

## Summer Village of Larkspur Annual General Meeting-Minutes July 25, 2021

Greg Drechsler, Mayor of the Summer Village of Larkspur, opened the Annual General Meeting at 10:00 am.

- Greg welcomed Summer Village residents and property owners to the 2021 AGM and introduced the current Summer Village councillors:
  - Greg Drechsler, Mayor
  - Gerry Keane, Deputy Mayor
  - Nick Tywoniuk, Counsellor
- Greg outlined some key points to keep in mind during the meeting:
  - The AGM is a meeting of and for the residents and property owners in the Summer Village of Larkspur.
  - Only residents and property owners can make motions and vote on any motions made during the AGM, but guests are welcomed to attend and listen.
- Election of a chairperson:
  - Gail Drechsler nominated Donna Crozier as chairperson. Donna accepted the nomination.
  - There were no other nominations.
- Election of a recording secretary:
  - Gail Drechsler nominated Emilie Keane as recording secretary. Emilie accepted the nomination.
  - There were no other nominations.

### **2021 Annual General Meeting of the Summer Village of Larkspur**

**1. Donna Crozier called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.**

**2. Mayor's Report - Greg Drechsler**

**A) Recognitions:** Greg recognized the following people for their contribution to the Summer Village:

- i. **Gerry Keane** for his hard work during three terms on council. During his time on Council, Gerry has served as Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillor. His "many years of service are a true testimony of his dedication to the Summer Village. Thank you, Gerry and Emilie, for your many contributions".
- ii. **Nick Tywoniuk** for "his service to our Summer Village. His positive impact on the Summer Village will be felt for a long time. He was so careful how we worded our Bylaws and Policies and was determined to get things right. Thank you, Nick and Marilyn, for your support of our Summer Village."

- iii. **Tony Galowoda** for looking after the Summer Village for many years and making it a beautiful place to visit by keeping the grass along Larkspur Drive regularly mowed. “Tony has decided to retire, and he and June are planning to move to St. Albert.”
- iv. **Greg Boutin** has taken over from Tony and is doing a great job mowing the grass along Larkspur Drive and doing some maintenance jobs within the Summer Village.
- v. **Koni Getchel** for “doing such a great job managing our community library.” Last summer, Koni re-modelled the library shelving to add more shelves for the growing number of books now available in the library. She is now recommending to council that electricity be installed in the library so that a motion light can be installed. Council is currently in the process of acting on Koni’s recommendation. The library is well used by residents and has been a positive initiative in the Summer Village.
- vi. Thanks to the following for cooking hamburgers and preparing other food for the BBQ which will follow the AGM:
  - 1. Nadia Scott
  - 2. Donna and Brian Crozier
  - 3. Michael Drechsler
  - 4. Andrew Drechsler
  - 5. Gail Drechsler
  - 6. Gerry and Emilie Keane
- vii. Welcome to new homeowners who have joined our Summer Village since our last AGM.
- viii. Congratulations to the two new councillors who were elected on July 24, 2021:
  - 1. **Blaine Boutin**
  - 2. **Jason Meliefste**

**B) Council’s Accomplishments and Priority Work:**

- i. New CAO and Bylaw & Development Officer:
  - 1. Kim Bancroft, daughter of Marion and Garth Bancroft, has been hired as the new CAO and Bylaw and Development Officer.
- ii. Reserve walkways:
  - 1. Council has received a grant for vegetation management that will be used to clear and open reserves to allow for easier access to the lake, primarily for emergency access to the lake. The plan includes clearing a 3-4 foot path and installing simple fencing along the edges of the walkways. This is a multi-year project starting with reserves 5 and 6 in 2021.
  - 2. Concerns were raised about people outside our summer village looking for and finding access to the beaches, creating parking issues

along Larkspur Drive and crowding issues on beaches for our own residents. Council will investigate this new development.

iii. Fire Smart:

1. Council received a \$500 Fire Smart grant from the Federal Government, to be used for an annual Fire Smart awareness session. We have used this money for the BBQ. The door prizes were also part of the grant.

iv. Fire and Alarm Sign:

1. Council has installed a Fire & Alarm sign at the hall. If residents see a fire or something that the community needs to be warned about, they should dial 911 and then proceed to the hall and pull the alarm. If residents hear the alarm, they should proceed to the hall to discover the nature of the emergency and take appropriate action.

v. William Boytzun:

1. William Boytzun is credited with the development of the Summer Village. He acquired the land in 1960 and developed the community we enjoy today. He passed away recently but we welcome Adele Lowen, William Boytzun's niece, to our community.

vi. Westlock Food Bank:

1. Council had received a \$5000 MOST Grant (Municipal Operation Stimulus Grant) given to municipalities requiring assistance from COVID. Because our Summer Village did not have need for these funds, a decision was made in March 2021 to donate \$5000 to the Westlock Food Bank who was struggling to provide support to families in need due to hardships created by Covid19.

vii. Security Cameras:

1. Security cameras were installed at both entrances to Larkspur Drive. Thanks to Dave Kelly for installing the cameras. Residents are directed to report any break-ins to the RCMP and inform them that we do have security cameras so they can check the tapes.

viii. Public Lands Bylaw:

