

**TOWNSHIP OF MACHAR
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
Monday, March 11, 2024**

6:30 pm Call to Order, Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof; Nil

Council present: Mayor Lynda Carleton, Deputy Mayor Ron McLaren and Councillor Pearl Ivens. Councillors Neil Scarlett via teleconference and Blair Flowers absent with notice. Staff present: Treasurer Deputy Clerk Angela Loney and Finance Intern Jadah McLaren.

Guests observing: Mark Savill, Donald Bruce and Maryanne Helmond.

GUESTS

6:30-6:45 pm Michelle Thiessen, South River Machar Library CEO, Annual Library Review

Ms. Thiessen emailed her regrets: she would not be able to make it for the presentation and would be happy to answer any questions the Council has by email. Presentation:

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

1. Through the year we have endeavored to provide enriching activities and materials to our communities.
2. The 50th anniversary celebration was a big success, having around 180 attendees. We raised \$370.40 with several fundraising initiatives throughout the day including book sales, table rental fees, snack sales, and donations. We held a free screening of the movie “Grease” in the evening. Everyone said they really enjoyed the event and thought the 50’s theme was fun.
3. Beer and Books night consisted of Local authors presenting their books while the attendees had charcuterie snacks and beer from our own South River Brewery. We had the opportunity to purchase their books afterward and a door prize of Maggie Dunchurch’s Novels (donated by her for the event) was won by a lucky attendee.
4. We added a huge donation of DVDs to our collection, reorganized and catalogued DVDs to improve how they are lent to patrons for faster service and better organization.
5. Our staff started a resource reorganization project. We moved the new books to the front, put all the resource material in one area. Put puzzles and games in more accessible locations. Moved the Young adult material to a location near computers where they are seen better by our young people.

PRIMARY GOALS

1. Procure Funding to replace aging technology equipment
2. Have a fun day in the summer to sell our used books, fundraise with book bags/donation and invite vendors to a “boot sale” (open the boot of your car or a table and sell what you like)
3. Launch new website for the library
4. Update our operating procedures and emergency plans
5. Increase Children’s programs with fun nights (contingent on funding)

STATISTICS	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Physical Circulation	574	674	551	546
Electronic Resources	1183	1209	1124	1468
Internet Usage	188H 127M	129H 35M	225H 35M	123H 84M
Memberships	14	17	9	13

PROJECTS PLAN

- ARCHIVE – Book Room to reduce ILL use and increase circulation
- WEEDING – Freshen the collections giving the library a cleaner, neater appearance
- DESIGN – Look at changing shelves to give more function to the floor space
- PATRON SATISFACTION – Deploy Survey to see what our patrons want and need
- TECH – Add technologies to offer more up to date equipment and programs

6:45-7:00 pm Pete Livingston presentation in response to presentation by Mark Savill, ELCA President

Ms. Liz Bradley attended to represent as Mr. Pete Livingston was unable to attend. Ms. Bradley read the provided presentation:

Presentation to the Council of Machar Twp by Pete Livingston, (Eagle Lake Property owner) in response to a presentation Nov 27/23 by Mark Savill, president of ELCA, for financial support from Machar TWP

I have been visiting my cottage on Eagle Lake since 1951. I have enjoyed the natural beauty of the Lake and the quality of its waters and I appreciate the efforts of the Eagle Lake Conservation Association (ELCA) and its many volunteers, for its endeavours to preserve these features against the mounting pressures of property development and changing weather patterns.

I recently became aware of the subject request made to this council by Mark Savill, for financial support on ELCA projects. I have now reviewed this material and am pleased to offer my response.

I strongly support the request for funding if available, toward the continuing removal of phragmites from our lakeshores as well as for the ELCA lake water-testing program. Both programs meet the goals of the Machar Official Plan as well as the Mission Statement of the ELCA and are of mutual benefit. I would in fact, encourage the Township and ELCA to aggressively expand upon both of these programs. The effort expended to deal with the Phragmites invasion alone, should reinforce the adage: *“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”*

Mark Savill also made a request for funding from the Township in support of an ELCA proposal, for private marking of channels and hazards on the waters of Eagle Lake. I am opposed to the use of my tax dollars in support of this proposal for the following reasons:

****** It would be a stretch, to find clear justification for support of this project, contained within the text of either the official plan of Machar Twp. or the mission statement of the ELCA. Mark has correctly pointed out that in the past, the MNR placed markers (painted oil drums) on the lake near the Provincial park and Narrows and North End but most rusted out and sank or were removed and not replaced. Individuals have since placed markers largely in accordance with their own dictates, and more recently ad hoc installations of plastic markers apparently placed by ELCA have appeared, but none of these private markers meet DOT requirements.

