

Highlights of HBM Lake Associations' Zoom Meeting (2020 May 23)

Hello fellow Lakers (especially those residing within HBM township).

It was a scorcher this week at the lake with temperatures in the afternoon reaching around 35C!

Last Saturday morning, the mayor of Havelock Belmont Methuen (HBM), Jim Martin, held a special meeting with representatives of the various lake associations in the Township. Below are some highlights of this 'Zoom' meeting:

Summer Events

- most HBM large gatherings have been cancelled including the annual Havelock Jamboree that normally hosts upwards of 20,000 people
- HBM Township continues to work closely with MPP Dave Smith, MP Marion Monsef, the Health Unit, and OPP to ensure federal and provincial COVID-19 guidelines are being met.

Social Media

- Jim expressed regret about some of the postings on social media re: seasonal residents
- the sometime "stay home, you're not welcome" attitude is not a reflection of how Council and most HBM residents feel
- to the extent permitted by the Province, HBM is open for business and cottagers are, as always, most welcome
- the important thing however is to use practices as are necessary to "Stay Safe"
- there is concern that with the warmer weather and desire to be outside with others, people are letting their guard down
- again, there should be renewed focus on social distancing, masks, and sanitizing tools for staying safe.

HBM Council Meetings

- are recorded and can be accessed from the HBM website (<http://calendar.hbmtwp.ca/council>).
- the Township is working on a video system so that meetings can be shared online.
- agendas and minutes for Council, Board and Committee meetings are available on the Council and Committee Calendar.
- minutes from Council meetings are posted to the website after they have been approved and adopted by Council.

Taxes

- interest on the 2020 tax bill has been deferred until the end of July for those who are struggling to make payment
- while there is no exact determination on the overall increase yet, taxes will increase next year (partly as a result of costs associated with the Pandemic) with HBM's mill rate increase (2.5%) already passed in the HBM budget
- (note: HBM township collects taxes for itself, the county and education sector)
- HBM staff is rotating and accepting calls from tax payers with questions

HBM Office & Staff

- in addition to Sonia Aaltonen (Planning Assistant) HBM has hired a new Planner starting June 16th; (she is actually NK's ex-Planner)
- CAO Pat Kemp is on extended leave and her duties are being covered by Bob Angione
- the Parks & Recreation Department has merged with Infrastructure
- Ryan Andrew is the Infrastructure Manager and Peter Lawson the Infrastructure Supervisor
- the HMB Township office will open shortly once the plexiglass screens are put in place

Garbage Bag Tags

- have not been available at the Waste/Transfer Sites but HBM is working to make tags available with local commercial establishments (hardware, grocery, convenience stores etc.) and also through automatic 'ticket' machines at the 6th line Transfer station. The plan is to mimic the Peterborough County plan with a few adaptations for HBM township.

Clear Garbage Bags

- starting January 2021, all HBM residents will be required to use clear bags for recycling
- HBM has started an education programme as a build up to the hard launch next January

Boathouse Bylaw

- it was determined last Fall that a final decision would be postponed until late Spring/early Summer in order to allow seasonal residents to have a final say
- in this spirit, HBM will have a further 2-3 Public Meetings on the subject
- it was suggested that ultimately there may be different bylaws for different lakes
- per last year's Survey, Belmont and Jack's Lake have expressed the most interest in the subject (with the majority mainly opposing new builds)
- there was a rumour that HBM might initiate another Survey
- several lake reps spoke against such a possibility observing that it would be a waste of tax dollars and that public opinion is now pretty clear
- at the moment, no new Survey is planned

Water Testing

- at the moment, everyone is advised to go to Peterborough to get their water tested
- if not possible to get to Peterborough, HBM will exceptionally accept samples

No Permit Excavation

- attention was brought to the fact that there are some unscrupulous contractors/excavators out there digging out hollows in the bottom of lakes during the winter months
- in the case of Belmont Lake, this digging was being done without the requisite permits
- Lakers should be vigilant and encouraged to raise questions over similar concerns on their lakes

End