



BELMONT LAKE COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

JULY 25, 2015

MINUTES (UNAPPROVED)

Opening remarks from Peter White, BLCA President: Welcome to Council, Past Presidents, introduction of the Board (Brian Deas, Evan Meyers, Larry Pick. Absent: Katherine Deas, Greg Alexander, Brandon Van Asten.)

Motion 15-01 to approve Minutes for the 2014 BLCA AGM (Peter White, Mark Roper). Carried.

President's Report – Peter White:

Peter reported that the current BLCA membership is at an all-time high of 300 members with a potential for 450 members. He reviewed the agenda for the AGM and noted that the Board would be seeking nominations for two Board members as both Brandon Van Asten and Dave Bizony had resigned their seats.

Highlights of the past year include ongoing meetings and communication with the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) attended by Peter and/or his proxy, Wayne Alexander. Work to mitigate leakage at the dam was completed in 2014. (BLCA contributed \$2,268 in 2014 towards this project.) Other work has improved log handling and long-term stability by pinning huge bolts into the bedrock.

As one of the eight representatives representing eight lakes on the HBMLA, Peter spoke to some items being addressed. These include reviewing the draft township budget which included a tax levy increase of 4.3% (3.4% from existing landowners); and a possible township septic re-inspection program.

Peter noted two emails received from members. These emails expressed concern regarding fast, dangerous boating on our lake and excessive noise levels of the boats. Peter discussed this issue in a telephone call with Sergeant Gerry Smith of the OPP who noted that cottagers who observe dangerous boating should report the situation immediately to the OPP at 1-800-310-1122. A description of the craft, where the incident occurred, and ideally, where the boat is docked are helpful. Officers will visit the cottager by land if provided enough information. The source of the information will be kept confidential. As well, the OPP will deploy an additional lake visit from the Marine Unit. Mayor Gerow noted that the noise issue is monitored by the Bylaw Officer Andrea Stillman. Telephone No.: 705-778-2308.

In conclusion, Peter thanked all the volunteers (Board, Road Reps, Regatta, Golf, etc.) for their time and energy in supporting the BLCA and encouraged others to volunteer if only for a few hours to help out at such events as the Regatta. Peter noted that the Board of Directors meets three times a year as well as the AGM and that anyone who wishes to serve need only follow through on any commitments that they make.

Report of the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA):

Tim Pidduck, General Manager of the CVCA, was present to report on the mandate and activities of the CVCA. As stated, the CVCA mandate is water management, i.e. water levels. CVCA staff takes water measurement levels 365 days a year. Belmont Lake dam is the second last dam in the watershed system.

This spring run-off was not as bad as the previous year due to an extremely dry spring period. There was some concern that the Low Water Response Team would have to be convened to implement water restrictions. However, this scenario was averted when 200-250 millimeters of water fell over a nine day period in June.

Next week, CVCA staff will be doing the final jacking of the end bays at the Belmont dam. The aim is to have constant water levels over the season. The overhead gantry system has been installed which will make it easier and safer for the manipulation of the logs and jacking. A key project was the rock bolt installation, the purpose of which is to keep the dam from slipping and/or tipping. The life expectancy of the dam is 75 – 100 years. Currently, the dam is at the mid-point. Photos of the dam pinning work are available on the CVCA website.

HBM is the largest monetary contributor to the CVCA. CVCA has applied to the Province for funding to undertake a Base Flow Study (last done in 2005).

In response to a member's question as to the reason for such high water levels last year, Tim Pidduck noted that this was due to a combination of conditions including amount of snowfall, timing of snow melt and ice melt. Tim also noted the CVCA mandate to warn residents of flooding.

Peter thanked Tim for attending the AGM and speaking to members. A video link to CVCA has been published in the BLCA newsletter for those who would like more information on the pinning work. Peter also thanked Wayne Alexander for attending and participating in CVCA meetings.

Report from Council – Mayor Ron Gerow:

Mayor Gerow noted that the Township had until the end of June, 2015 to determine the type of contract it wished to enter with the Ministry in regard to the new OPP billing model. Council decided to continue with the Section 10 contract for four more years. This means that costs of major policing events will be subsidized by the Province. However, the Township is still considering other options such as contracting for police services from Peterborough or a County Sheriff's Department. Mayor Gerow expressed the Council's concern over the high cost of police services, i.e. 35 cents out of every dollar of tax money goes to the OPP. The Township needs to give one year's notice to get out of the current contract.

After being delayed by the Fall Provincial Election, the current Council will continue its meetings with the HBMLA and the Health Unit to develop a strategy to inspect septic systems. A brochure with a return questionnaire is being developed by the Health Unit and will be mailed to all cottage owners in August. Based on the responses, Council may or may not approve (based on a majority) a mandatory

program to re-inspect septic systems over 10 years old. These on-site inspections will be done by the Health Unit over a five-year period at a cost of \$125 per visit, or \$25 per year for lake front owners. A draft brochure will be available next week and reviewed by Council and HBMLA. If approved, the program would start in 2016.