******The many islands, shoals and shallows are part of the natural beauty of the lake and do serve somewhat as a deterrent against reckless operation of boats on it's waters These natural features, work much like traffic calming measures on roadways, (something that is badly needed on Eagle Lake Rd.) but this feature is already in place on the lake, at no cost to the community

******Private markers currently being placed on Eagle Lake are unsightly!

The even larger more numerous markers proposed by ELCA, some potentially fitted with night lights, in order to meet CNWA standards, will be a major intrusion on the visual enjoyment of the lake by myself and surely some other property owners not all of whom will be members of the ELCA.

****** Lake contamination due to Engine Mishaps is a justification that the ELCA has made for installing lake markers, but improper fuelling can also cause contamination, as can the absence of any boat decontamination measures before launching or other operator negligence. I will argue that these mishaps will happen regardless of how well the lake is marked due to inattention, error or ignorance on the part of some boat operators.

******In my early days on Eagle Lake, there were no markers or charts for me to navigate about the lake. I found my way cautiously and I learned where not to go. Today, every powerboat operator has access to the instrumentation that was used to map the lake profiles for the **“Eagle Lake Navigation and Marking Review”** This equipment gives boat operators the ability to see the hazards without the benefit of markers. It is incumbent on each boat operator, to have the necessary Nav. Equipment and in addition charts and local knowledge, if available, before launching their craft on the lake. Along with Licencing and Insurance, this is just part of the cost of operating a boat safely. It should not be the responsibility of the property owners of Machar Twp. to foot this bill.

Since its inception in 1979, the ELCA has continued a program of lake water monitoring that was started but abandoned by the MNR. Water samples [annually] and Secchi Disc readings [biweekly from May to Sep], are taken from two specific deepwater locations off shore in the North and South Basins of Eagle Lake. The samples are then sent to DESC, Dorset for analysis. A review of data collected by the ELCA shows a particularly rapid decline over the past 20 years, toward Eutrophication. High Phosphate and Chloride levels are reported along with decline in water clarity.

(Note: Mark Savill's presentation refers to a Muskoka Water web Link. The pdf document therein is a fish community report and does not deal with the ELCA water-monitoring program. Actual water history can however, be obtained directly from the ELCA and is generally reported in issues of the “Eagle Eye”)

Very little additional hard data has been gathered by ELCA, regarding lake water health in near shore areas but there have been increased sightings of algae blooms and lakeshore and riparian erosion. Lake water tests which I have conducted after heavy rains in particular has periodically revealed unacceptable levels of coliform and e-coli bacteria; making the water unsuitable at times for bathing of infants and young children. Taking a lesson from experience sorely gained from some areas of the Muskoka Lakes, the presence of Cyanobacteria and other Pathogens in Eagle Lake could be close at hand because water conditions are becoming ripe for them.

The Algae blooms and turbidity in the water can at least in part be attributed to high volumes of silt and nutrients entering the lake from the surrounding roadway drainage systems and the watershed itself including ruptured beaver ponds or possibly faulty septic systems.

It is incumbent on Machar Twp. to remain on top and in control of near shore conditions as much as possible through bylaw enforcement and through employment of best practices in the management of the watershed.

