



BELMONT LAKE COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

JULY 26, 2014

MINUTES (UNAPPROVED)

Opening remarks from Peter White, BLCA President: Welcome to council, past presidents, introduction of the board.

Motion 14-01 to approve minutes of the 2013 BLCA AGM (Ed Bracht, Debbie Howe). Carried.

President's Report – Peter White:

Peter reported that communications with CVCA (Crowe Valley Conservation Authority) regarding the state of the Belmont Dam continues to be an important task of the board, with Peter or a proxy (Wayne Alexander) attending CVCA board meetings on a regular basis. The BLCA has approved \$3K to be provided to CVCA towards dam repair; CVCA has just completed the work where they put the BLCA capital to work.

The BLCA board believes that this capital contribution from the BLCA, while nominal in relation to the overall \$140K project cost, was an important gesture that helped motivate the CVCA board to make the commitments to repair the Belmont dam. The provincial government has also recently contributed \$69K for additional repairs to the dam, with the balance coming from the CVCA budget.

CVCA has also developed a water management plan for Belmont and this will be posted on the BLCA website.

HBMLA continues to be active with the township in the budget cycle, with success noted in helping to minimize tax increases in the last few years. HBMLA is also working with township on the question of septic inspections, noting that HBMLA has yet to take a position on if we will lobby for increased inspections. This issue is currently before HBM council. HBMLA has organized two all-candidates meetings for August, dates posted on our website.

Discussion followed, with a comment that if an inspection process did start then it might be a good idea to hold an information meeting for cottagers on the process. Noted as well that if (per verbal report) there are 80% tanks in compliance, then this means 1/5 are failing. Peter replied that this estimate should be taken as a very rough estimate with no formal report backing this up.

Report from Council – Mayor Ron Gerow

Mayor Gerow provided additional information on the recent repair work on the Belmont dam, with a total capital outlay of \$139K. The non-operational end bays have been sealed, and cracks in the remaining structure sealed. Mayor Gerow provided a staff update at the township offices, with two new key officials hired in the past year (CAO and Billing) and encouraged cottagers to take some time to meet the new CAO Pat Kemp.

OPP Billing Model Review: Reported that OPP costs are considerable and imposed on townships. Ontario is reviewing the billing model, with a commitment to complete by Q1 2015. Early indications are that costs may go up, and this is a great concern to HBM council due to the impact on property taxes. Mayor Gerow encouraged cottagers to call MPP Jeff Leal (705-742-3777)

The official plan has still not yet been approved due to some specific concerns about the plan raised by one individual. OMB and Peterborough County are working with HBM on adjustments to the plan that will help mitigate some of these concerns.

Septic tank inspections would only occur if HBM approves a by-law to implement. This will be dealt with by the new council after the fall municipal election.

HBM council nominations for the fall election are now open. Nominations to date were reviewed.

Discussion followed regarding OPP costs, noting that currently OPP costs represent 25% of municipal levy. HBM and other Peterborough County townships are looking at options to mitigate these costs (local force) but so far there are no reasonable alternatives to using the OPP. Note that details of this are also available in the 2014 BLCA newsletter (page 3). FOCA continues to lobby on the OPP issue as well.

Councilor Ellis discussed Hydro's GARLON RTU spraying program. HydroOne has been invited to council to review. Discussion followed on the seriousness of the issue and the possibility to look to restrict all usage of GARLON in the township, either via HBM or CVCA. BLCA has directly contacted Kerry Hinton noting our concern with this issue.

Financial report – Larry Pick

Motion 14-02: It was moved and seconded that the financial statements for 2013-2014, and the budget for 2014-15 be accepted (Ed Bracht, Uta Piekert). Carried.

Social Report – Brian Deas

The 2013 Golf Tournament was a success, thanks to Donna Deas and Lyle & Barb Stricker. The Strickers are unable to help this year so Greg Clements and Debbie Howe have stepped in to assist.

Social Media & Fireworks – Greg Alexander on behalf of Katherine Deas.

Facebook continues to be our primary social media tool, and via email we are reaching nearly 400 lake residents. We encourage people to follow BLCA, Belmont Marina, FOCA and CVCA on Facebook.

Fireworks were run again jointly with Cordova. While the event was a success, there were comments from the floor that perhaps the event is not well attended by lake residents and may not be good use of BLCA funds. Discussion followed about the feasibility of BLCA hosting fireworks on the lake again, noting that this could be done provided the volunteers are available. Greg Clements has agreed to look into options for fireworks.

(Katherine's report is available as a separate document on the Board Documents page of our website)

Water Quality – Brandon van Asten

Brandon reviewed the water quality results for this year and previous, noting variations from previous years. Questions from the floor regarding if we still do secci disk (no) and if we did phosphorus (not currently). Noted that BLCA once owned phosphorous test equipment but the location of the equipment is not known.

Pike tournament results were reviewed, with double the participants from 2013. Discussion followed about recent MNR Fisheries sampling; noted that so far no data had been made to the public.

Road Reps – Evan Meyers

Evan discussed the status of Road Reps, noting that we need new reps on Big Island, FR 8A, 7A, 22 and Fish Hatchery Road. The Big Island distribution is also being reviewed, as the late boating season start caused difficulty distributing on the island. Membership figures were reviewed, noting that Peter will send one final reminder to non-renewed memberships shortly. Discussion followed regarding new ideas for the calendar including artwork and historical photos.

Pontoonarama discussed, noting that our attempt to host Round Lake was unsuccessful and the event was cancelled. We're reviewing so see if there is another way to get this event up and running.

The Road Manager's meeting will be held again in 2015 as this event was seen to be as very helpful to road maintenance managers.

Question from the floor regarding the dock that is no longer present at the public beach. Council (Ron Gerow) noted that council is generally not in the business of installing and managing docks, but they would entertain proposals to do so.

There is a "monument" at the mouth of Breckenridge Bay, it has "Fred" on it. Question if anyone knows the background of the monument.

Other Business

Fire pump discussion followed, reviewing the state of existing fire pumps. Noted that the Fire Chief had visited in a previous AGM and had discouraged cottagers from attempting to get involved in fighting a building fire. The pumps do still exist but have not been maintained on a regular basis.

Question followed regarding lighting restrictions, is there a by-law? HBM council responded that there is a yard cleanup bylaw under review but no current provision regarding lighting? Council noted that they would entertain proposals to add provisions to the by-law.

Board Nominations open. Jeff Bondett has resigned from the board. Dave Bizony nominated by Brandon van Asten. Nomination accepted. We now have eight candidates for eight board positions. There were no further nominations, therefore the board was elected as nominated.

Non binding recommendations from the meeting:

- Information meeting for cottagers regarding septic inspections
- Attempt to query MNR to get data from the fish sampling

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30AM.