

Message from the Summer Village of Larkspur Council

Our Council

Greg Drechsler – Mayor

Jason Meliefste (Maleafsa) – Deputy Mayor

Blaine Boutin - Councilor

Recognitions

I'd like to thank the chair of the meeting, and the secretary and the volunteers who managed the luncheon and did the cooking of the burgers this morning. If you smelled burgers cooking early today it was probably the burgers for our luncheon.

Greg Boutin looks after the Summer Village....he keeps the acres of grass mowed and does many odd jobs that most of us don't realize need doing to keep our SV in great shape. Greg, you had big shoes to fill after Tony but have done a great job.

Koni Getchel - our librarian. We have a fabulous adult library as well as a great kids library. Koni keeps them both organized and up to date with all the books that get donated to our two libraries. We are planning to build a new children's library. We have a plan and a site. We just need a carpenter.

Wayne Nestorodich for taking on the massive job of clearing snow

Dave Kelly thank you for monitoring the security system.

Fire Hall / Community Hall

We have replaced the overhead door on the hall as the old door was getting a bit worn. We plan to paint the inside of the hall and have removed all the old files so we now have more space.

The projects that require the services of an electrician are still pending. A keyless lock has been installed on the man door. Contact Greg Boutin if you require access

This IS a Fire Hall –in the event of a fire, after calling the Westlock fire department, alert everyone of a fire by triggering the alarm – it's to the right of the Firehall door. We must keep our two pump units in the hall just in case there is a fire in the village. (how to access if needed). Remember that these pumps would be the first defense before the Fire Trucks can get here from Westlock.

Notice Boards

As you can see from the notice board here at the Fire Hall, Greg Boutin has replaced the plastic front and done some much needed fixing to the board. We ask that you treat it with respect, take care as you place an add or notice behind
. the plastic front.

A new notice board for the entrance to the village will be installed at the 3 way stop. We ask that notices be placed on this new board from now on. Any individual notices placed on or beside the SV welcome sign will be removed.

Reserve Walkways

As you probably remember from our AGM last year we discussed opening up the walkways into all the reserves. This certainly was not a popular project and our new council has decided that if we do anything,

it'll be to just make sure the majority of the walkways accessible from the crescents are easier to get through.

Reserves

Our CAO sent out a letter to each resident of the Summer Village on June 1, 2022. The letter stated that residents are not allowed to do any work on reserve property without written permission from council or the CAO. This includes removing or trimming trees or foliage as well as adding any sand or changing the grade of the soil in any way. If you see a dangerous tree that should be removed, please contact administration and it will be taken care of. We do have a reserve bylaw on our website that can provide further information on this topic, including fines and penalties. In regards to tree removal I'll let Blaine give you an update.

Security in the Village

Since Dave Kelly installed our two security cameras at either end of Larkspur Drive we are unaware of any ongoing issues with breakins. The presence of the security cameras must be accomplishing their objectives.

Thanks Dave.

Roads

Our roads were repaired last fall. The contractor will return each year to do a maintenance program so we don't get ourselves into the pot hole mess we were in.

ICF/MDP/IDP

Over the past 4 years, the previous council and our new council have been developing three key documents that will help the county of Westlock and the Summer Village of Larkspur work together. They are:

: The ICF (Inter - Municipal Collaboration Framework) provides the SV with Fire Service, road maintenance and access to waste management. Complete

: The MDP (Municipal Development Plan) sets policies for the use of land within the SV. Complete

:The IDP (Inter - Municipal Development Plan) ensures that the land use decisions within the identified IPD area is thoughtfully considered through a co-operative planning approach to support the long term interests of both municipalities. This has been a long journey for the SV. We believe we have done the best job we can in our negotiations with the Westlock County. Blaine & Jason will talk a bit more about this after my report.

Docks

The Provincial Disturbance Standard came into law in April of 2021. We had hoped to have the Summer Village bylaw implemented this year but other projects delayed it's completion. Much work has been done and Jason will discuss this after my report.

Water Levels

It appears that our water levels have gone back down a bit this year. High water has been a problem for many of us.

Ducks Unlimited, who have been granted by government the responsibility to manage the weir, applied for a temporary diversion license last summer. I have been advised that the Licence is still in the technical review stage.

Ducks Unlimited have offered two options to the Summer Village of

Larkspur regarding the future of the weir

1. Take the weir out completely.
2. Duck Unlimited would relinquish responsibility of the weir.

Considering the long term effect of removing the weir and the responsibility of managing the weir the counsel declined both of these suggestions.

On Site Household Waste Removal

We have been in discussions with a Waste Removal company to provide the SV with household waste removal. We have explored several different methods. They are:

1. Roll up bins that each homeowner would roll out to the curb on garbage day.

Pick up would be once a week through the summer months

May - October

Pros: Convenient

Cons: Bins left by the road during the week.

They won't be bear proof.

Messy when they tip over in the wind.

2. Large Bins with lockable tops.

Pick up once a week through the summer months May- October

They range from 3 Yard to 8 Yard bins.

(Perhaps 2 - 6 yard bins. Parked in the vicinity of the FireHall.

Pros: Don't have to haul our garbage to town or the two transfer stations.

Cons: Unsightly bins by the firehall

Large heavy trucks on our roads

Each homeowner would be given the combination to open the bin and that allows you to empty your waste into the bin.

If we go ahead with this service it will be for household refuse only..... no furniture drop off's, no construction material, no yard compostable material. The site must be kept clean.

What Landfill can the Village use

We have access to two transfer stations. They are the Pibroch & Jarvie transfer sites. These are included in your tax base with no upcharge for use. We presently pay \$2,500 annually and we receive 35 transfer station permit cards for the use of the two stations. If we require more cards there is an added cost to the Summer Village. If you use the landfill at Westlock there is a charge to you.

New Community Shelter

We have been discussing with the Larkspur Natural Land Society to have access to the southern portion of their 22 acres . The SV would then lease the land with a long term lease in place to protect the SV. We are proposing that a new community shelter could be built on the site that would allow the residents of the SV to hold many activities in a new covered shelter. The shelter might have 3 open sides and one side closed in to be used as a community bulletin board or an area that the Land Society could use for nature lessons for kids. There are many ways this shelter could be used. Perhaps a playground on the site or a Volley ball court etc etc. The shelter would be built with funds provided by provincial grant money that has been assigned to infrastructure projects.

The Summer Village has been given these grants over a period of time. We must follow the directions and intent of the grants. A fairly large portion of the grants (approx. \$193,000) will revert back to the province by the end of this year if we don't have a project to apply them to. By submitting an application to government for a project at this time we can retain access to those funds. The design and tender for the project could go ahead with a spring start on the construction.

Discussion on the IPD – Blaine & Jason

Discussion on the Disturbance Standard – Jason

Questions