For example:

****Machar Twp. might investigate the adoption of current methods for road salting in winter that are employed by other municipalities in Ontario. The pre-dissolution of salt could substantially reduce chloride levels entering the lake yet maintain the same level of road safety. In the process Machar Twp. could save between 35% and 50% on the cost of salt or roughly \$2,500.00 to \$5,000.00 per year depending on annual usage, after the initial expense of the conversion.**

****There are many culverts that have been installed around Eagle lake, for road and watershed drainage that have their terminus near the shoreline or into riparian channels that feed the lake. These are one source of suspended matter that is contributing to the reduction in water clarity and quality because they carry both silt from erosion and nutrients that promote algae growth. If not already on record, all culverts and streams that feed the lake should be identified and mapped as to their locations and a program for monitoring and mitigating their erosive effects should be instituted. Remedial action might include natural erosion control measures such as plantings of indigenous vegetation and the installation of fascines or mechanical installations of riprap and possibly catch basins.**

The introduction of non-indigenous invasive plants such as phragmites and species such as zebra mussels into some Ontario lakes, has much to do with boat operators' inattention to boat sanitation before launching into one lake from another. Many lake communities throughout North America have now installed boat washing stations at each boat launch location where by local bylaw the boat operator will be charged a fee to have their craft decontaminated and stickered to indicate compliance. Some version of this approach along with a continuation of programs as needed such as phragmites removal are the way forward to preserve the natural quality of Eagle lake.

In Summary, the maintenance of the Health of Eagle Lake, meet the objectives of Machar Twp. and the ELCA! I appeal to the Twp. to apply any financial support that is available, toward this objective. Machar Twp. does have control over the management of the watershed lands surrounding Eagle Lake and through the adoption of best practices and the creation and enforcement of its bylaws, negative impacts on Eagle lake can be reduced. Machar Twp. must continually work toward meeting the dictates of C1.1 of its own official plan.

Ms. Bradley went on to mention that Peter is the author and researcher of the presentation and much more knowledgeable than she in this area, that he looks forward to Council's response regarding the presentation and providing more clarification if needed. Discussion ensued and Council agreed that they do not plan to get involved in buoys due to liability and cost, that there is a private resident generously volunteering their time to mark the lake. Mayor Carleton then advised that, according to Admin, since the Phragmites cut has started in 2018 the Township has contributed almost \$8,000 in manpower, vehicle use, and tipping fees (an average of \$1,300 per year). Ms. Bradley appreciated that, and asked how much we were willing to spend to prevent other invasive species, and said that she would be happy to research boat washing stations, installation at the Township's owned boat launch would mitigate 25% of contaminants destined for the lake. Admin will investigate boat washing stations for future consideration at Eagle Lake Estate Park and Boat Launch, but the large culvert replacement on Park Rd will be the focus of this year's budget. Admin also sourcing local businesses that already requisition water testing that are willing to share their results. Mayor Carleton advised that Public Works uses 70 tonnes of salt annually. Sand mixed with minimal 2% salt, less than many municipalities, and mostly only using salt for freezing rain events. Mayor Carleton also noted the Township's By-Law, since 2018, restricting the use of fertilizers containing phosphorus to farmland and not within 30 metres of a water body.

BUSINESS

1. Adoption of Feb 26, 2024 minutes, Resolution

45-24 Ivens, McLaren

THAT we adopt minutes of Feb 26, 2024. CARRIED

2. E Parry Sound Community Support Services Transportation Working Group inventory of transportation services available in the Nipissing and Parry Sound Districts

Good information to have available, although not a lot of availability on the East end of Parry Sound District. Council request it be posted on the website.

3. Administration Update Feb 29, 2024, Resolution

Reviewed, Councillor Ivens complimented Admin for being so proficient in tax collection. TDC suggested the reminders Admin sends out really help. Administration staff are very busy, workload volume, staff succession, citizen inquiries. Planning applications are still busy, currently approx. 10 in the queue. Eagle Lake Narrows Retaining Wall project ongoing. Website upgrade almost complete, required ongoing support and significant time from staff. No update to Council Chambers Addition or Columbarium.

46-24 Scarlett, Ivens

THAT we accept Administration Update to Feb 29, 2024. CARRIED

4. Pay List by Fund for Feb, Resolution

Councillor McLaren inquired after the pintle chain and kit for \$3,688 and the radio installed in the new grader. Admin agreed that Public Works Committee would better explain.

