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April 9th, 2019

Mayor Harding and Members of Council
Township of Muskoka Lakes
1 Bailey St.
Port Carling, ON, POB 1J0

Sent VIA EMAIL

Dear Mayor Harding and Members of Council,

Re: Extension of the Interim Control By-Law for the Resort Village of Minett

At the Council meeting on April 12th you will consider a report recommending that the Interim Control By-law (ICBL) for the Resort Village of Minett be extended for 1 more year. The Muskoka Lakes Association, representing over 2500 families in Muskoka, supports the extension of the ICBL to allow the Minett Joint Policy Review Steering Committee (MJPRSC) to complete their work in assessing the policies and best practises to be applied to this area. While there will be those whose development proposals have been affected asking for it not to be extended, we would ask council to consider that we have only one opportunity to get this right for this and future generations.

The MLA has a keen interest in this area and we have two of our Board of Directors sitting on the committee as evidence of our commitment to help the Township and District of Muskoka develop the policies and tools to develop this area responsibly.

It is our understanding that the MJPRSC was established to help resolve some of the contradictions in the existing District and TML OPs and to recommend any changes to the TML OP and ZBL which might better reflect the significant changes in provincial policy and environmental concerns as well as the significant difference in actual vs. forecasted growth and settlement patterns in the more than 10 years since the resort village of Minett was first proposed.

While we are not privy to the work of the committee, we have been regularly updated on its activities. The work process of the MJPRSC was by design frontend loaded to ensure the committee had a common understanding of the environment and development processes. As part of this review the committee has considered the scope of studies needed for Minett.

After developing greater consensus among committee members with diverse backgrounds and different perspective, we understand that the MJPRSC is now turning its focus to developing specific recommendations which can help ensure that whatever happens in Minett is best for TML and has widespread support from the larger community.

In light of this constructive and methodical process and the progressive results to date we believe it is critical to allow the committee the time needed to prudently complete its work. The recent change in ownership of the largest property in the area should have no bearing on the decision of council as the development framework should be set for any eventuality.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lawton Osler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'L' and 'O'.

Lawton Osler, President
Muskoka Lakes Association

c.c. Katie Edwards, General Manager, MLA
John Klinck, Chair, District of Muskoka