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October 12, 2021

General/Finance Committee
Township of Muskoka Lakes
1 Bailey Street, P.O. Box 129
Port Carling, ON, P0B 1J0

Dear Chair Zavitz and General/Finance Committee Members,

**Re: Report from Director of Public Works – Increasing Off Street Parking Facilities
Item 5a on the October 13, 2021 Agenda**

The Muskoka Lakes Association was requested by some of its members to review changes to the parking by-law and enforcement in the areas of Walkers Point (Marina Road) and Beaumaris. This letter is in response to that request and to the staff report listed as Item 5a on the October 13, 2021 General/Finance Committee agenda.

MLA representatives requested and were granted a meeting with Township staff Ken Becking and David Pink on September 21, 2021. We appreciated this opportunity and had a good and productive discussion regarding potential short term solutions, longer term solutions and how the MLA could assist in getting stakeholders involved.

We appreciate the thought that has gone into the longer term and broader issues around islander parking in general, which is not unique to the two areas in the subject report, and we are hopeful that the Official Plan Review and Transportation Master Plan will establish principles and solutions that reflect the public's input and are fair to both mainland and island property owners.

Short term solutions for the two subject areas are more difficult to address and must consider both islanders and mainlanders that are affected. The staff report proposes changes to the parking by-law that will make the 2 hour parking limit in Beaumaris enforceable, and presents some alternatives for Marina Road including widening the shoulder to permit on street parking on one side of the road. The report notes that there are some private developments that will assist with providing additional parking in the Walkers Point area.

We would ask that the committee consider the following:

1. *Delay changes to the parking by-law, and do not enforce the parking limits on the south side of Marina Road for the 2022 season.* This will permit completion of the OP Review and establish the general principles for islander parking. It will also permit some more detailed work to be completed on the Transportation Master Plan. In addition, it will allow any private initiatives such as construction of additional marina parking to be completed. Committee may wish to consider reducing the speed limit to help address any concerns with safety issues in the interim period while the OP Review and Transportation Master Plan are being finalized.
2. *Expedite any planning applications associated with marina parking expansion in the Walkers Point area.* This will hopefully result in additional, sufficient parking for the 2023 season.
3. *During the 2022 season, collect data on the extent of the parking issues in these two specific areas by patrol or other means like cameras and conduct a broader inventory of potential municipal and private sites for island parking.* This will give a greater understanding of the actual extent of the needs and will inform the Transportation Master Plan.
4. *Work with the Muskoka Lakes Association to assist with communication with our members to identify which off-street municipal parking facilities are available for use for water-access properties.*

Thank you once again to staff for taking the time to meet on this issue. The MLA hopes the Township will consider our comments in their deliberations.

Sincerely,



Susan Eplett

Vice-President and Chair, Government and Land Use Committee

cc: David Pink, Director of Development Services and Environmental Sustainability
Ken Becking, Director of Public Works