

Belmont Lake Cottagers' Association

Minutes, Board Meeting

Sunday, August 20, 2017

Present: Brian Deas, Greg Alexander, Fred Bennett, Donna Peeling, Wendy Vuyk, Peter White

Absent: Katherine Deas, Evan Meyers

1. Board Member Update

Wendy

- One water test done, two more to be done, one in August and one in September
- Wendy will follow up with Fred Carter on test done in past years

Donna:

- Secchi disk testing done regularly throughout the summer. Clarity now at 5.5m, normal for this time of year

Brian

- 33 people have registered for golf, down from this time last year due to a number of individuals who played last year not able to make it this year
- Fireworks: This year BLCA provided \$800, and Bob Prins, Bryon Backus and John Tsalkos put in \$2,400. The board approved a contribution to next year's fireworks of \$1,000
- Trivia and Environmental Contest: Brian reported on behalf of Katherine. Disappointing response to the contests. No responses to the environmental challenge, and a small number of entries for the trivia challenge. The board approved \$100 to be awarded to the winner(s) of trivia challenge in the form of a gift certificate to the Foodland in Havelock, an advertiser in our newsletter

Fred:

- Now at 333 members.
- Peter will prepare a list of members last year who have not yet renewed this year
- Fred asked that the white sheets for road reps be distributed earlier next year to give road reps a chance to provide feedback.
- He suggested that only the green membership sheets be used for providing updates to the Quickbooks data base

Greg:

- The regatta was another success this year
- Greg may not be available for next year's regatta. He will recruit others to organize events for next year
- Greg will look into a new tug of war for younger people
- Rock marking needs to use longer rope
- For email pushes, only 50 to 70% are actually opened

2. Newsletter Planning for 2018

- Peter will issue the responsibilities list for next year's newsletter in October of this year
- Donna agreed to do an article on fireworks on the lake
- Wendy will write the article for the regatta and parade of lights
- Greg will provide the list of winners of the events (something not included in this year's newsletter)
- Greg will ask Wayne Alexander to do an article on the sailboat races this year

3. Feedback from members

- All board members reported positive feedback from members
- Concerns focused on loud and sometimes apparently unsafe boating. Most members understand that BLCA does not have the authority to directly intervene on these issues
- Fred noted that there is a website "quietlakes.ca" that provides suggestions to address inappropriate boating behavior

4. Ideas for using our surplus

The ideas surfaced at the AGM were reviewed as follows:

- Scholarship for children or grandchildren of members to study environmental programs. Thought to be too narrow in scope so that too few member would benefit
- Distribute money to road associations around the lake. Determined to not fairly benefit those members who are not on a private road, such as Mile of Memories or islands
- Reduce fees, thought to be a problem for future years
- Programs for children, thought to be difficult to organize, but worthy of future consideration
- Crowe Valley Conservation Authority projects (specifics to be determined). Given the current issues between HBM Council and the CVCA, the board decide to defer action on this until a later date
- Provide breakfast at the next AGM. This would require additional volunteer involvement even if fully catered. It was decided to defer this for now.
- Order tee shirts for road reps. **It was agreed that we would move ahead and order a quantity of the yellow volunteer shirt.**
- Look into BLCA decals that members can display on their cottages. **Wendy agreed to investigate this and move ahead and order 450 decals with a budget not to exceed \$300**
- Look into providing a map of Belmont Lake with membership, in addition to the calendar. **Greg agreed to look into sourcing a map 17" by 11" that could be folded and inserted into the newsletter with a budget not to exceed \$2,000**

5. HBMLA

- Peter identified two key items to be discussed at the next HBMLA meeting in September
 - Septic inspection: the board supported the concept of having lake property owners having their septic pumped every 5 years and submitting proof of this to the township. Failure to provide the proof would first prompt a reminder, and if not done, an annual increase in taxes of \$100 to \$200 per year.
 - 2018 Township Election: The board supported the idea of the HBMLA endorsing candidates the election.

Peter thanked the board for their hard work and constructive ideas. It is a pleasure to work with you all.