and was towed, but the proprietor hasn't found a proper trailer to remove it from our parking lot. There are no legal means right now to prevent these type of boats from launching on the lake, but we will look into revising our by-laws. We have environmental arguments in terms of 'no toilets allowed, or sinks'. We should be able to prevent this.

Once again, for more details, consult the minutes of the council meeting that will be posted on the town's website once they are ratified, generally at the next council meeting.

***The new charging stations:***



***The lake after a storm, last week***



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