1. This spring, Council passed the Public Lands Bylaw. This bylaw is for the purpose of regulating the use of public lands to be compatible with the normal activities of urban life and with the recreational objectives of the municipality. Residents are encouraged to read this bylaw which is located on our SV website.

ix. Roads:

1. Gerry Keane provided an overview of Council's actions to date to have the roads repaired. Heavy rains in the last two years have caused significant deterioration of sections of our roads. Council has the budget to repair the roads and is in the process of receiving bids to do this work.

x. Disturbance Standard:

1. The new Disturbance Standard became **provincial law** in April. The purpose of the Disturbance Standard is to set the maximum acceptable footprint for temporary seasonal docks, temporary seasonal boat lifts and associated structures for personal recreational purposes. Meetings are being held with residents to discuss how this new law affects homeowners backing onto reserves.
2. Council passed its Temporary Seasonal Docks and Lifts Bylaw on April 29<sup>th</sup> following the requirements of the new Disturbance Standards set out by the Alberta Government.
  - a. Gerry Keane provided a brief overview of the work undertaken so far and the work yet to be accomplished.

xi. Collaboration between the Summer Village and the County of Westlock:

1. Collaboration and partnering are becoming more common among Alberta municipalities. Council believes that working together with our neighbour to seek efficiencies and improve services can be more effective than trying to do everything on own. As a result, Council has been working on several projects with the County of Westlock:
  - a. ICF (Inter-Municipal Collaboration Framework)
    - i. This is mandated by Provincial Municipal Affairs. The ICF was completed and is available on the website for review.
    - ii. The ICF provides a collaborative framework to help small communities improve services such as fire services, road maintenance and waste removal.
  - b. MDP (Municipal Development Plan)
    - i. This was completed this past spring and the public review was completed in March.
    - ii. The purpose of the MDP is to set policies for the use of land within the Summer Village of Larkspur. Also, while accepting that the Summer Village Council has no jurisdiction beyond the municipal boundary, this plan discusses how development outside the boundary might affect the Summer Village of Larkspur.
  - c. IDP (Inter-Municipal Development Plan)
    - i. An IDP is a high-level plan jointly developed and adopted by two or more neighbouring municipalities to ensure that land use decisions within the identified IDP area are thoughtfully considered through a collaborative planning process to support the long-term interests of both municipalities.
    - ii. The draft IDP was prepared by MPS (the project consultant) and an Inter-Municipal Planning

Committee that consists of a member of Council from both municipalities. This project began in 2019 and is still ongoing.

- iii. An online public meeting was hosted on June 14<sup>th</sup> by MPS, and residents were invited to respond to the public meeting by July 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - iv. A future meeting with Westlock County will be planned to discuss how to move forward
- xii. Water Levels:
- 1. The water levels have dropped approximately 8 inches this year.
  - 2. A request has gone to Ducks Unlimited (who are responsible for the maintenance of the weir) to create a temporary solution that would maintain an acceptable water level on the lake.
  - 3. Andy Gent raised an issue about the large floating islands that have released from the narrows and have floated down to the southern end of the lake. Can something be done to move the islands back to the narrows?
- xiii. Summer Village of Larkspur Website:
- 1. Residents are encouraged to use the website and to check it on a regular basis for news and information about our community.
- xiv. Ditches:
- 1. We are reminded to keep the ditches clean and to not drive or park on the grass in the ditches.
  - 2. A discussion was held about the need for some large families to have access to additional parking for vehicles and/or recreational campers. While council recognizes that parking campers and or vehicles in the ditches would be convenient for some families, we are directed to not use the ditches for that purpose. Doing so creates significant problems for Greg when he mows the grass.
- xv. Financial Report:
- 1. Kim Bancroft provided highlights of the 2020-2021 Financial Report and answered any questions that were asked.

**C) General discussion:**

- i. Pathways to the beach (Andre Huot and Roger Lamble):
  - 1. Concerns were raised about people from outside the summer village parking on the grass in the ditches or along the roadway and using the pathways to access the beaches. Clearing the pathways and putting fencing along the pathways might result in encouraging increased use of the pathways by non-residents. Some beach areas have experienced groups of non-residents accessing the beach and

monopolizing the beach area and leaving garbage. Council is asked to find a solution to this problem.

- ii. Widening the roads (Faye Atkinson):
  - 1. Although we recognize the need to widen Larkspur Drive in order to create safer winter driving, doing so might also encourage increased use of our roads by non-residents who want to access our beaches.
- iii. Water Level and Weir (Lyle Bernie, Brad Sonnenberg and Linda Rockwell):
  - 1. High water levels have eroded some of his beach.
  - 2. Who decides what is the right water level for the lake?
  - 3. What is the purpose of the weir? The weir helps to stabilize the water levels on the lake.
- iv. Jim Lawrence
  - 1. We all live a privileged life because we live at the lake. We are fortunate to have chosen this clean lake and this summer village for our permanent or our summer residences.

**D)** Donna Crozier thanked Gerry Keane and Nick Tywoniuk for their service as counsellors during the past several terms. Your dedication to our community has been greatly appreciated.

**E)** Donna Crozier declared the meeting adjourned at 11:30 am and invited residents to a BBQ hamburger lunch following the meeting.