47-24 McLaren, Ivens

THAT we approve Pay List for Feb 2024: \$303,697.46. CARRIED

COMMITTEES

5. Shared Services Arena, South River Machar Day Camp 2024

The Day Camp proposal looks very appealing, its exciting to have the programs back up and running after COVID closures 4 years ago. Mayor Carleton hopes for local businesses to sponsor a child for a week of camp, as has been done in the past. Pricing to range from \$36-\$46/day, no lunch provided. Camp will accept 40 campers per week and run Jul 1 through Aug 23, 2024. Bus transportation to and from Sundridge, South River and around Eagle Lake.

6. South River Machar Library 2024 Budget up 16.1%, minutes of Mar 5, Resolution

The budget document remains incorrect, misstating 2023 Budget amounts. Councillor McLaren suggested cutting Library by 2hrs/week could save \$4,000 for the year. Surplus amount is still up in the air. Mayor to take suggestions back to the Board.

48-24 Scarlett, McLaren

THAT we acknowledge Library minutes of Mar 5, 2024. CARRIED

7. South River Machar Medical Centre minutes of Feb 20, 2024, Resolution

TDC advised the soundproofing has been installed.

49-24 Scarlett, McLaren

THAT we support motions in Medical Centre minutes of Feb 20, 2024 as follows: adopt the minutes, Pay Lists, Budgetary Controls, 2024 budget, adjourned until Mar 19, 2024... CARRIED

8. Central Almaguin Planning minutes of Jan 10, 2024, Resolution

50-24 Ivens, Scarlett

THAT we acknowledge Planning minutes of Jan 10, 2024. CARRIED

9. EMS (Emergency Medical Services) area rep report, minutes of Feb 22, 2024, Resolution

Rep's Key Takeaway: Tom Smith gave an update of the Community Paramedicine Programme. This programme has been running for 10 years with 57 active units across the province. In our district we have 6 paramedics that are proactive in preventing 911 admissions: 3 in the east and 3 in the west. There are 617 patients registered in the district for remote patient monitoring and home visits. In 2023, 2,243 homes were visited and 5,734 phone wellness checks were done. Patients are taught to take their own readings and they get uploaded to the office. An alert will come if it is outside of their parameters. This allows paramedics to move in before it becomes a 911 emergency call. Approx. \$1500 in savings for each call that is prevented for not walking into emerg. Right now, this is all provincial funded, as proactive healthcare is not traditionally covered by municipalities. Where this goes in the future is yet to be determined.

Mayor Carleton has reached out to see if Mr. Smith could present at a Council meeting.

51-24 Ivens, McLaren

THAT we acknowledge EMS minutes of Feb 22, 2024 with area rep report. CARRIED

10. Eastholme Home for the Aged Annual Levy Increase 2024 our apportionment up 4.25%

Municipal Levy Apportionment Calculation for 2024 Levy (households, Assessment, Hydro Power Dam Compensation, Industrial Tax Ratio); Machar pays \$96,388 for 2024 up 4.25% from \$92,462 in 2023. Mayor Carleton and Councillor Ivens plan to attend the Annual General Meeting on Mar 27, 2024 at 10 am. The Board of Management anticipate being able to re-instate a tour for the Councillors of our contributing municipalities, tentatively in May 2024.

11. OPP (ON Provincial Police) Detachment Board, lead municipality, Council rep, Resolution

Council confirmed they were happy with the Township of Perry remaining lead for the OPP Detachment Board and asked Councillor Scarlett if he was still interested in being the rep for Machar, Joly and South River. Councillor Scarlett is still very interested. Perry will be advertising/accepting applications for 2 public community reps.

52-24 McLaren, Ivens

THAT we nominate Neil Scarlett as the representative to the OPP Detachment Board representing Machar, Joly and South River, per the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019. CARRIED

12. NBay Parry Sound District Health Unit Board of Health agenda of Feb 28 posted on website

Board of Health meetings and minutes can be found at www.myhealthunit.ca/en/about-us/boh-meetings.aspx.

13. FONOM (Fed of N ON Munic) 2024 Conference, Unlocking the North's Potential, Executive Award

Council attendees are registered for the conference May 6-8, 2024. Council has no nominees in mind for the FONOM Executive Award presented annually at the event. Past recipients include Jamie McGarvey of Parry Sound in 2018, Mac Bain of North Bay in 2019, and Councillor Paul Borneman of Town of Parry Sound in 2023.

