

To: Mayor Letham and Members of Council for the City of Kawartha Lakes

April 9, 2019

Re: Delegation to Council regarding, public property and boat launch at the south end of Chemong Lake at / or near 782 Frankhill Rd.

This delegation is on behalf of concerned residents of the area and persons using this public area, including my mother at 800 Frankhill Rd. and brother at 794 Frankhill Rd., both of whom are adjacent property owners to the matter in question. (Refer to a petition submitted by me to Council in or around Jan. 2019).

Discussion

I have had the opportunity to review staff report # CS2019-006, title- Frankhill Rd. Public Water Access, prepared by Craig Shanks and would respectfully submit the following in response.

Firstly I would to point out that the presentation and concerns expressed are on behalf of the above noted petitioners. There appears to be in the range of 100 signatures on the petition, all of whom are tax payers living in the immediate community of the site and within the Municipality of the City of Kawartha Lakes and/or use the site for recreation, including boat launches, fishing, etc.

In addition, I have reviewed, Staff Report # PRC2014-003, dated Feb. 11, 2014 dealing with the issue of Boat Launch sites. It is not clear whether or not this report was endorsed by Council, however as it was presented to me, I will reference same.

In that report, it is clear that little or no consideration was given to access by water to Chemong Lake from or through the Municipality of the City of Kawartha Lakes.

The report recommended a categorization of each site from a priority standpoint in regard to future upkeep. In addition each site was classified into one of three categories.

Categorization A- urban setting, daily garbage pick-up, receives L1 grass cutting service, has both a launch and multiple docking locations, good parking and a hard base launch ramp.

Categorization B- weekly garbage pick-up, receives L1 or L2 grass cutting services, limited docking and parking amenities and mostly consist of gravel based launch ramps.

Categorization C- weekly garbage pick-up, receives L1 or L2 grass cutting services, limited docking and parking amenities and are gravel based launch ramps.

In review of these classifications, it is clear that the site in question on Frankhill Rd. could with minimal attention meet the requirements of Categories B and/or C. At present, there are three large boulders situated on the Municipality's right-of-way above the access point that could accommodate limited parking, as well minor reworking of the launch itself could also be used for limited parking and a garbage container location. Any of these suggestions would require minimal expenditures. Notwithstanding, I believe the Municipality does have a budget item for that purpose that could be accessed.

With Council's indulgence, I would like to address Staff Report CS2019-006, the author suggests that some of the boat launch sites in Categorization C were given status due to historical status. The site in question clearly meets and or exceeds the requirements of Categorization C and has served as a gathering, fishing, swimming hole for over 100 years and as a boat launch site for in excess of 45 years. The report further suggests that responsibility for access to Chemong Lake rests with the County of Peterborough. As previously noted, the nearest launch areas to Chemong Lake are totally within the County of Peterborough. The closest to the community in question are some 7km away.

It would appear that the report further downplays the importance and value of the site to the local community.

- ie. a) 90% of lake is not within the Municipality of the City of Kawartha Lakes,
- b) used for small vessel launching,
- c) lack of amenities,
- d) Chemong Lake within the Municipality of the City of Kawartha Lakes is very limited from a navigational standpoint,
- e) concerns of safety and liability are expressed.

Response to above

- a) over 10% of Chemong Lake is within the Municipality of the City of Kawartha Lakes jurisdiction and the area in question is the only site available within the municipality's jurisdiction,
- b) boats upwards to 22 feet can be launched at site (includes runabouts with outboard motors +100 hp, +160 hp inboard/outboards, fishing boats, bass boats etc).
- c) it isn't included in the municipality's inventory, site can provide limited amenities,
- d) the draft at the lower end of Chemong Lake averages 5-6 feet, tell people who live there that it doesn't go anywhere,
- e) concerns of safety and liability are part of the municipality's responsibility.

Summary

The property in question is owned by the Municipality and has been used continuously and uninterrupted by the public as a swimming hole, fishing spot, picnic area and water collection for over a century, and for over 45 years as a boat launch.

The municipality does have an inventory of boat launch sites and as noted, none that provide residents with direct access to Chemong Lake within their jurisdiction. This site is the only launch site available for residents of the municipality with access to Chemong Lake. The next closest launch site is approximately 7 kilometers away and outside the boundaries of the Municipality.

There are 10 launch areas within the Municipality's jurisdiction that are similar to the site in question, in that they do not provide parking and /or garbage collection..

The site has not been a financial burden to the Municipality over the years of its' existence and there is no reason to believe that this has to change. The request is not setting a precedent, and the subject site fits within the Categorization C of the municipality's boat launch inventory.

The Municipality's Official Plan policies, not only supports but, encourages the preservation of this site for the use of their citizens.

The actions of the residents of 782 Frankhill Road have been disruptive to the Community and unwarranted and should be stopped.

The residents of the area do not want to loose this access to the lake and accordingly the Council should stand with its' residents and protect the interests of the public to insure that the launch area remains as such and in the public domain.

Accordingly, I believe that it would be in order to reject the staff recommendation and further,

“that the City of Kawartha Lakes Boat Launch Inventory be amended by adding the Frankhill Rd. Boat Launch site as a Categorization C boat launch”

In advance, I thank you for your attention to this matter and your support on behalf of concerned citizens. In addition, I would ask that you keep us informed of any council activity in this matter so that we may make delegation to council as necessary.

Yours truly,


Nick Lasch