



BELMONT LAKE COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

JULY 15, 2020

MINUTES (UNAPPROVED)

Note: The 2020 AGM was held via "Zoom" meeting, hosted by FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations). This meeting had a one-hour time limit. As a result, the verbal Directors Reports were limited to the President (Peter White), Treasurer (Fred Bennett) and Membership (Evan Meyers). The remainder of the reports were submitted as written reports only and are attached to these meeting minutes here:

President (Peter White):

http://blca.ca/BoardDocs/2019_2020/BLCA_2020_AGM_Peter_White_Report.pdf

Meeting Comments:

http://blca.ca/BoardDocs/2019_2020/BLCA_2020_AGM_Peter_White_Comments.pdf

Treasurer (Fred Bennett):

http://blca.ca/BoardDocs/2019_2020/BLCA_2020_AGM_Financials_Report.pdf

Financials: http://blca.ca/wp-content/uploads/BLCA_2020_AGM_Financials.pdf

Membership (Evan Meyers):

http://blca.ca/BoardDocs/2019_2020/BLCA_2020_AGM_Meyers_Road_Rep.pdf

Social (Katherine Deas):

http://blca.ca/BoardDocs/2019_2020/BLCA_2020_AGM_KDeas_Report.pdf

The entire meeting was recorded as a Zoom video meeting and can be viewed at:

http://blca.ca/BoardDocs/2019_2020/BLCA_AGM_webinar_15July2020.mp4

Motion 20-01 to accept Minutes of the 2019 BLCA AGM (Peter White – online poll). Carried.

President's Report – Peter White (summary of comments):

BLCA AGM President's Comments:

1. BLCA in a time of pandemic

- The pandemic has affected us all in many and significant ways
- As with other lake associations, we have had to cancel most of our social offerings this year
 - We were happy to continue to provide financial support to the outstanding fireworks on July 4. Many have noted this was not only

the best ever on Belmont Lake, but comparable to the show in larger communities across the country. Many thanks to Bob Prins, Bryon Backus, John Tsalcos, Chad Acorn, Todd Taylor, Jeff Keating

- We are going ahead with the parade of lights, possibly the sailboat races, the blackout and the fall hike
- We changed the way we distributed the newsletter and calendars this year, and we provided local businesses with no charge advertising to give them a boost at this challenging time. Fred Bennett will have more to say on this during his financial overview
- The electronic distribution of the newsletter and calendar appears to have been well received by members
- We had planned to do issue a membership directory this year, but deferred it until next year, when we hopefully can distribute it in hard copy

2. Gypsy Moth

We included an article in the newsletter on the Gypsy Moth invasion, with a few tips on how to moderate them

- The infestation was worse than expected, with some areas around the lake suffering badly
- We will be working with local authorities and FOCA to assess the best way forward
- In the meantime, there are countless on-line information sources that cottagers can use to take action to reduce the infestation next year

3. Water levels:

- CVCA has done a good job of managing water levels in the system
- Actions taken in prior years to reduce the leakage of the Belmont dam and log management have been very successful

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- The spring freshet was moderate this year with little flooding, and water levels have been consistent this spring and summer despite the draught
- Belmont Lake level is 22cm over summer set level as of yesterday

4. The HBM Lakes Association was involved in several areas over the year.

- Our focus of the HBM Lakes Association has been on providing township council with input on key by-laws. We continue to monitor developments related to on shore boathouses. Based on our feedback from members at our volunteer recognition gathering last September and Belmont responses to the township survey, we have taken the position that on shore boathouses should not be permitted within 30 meters of the lake

- As noted in our newsletter, the tax levy increased 5.37% for this fiscal year. As all jurisdictions are experiencing, next year will be an incredibly challenging one for the township due to the pandemic

5. Normally we would have each director speak to their areas of focus at the AGM. This year, due to the time restrictions of the meeting, I will highlight those very briefly

- Fred Bennett keeps track of membership and our finances and along with his wife Pam have done a stellar job at scrubbing our records until there are very few issues. Fred is resigning from the board today, but has offered to continue to keep our records through to the end of our fiscal year on March 31. Thank you Fred and Pam for your outstanding service.

- Evan Meyers recruits and organizes our road reps, who do a remarkable job at boosting our membership and just as importantly, add a positive social aspect by being a BLCA member. Last year we hit an all time high of 387 members. This year, even without the ability to canvas face to face, the goodwill generated by the road reps have led to 300 members joining to date. Thank you Evan, the quadrant leaders and all the road reps for making our association stronger and more fun. And thanks to Evan and Mary Ellen for hosting the Volunteer Appreciation Event at their cottage for the last several years, a real team building gathering.

- Donna Peeling and Wendy Vuyk look after our water testing. Although the Lake Partner Program is on hold during the pandemic, Donna will continue to collect Secchi Disk measurement throughout the summer. Wendy will collect samples and report on Coliform, E-coli and Phosphorus. To date, our water quality remains very high, and has been AGM President's Comments 2020 v1 Page **3** of **3** **2015-07-22** remarkably stable for the last few years. Let's all work together to assure we keep this record in tact by keeping our shorelines natural, avoiding using fertilizers and pesticides and keeping our septic systems in good shape. Many thanks to Donna and Wendy for this important work. Our enjoyment of the lake and our property values dependent on water quality

- Katherine Deas looks after our social media, coordinates our BLCA clothing and plays a major role in planning and carrying out our regatta. As time goes on, social media will be all the more important to communicating with members. Katherine also attended FOCA conferences on our behalf. Thank you Katherine.