14. FONOM Northern Ontario Social Media Content 16 videos showcasing N ON

FONOM, with FedNor's generous financial support, has created 16 videos ([GoNorth!](#)) showcasing to the GTHA business community that awaits them in Northern Ontario. The content provided is available for community to use and share.

15. Almaguin Highlands Health Council meeting agenda of Mar 7, 2024

16. JBC (Joint Building Committee) permit summaries for Feb 2024, Resolution

4 of the 13 permits approved in Feb are in Machar, for projects valued at \$525,000.

53-24 Scarlett, Ivens

THAT we accept Building Permit summaries for Feb, 2024. CARRIED

INFORMATION

- 17. Township of Perry Resolution**, Request that the province amend Ontario Regulation 391/21: Blue Box so that producers are responsible for the end-of-life management of recycling products from all sources
- 18. County of Northumberland/Township of Puslinch Resolutions**, Support for amendment to the Occupational Health and Safety Act to clarify the definition of employer
- 19. Township of Puslinch Resolution**, Looking for support regarding Cemetery Administration Management
- 20. Town of Lincoln Resolution**, Urges the Provincial Government to support increasing funding to both public libraries and community museums
- 21. City of Stratford Resolution**, Support resolution from Town of Mono declaring a road safety emergency to address traffic safety measures, be endorsed
- 22. Municipality of Tweed Resolution**, Supports a measured approach to Ontario's energy transition
- 23. Municipality of St.Charles Resolution**, Supports resolution passed by the Municipality of Shuniah regarding Unnecessary Noise – Engine Breaks
- 24. Municipality of St.Charles Resolution**, Supports resolution passed by Town of Aylmer regarding Provincial Consideration for Amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act
- 25. Municipality of St.Charles Resolution**, Supports resolution passed by County of Prince Edward regarding Guaranteed Liveable Income
- 26. Municipality of St.Charles Resolution**, Support resolution passed by County of Prince Edward regarding Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) proposal to Expand the Use of Permit-by-Rule
- 27. County of Lambton Resolution**, The Province of Ontario upload from local municipalities the responsibility of and costs associated with the continued construction, operation, and maintenance of major municipally-owned highways throughout the Province of Ontario to the Ministry of Transportation or alternatively, if uploading is not the preferred option of the Province and/or local municipality, to appropriately increase the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund to municipalities so as to fairly and equitably allocate resources to Ontario municipalities
- 28. Town of Plympton-Wyoming Resolution**, Support resolution from the County of Renfrew regarding Rural and Small Urban Municipalities – Affordability of Water and Wastewater Systems
- 29. City of Clarence-Rockland Resolution**, Continues to endorse the 9-8-8 Crisis Line initiative and will display the 9-8-8 information poster in all its municipal buildings
- 30. Municipality of Chatham-Kent Resolution**, Request that the province amend Ontario regulation 391/21: Blue Box so that producers are responsible for the end-of-life management of recycling products from all sources
- 31. E Parry Sound Community Support Services**, Stand Up! A free twice per week for 12 weeks Falls Prevention Program for older adults beginning Apr 2 at Algonquin Fitness South River
- 32. Almaguin Adult Learning Centre**, Mar Calendar for upcoming programs
- 33. Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare (MAHC)**, MAHC is resuming walk-in only service for outpatient general X-ray services to improve access and flexibility for both patients and referring healthcare providers
- 34. MAHC**, MAHC is sharing an update on the commitment to take the time needed to reconsider the hospital redevelopment proposal presented during a series of community meetings in Jan and Feb, thank you to everyone who has participated in the dialogue, asked questions and provided suggestions
- 35. Blue Sky Net**, Feb 2024 Tech Talk Newsletter
- 36. MPAC**, Organizational Structure Streamlined
- 37. MPAC**, Jan/Feb 2024 In Touch
- 38. Ontario Small Urban Municipalities (OSUM)**, Time to Register for the 2024 OSUM Conference

