



RE: In Kind Contributions – McGeachie Park

December 17, 2024

To: Crowe Valley Conservation Authority Board Members,

In 2021, the Township of Limerick and Crowe Valley Conservation Authority entered into an agreement for In-Kind Donations for McGeachie Park and the associated short term rental cottage beside it. This bylaw is attached as By-Law 2021-05, McGeachie Agreement. Although this agreement was not resigned in subsequent years, the Township of Limerick continued to honor the agreement and provide maintenance in-kind. This maintenance includes:

1. Winter Snow Plowing (every snow fall)
2. Summer Grass Cutting (weekly)
3. Garbage removal (weekly) – and garbage bag refills
4. Bathroom Cleaning (weekly) – includes restocking of toilet paper

In addition to the regular maintenance, the Township of Limerick has also helped when requested to clear winter snow from the cottage. This is done at the request of Tim Pidduck and has been performed 5 times so far. During the Grand Re-opening of McGeachie earlier this year, the Township sent two employees for a full day to clear trees and provided 3 loads of gravel for the parking lot. All of this was done at the cost to the municipality.

As you are surely aware, costs have risen across every aspect of the municipality. This year, Limerick must make cuts in various areas to keep the property tax increase at a sustainable level. The agreement with Crowe Valley Conservation Authority is being reconsidered by Council for the 2025 budget. To date, the cost to the Township of Limerick for maintenance runs around \$3500-\$4000 per year, for a total of just under \$14,000 total for the past 4 years. This is just for labour costs and materials (garbage bags, toilet paper). This total does not consider any of the sand material placed during the winter. While this does not seem like a large amount to most, the reality for Limerick Township is that this equates to a 0.5% levy impact each year. This, coupled with the increase in CVCA costs annually are not sustainable in the current scenario.

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Going forward, the Township of Limerick Council is asking that CVCA pay for these services, and the Township will continue to perform them as normal. The Township would be happy to continue with a revised agreement that outlines the cost for these services. The Township also asks that contained within this new agreement is a clause to monitor annually, at a minimum, the status of the beaver dams located on the property. This is to ensure that maintenance of the beaver dams can be addressed to mitigate another failure that causes unforeseen damage and risks to public safety.

Sincerely,

Shawn Pack
Councillor/CVCA Board Member
Limerick Township

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