- Brian Deas coordinated a variety of social programs and he looked after the signage that you see around the lake. He acted as the board contact for the fireworks and golf tournament and attended FOCA conferences along with Katherine. Brian will be resigning from the board as of this meeting, and I would like to thank him for the over 8 years of dedicated contributions to the BLCA during that time.

- Greg Alexander, our Secretary, looks after the minutes of our AGM, along with managing the marker buoys and our email blasts to members. He helps plan and carry out the regatta along with Katherine. Thank you Greg for this important work.

- And of course there are a lot of others who have provided their time to add texture and fun to the BLCA:

- o John Dixon acted as Editor for the newsletter
- o Lisa Levy put our calendar together
- o Jim Carnrite sends out links to access our lake calendar as members join
- o Debbie Howe organizes our golf tournament
- o Val Marshall is planning the fall hike this year

6. Many thanks to the members of the board and all our volunteers for their hard work and significant achievements over the year. In addition to hard work, we have a lot of fun and we get to meet some very interesting and lively cottagers along the way.

7. If you have any questions or comments, use the chat feature of Zoom. I will try to address them before the end of the meeting. But if time does not permit, we will include a response in the minutes of the meeting.

8. I would now like to turn it over to Mayor Jim Martin for a township update.

HBM Township Update: Jim Martin

- March 25: HBM declared state of emergency which is still in place as of today.
- Office still closed to public, access by appointment only and please wear a mask if given an appointment
- Council is continuing with online meetings via Zoom
- Staff changes – Supervisor of Infrastructure is a new role as a result of the merger of Parks and Public Works (Ryan Andrew)
- HBM has hired a planner to bring the function in-house; planner is also assisting with the Economic Development portfolio
- Parks and Recreation Master Plan completed but not presented yet due to COVID

- Work on Country Road #48 is being completed under warranty due to rapid deterioration of the new surface
- Work being planned for the intersection of Burnt Dam and Preston
- Clear Bag Program soft start planned for January 2021 goal is to increase recycling
- EORN working on broadband and reducing gaps in cell service
- Gypsy moth has hit the area. Spraying is an option but needs to happen in the spring.
- Mile of Memories and launch parking – Bylaw (enforcement) has been there every Saturday to review activity

- Crown Land camping is an issue in the township, but this is generally not an issue at Belmont since there is no Crown Land
- Question / Comment – Thanks for the work on the parking and when will a speed limit be posted. A: Will follow up, thought the speed limit was already posted
- Question – Dog Strangling vine: A: Larry Ellis working with Evan Meyers. Vine seems to be very healthy this year.

Closing comments: Budget discussions coming up. Boathouse bylaw discussion delayed due to limitations on public meetings.

Treasurer’s Report: Fred Bennett

- The March 2020 budget on target (slightly above water), meets our target of break-even
- March 2021 year will be substantial loss due to waiving the advertising fees for local businesses and an expectation that we will only 80% of our original membership target. Net loss projected to be \$3336.
- 2021 projection still at a loss as we still might not be able to get our membership numbers up to previous levels. Net loss projected to be \$1565. BLCA has the financial means to absorb these losses.

No questions posed regarding the budget.

Motion 20-02 to accept the Financial Report by Fred Bennett and seconded by Peter White. Passed (online voting)

Membership: Evan Meyers

Membership draw results: 293 members eligible for the draw with \$760 worth of prizes. Thank-you to all local businesses who supported the BLCA membership draw as it is very important to our membership numbers.

Local business who supported the draw: Belmont B&B, Trans-Canada Nissan, Woody Burger, Trans-Canada Nissan, Pup’s Tree Service (Foodland gift certificate), Marmora Inn, Havelock Tim Hortons, Havelock Pharmacy.

FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers’ Associations): Terry Rees

- FOCA is an “Association of Associations” sharing best practices for cottage associations and sharing of ideas. FOCA covers 500+ lake associations.
- Strategic plan under is review as part of a regular review. Currently: Strengthening Lake Associations; Effective Government Relations; Science into Action; Bridging Gaps in our Rural Communities
- FOCA policy recommendations are based on science
- Focus on septic systems: <https://foca.on.ca/septic-systems>
- The LPP on hold as Dorset lab is closed due to COVID: <https://foca.on.ca/lake-partner-program-overview>
- FOCA provides insurance for lake association directors
- Gypsy moth hot topic local control / egg masses now: zimmerair.com & bioforest.ca
- Reminder that FOCA Elerts are important for all cottagers and the search tool at FOCA can find information on almost any issue related to waterfront properties

Election of Board of Directors – Peter White

In order to enhance our ability to sustain the activities of the board of directors, we are proposing to elect 10 directors this year. The BLCA by-laws specify that the number of directors shall be 8. By supporting the roster as presented, you will also be approving an increase in the number of directors.

The nominees are as follow from the current board:

Greg Alexander
Katherine Deas
Evan Meyers
Donna Peeling
Wendy Vuyk
Peter White

The new nominees are as follow:

Erin Dixon
John Dixon
Taylor Homer
Val Marshall

No additional nomination presented.

Motion by the Chair to accept the candidates (20-03).
Voting online – passed

Q: Can the BLCA get the authority to regulate boat speed: A: Regular discussion at the BLCA but is beyond the scope of our association to attempt to regulate boat speed. The same issue exists on other lakes. BLCA attempts to communicate a mutual respect for how the lake is used by all stakeholders.
Q: What is the total lake population: A: >500 total properties; best estimate 500 active properties in our database

Comment from the floor thanking the board for all their efforts in the past year.

Closing comment: Thank-you to FOCA for setting up the Zoom Meeting and squash as many Gypsy Moth caterpillars as possible!

The meeting was adjourned at 12:59 PM