

## Community Access and Preservation (CAP) Committee Report to AGM on August 19, 2023

CAP is a newly formed committee of the Skerryvore Ratepayers Association (SRA). We oversee and advise on community use and access to SRA lots on the waterfront with environmental principles of preservation in mind. As a community, we have waterfront lots to use, enjoy, and maintain. The objective of the CAP committee is to (a) maintain community waterfront lots for community use, (b) enable and facilitate reasonable community use with others, and (c) to enable enjoyment for all community members while respecting the natural environment along with those who have properties beside the SRA lots.

CAP Committee Members: Steve Spearing; Kyle Campbell; Lisa Chupa; Bill Beamish; Kevin Curtis-Norcross; Sylvia Curtis-Norcross; Margaret Pasut; Tyler Thompson; Sheila Cavanagh.

### **REPORT:**

The CAP Committee met several times online and in person over the summer of 2022 to discuss SRA waterfront lots. Special attention was devoted to (what we are now calling) Ginn Lookout; Tamarack Lookout; and Moonlight Lookout.

**Ginn Lookout:** Ginn Lookout is an important property to Skerryvore residents. It is one of the places where people launch their boats, swim, and enjoy views of the bay. It is thus important to ensure that people can use and enjoy it to the fullest while (a) respecting the natural environment, and (b) the neighbors adjacent to the property. Community members (many of whom have in-land lots) want to use this lot to store non-motorized boats (like kayaks and canoes). This is important because not everyone has a waterfront lot or the physical capacity to lift and portage their boats on a regular basis. Some people with water-front properties expressed concern about ensuring that the lot did not look messy. By leaving boats on the shoreline (as opposed to back and away from the shoreline), some boat owners have obstructed access for all. Additional questions were asked about whether non-motorized boats should be stored at Ginn Lookout at all. After assessing the large size of the property, considering issues of access, and the importance of respecting those with lots adjacent to the property, CAP agreed upon the following proposal:

**Motion 1:** “We move that kayak/canoe racks be built on Ginn Lookout to ensure the safe and orderly storage of kayaks and canoes.”

These racks would be far enough back from the shoreline that people could easily use and access the waterfront for swimming, sitting, enjoying the sun set, etc., without having to meander through (or be blocked by) boats, but close enough to the shore that boat owners can drag (or lift) their non-motorized boats to the shoreline without too much difficulty. The expectation is that (a) those using the racks would take responsibility for ensuring that all boats are put away at the end of the day, (b) that users would register for a spot and pay a modest fee to build and maintain the structure (with additional financial assistance from the SRA), and

(c) that few (if any) trees will be cut down to build the racks. We expect that a rack holding 20 canoes and kayaks will suffice. Should the number grow due to community need, we can accommodate this because the property is very large.

### **Tamarack Lookout:**

Community members who enjoy walking along trails and accessing the waterfront to enjoy sunsets, etc., expressed concerns because the Tamarack Lookout path was not being well-kept and cleared for safe walking. Others thought it was important that this trail be maintained for walking only (and not for ATVs).

Motion 2: “We move that the narrow walking trail on Tamarack Lookout be cleared and rehabilitated to ensure that people can safely walk along it to the waterfront.”

The expectation is that no trees be cut down and that the maintenance of the trail will not disrupt the vegetation.

### **Moonlight Lookout:**

Moonlight Lookout is another beautiful SRA lot. Alongside the boat launch, there is a beautiful (but small) stone beach which is difficult to access and enjoy because the vegetation has grown in. As a result, people sometimes sit at (or near) the boat launch which can pose safety concerns. As always, CAP is committed to solutions that support all users. In that spirit, we propose:

Motion 3: “We move that a narrow walking trail to the stone beach at Moonlight Lookout be made.”

The expectation is that this narrow walking trail will not lead to the removal of many (or any) trees and that it will be made with minimal disruption to the existing vegetation.

Minutes prepared by Sheila Cavanagh