39. **OSUM, 2024 OSUM Conference Program Features**
40. **AMO Policy Update, Get It Done Act, Keeping Energy Costs Down Act, CMHC Housing Data, Seniors Active Living Centres Regulations**
41. **AMO Events, NEW Workshop! Cybersecurity for Municipal Councillors**
42. **AMO Events, AMO Education: Navigating Conflict Relationships as an Elected Official (NCR 1.0)**
43. **AMO Events, Managing Communications through Crisis**
44. **AMO Events, AMO's Advanced Councillor Training Series**
45. **AMO Education, Disability Inclusion Workshop and Panel Discussion**
46. **AMO Watchfile Feb 29, In This Issue,**
 - 2024 is an AMO Board Election Year!
 - Application for the PJ Marshall Awards is open
 - Consultation on *Northern Services Boards Act*
 - Consultation on *Seniors Active Living Centres Act*
 - Nominations open for Lieutenant Governor's Award
 - Consultation: Rural Economic Development Strategy
 - Land use planning framework for energy project siting
 - Applications open: Rural Transit Solutions Fund
 - Cyber Security Education for Municipal Councilors
 - Advanced Councillor Training Series to Revitalize your Leadership
 - Disability inclusion workshop and panel discussion: Beyond AODA compliance
 - Managing Communications through Uncomfortable Times – Limited space
 - Anti-Semitism and Anti-Islamophobia: Spring workshops
 - Land Use Planning – Foundations and Deeper Dive workshops
 - Strategies for Navigating Conflict Relationships for Strong Council Outcomes
 - Learn more about municipal investments – Upcoming workshops
 - Cyber Incident Management webinar – March 21
 - Upcoming webinar: Road & Sidewalk Assessment Service
 - Upcoming webinar: Financial Analysis for Energy Projects
 - March is made for webinars
 - 2024 Farmland Forum: The Future of Ontario Farmland
 - Ontario Age-Friendly Communities 2024 Conference
 - Calls to action for municipalities on economic abuse
 - Housing access in higher education host communities survey
 - Helpful condo living tips for Ontario residents
 - Future of Aging Summit next May
 - Careers
47. **Almaguin Highlands Chamber of Commerce, Mar Newsletter**
48. **AMCTO, Board and Management Committee Highlights Feb 2024**
49. **AMCTO The Municipal Minute, Feb 28, Ontario adds \$1.3 billion in post-secondary funding, freezes tuition for three more years, New caucus will amplify women's voices in the North, Guelph considering public space use by-law to address housing crisis, encampments, Cornwall switching to clear garbage bags, despite privacy worries, Updates to sign bylaws are 'hurting businesses' in Petawawa, says shop owner, Why this Ontario town created a bylaw for using bubblers in lakes**
50. **IESO Community Engagement, Follow-up from IESO Municipal Webinars and Next Steps**
51. **Erika Luoma, Invitation to participate in Autism Ontario's "Fly the Flag" campaign on Apr 2, 2024, in celebration of World Autism Awareness Day**
52. **Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association (FOCA), Hot Topics, FOCA Champions Safe & Affordable Rural Living, FOCA's 2023 Year in Review, FOCA Promotes Healthy Lands, Lakes & Rivers, Partner Updates & Regional Notices, FOCA Serves Lake & Road Associations, FOCA's Bronze Sponsors, Final Thoughts**
53. **BAO (Bereavement Authority of Ontario), Lifeline: Succession planning, Licensing status, BAO-OPGT video, Annual Licence Renewal Care and Maintenance reminder**
54. **BAO, Notice to Profession: Bereavement Authority of ON names Jim Cassimatis as CEO/Registrar**
55. **Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Save the Date Form – Northern Housing Forum**
56. **Ius Laboris Canada Global HR Lawyers, IRCC Announces New Entry Requirements for Mexican Citizens Travelling to Canada**

54-24 Ivens, McLaren

THAT we support agenda item(s) 20. CARRIED

CLOSED SESSION

55-24 Ivens, McLaren

THAT we proceed into Closed Session in order to address a matter pertaining to; personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees. Time: 7:40 pm. CARRIED

56-24 McLaren, Ivens

THAT we come out of Closed Session. Time: 7:55 pm. CARRIED

ADJOURN

57-24 McLaren, Ivens

THAT we give 1st, 2nd, 3rd and final reading to Confirming By-Law and that we adjourn until our Regular meeting scheduled for Mon, Mar 25, 2024. CARRIED

Mayor Lynda Carleton

Treasurer Deputy Clerk Angela Loney

AL/BP/tb