In response to a member's question regarding the status of outhouses, steel tanks and other such structures, it was noted that all work must be done in compliance with the Building Code and that the Health Unit has records dating back to 1975. On-site visits would reveal any work undertaken without permits.

Even though the questionnaires are being sent to all waterfront property owners, Peter stated that the BLCA would remind its members to complete and return the questionnaire. He also encouraged members who have questions or concerns regarding this matter to contact the Council by email.

In conclusion to Council's report, Peter recognized former Councillor Larry Ellis' past dedication and cooperation with the BLCA.

Financial Report – Larry Pick

Larry Pick reported that the Association was in good financial shape as shown in the BLCA Fiscal Report presented on the reverse of the Agenda.

Motion 15-02: It was moved and seconded that the financial statements for 2014, and the budget for 2015 and 2016 be accepted (Peter White, Mary Ellen Meyers). Carried.

Road Reps – Evan Meyers

Evan Meyers reported that there are currently 32 road reps and that volunteers are still needed for Fireroads 18, 20, 22, 27 and 27A. As well, the Association would welcome roving road reps to canvass as needed.

Rabble Rouser – Evan Meyers

The Rabble Rouser held on July 18 provided an opportunity to thank its many road reps and other volunteers. There were 32 people in attendance at this barbeque with food provided by Primal Cuts of Peterborough.

Many good ideas were forthcoming, including: preparing a new map of Belmont Lake to include updated Lot Nos. (Pam Bennett volunteered to assist with the verification of data); emailing membership information to residents of Big Island due to accessibility issues.

All in all, there was positive feedback on the BLCA and its activities. Peter thanked Evan and Mary Ellen Meyers for hosting the Rabble Rouser.

2015-2016 Calendar – Evan Meyers

Evan reported that 225 calendars were printed and, to date, 200 had been sold. Uta Piekert and Lisa Levy were lauded for their hard work in producing the BLCA annual Calendar. It was noted that photos are always needed although it was suggested that no more snake photos be included.

As an aside, member Connie Young noted that she has a traceable outline for a dog available to anyone interested in making a 'plywood model of a black dog' to deter geese from landing on their property.

Membership Draws – Evan Meyers

Evan spoke to the many excellent prizes provided for the BLCA early membership draws. The names of winners will be published in the next newsletter.

Water Quality, Pike Tournament – Peter White on behalf of Brandon Van Asten

Peter thanked Brandon, who was absent, for his dedicated work over the years sampling the water and testing for ecoli. He noted that the water quality of the lake is great with most samples taken showing a 0 ecoli count. The highest ecoli count was 3, from samples taken in two shallow bays.

Donna Peeling volunteered to continue the water testing utilizing the FOCA Lake Partner Program which provides a kit to test for phosphorous and water clarity. The locations and number of samples are to be determined as well as whether to continue with ecoli testing. Additional volunteers to assist with this program are welcome.

Peter reported that the Pike Tournament was, once again, a huge success with 23 teams competing. Brandon has agreed to continue organizing this event for the next year.

Road Summit – Evan Meyers

Evan thanked Glen MacDonald for doing an excellent job organizing and documenting the event. 43 people representing ten lakes were in attendance to discuss the main issue of maintaining private roads. It was recommended that insurance coverage be obtained for all road associations.

Social Media Update, Fireworks – Brian Deas

In the absence of Katherine Deas, Brian read a social media update report prepared by Katherine. Highlights included the growth of the BLCA media presence (there are currently 280 "likes" on Facebook), and the online networking linking our Facebook page with the pages of other lake associations in Ontario. The BLCA Facebook page has proven to be quite useful for posting lost and found items, wildlife sightings, rental properties and general questions about local services/ life-at-the-lake.

Brian reported on the two fireworks displays (one on Belmont Lake and one in Cordova) which were both held on July 4th. The Belmont Lake fireworks organized by Bob Prins was a huge success with over 70 boats in attendance. Once again, the BLCA received Canada promotional material from Heritage Canada which was distributed in Cordova before the display. Brian suggested that consideration might be given to staggering the dates of the two displays allowing people to attend both.

Golf Tournament – Brian Deas

The 2014 BLCA golf tournament held on Salt Creek Golf Links was a great success. Many thanks to organizers Donna Deas and Debbie Howe. This year's tournament will again be held at Salt Creek on August 29. The cost is \$35 for members and \$50 for non-members and include the golf fee, shared cart, hot lunch and prizes.

Regatta – Brian Deas

Brian reported on the BLCA regatta and its many activities, including the tug-of-war and face painting, all of which are run by volunteers. Students can attain some of their required Provincial volunteer hours by helping out at this event. Wayne Alexander noted that he would distribute flyers promoting the sailboat races which are held at 2:00 p.m. the previous day.

Signage – Brian Deas

Brian reported that a members' survey done in 2012 showed that people need more information regarding lake events. As a result, a professional sign was commissioned from Benjamin Graphics of Campbellford and has now been erected at the northeast corner of highway 48 and the 6th line.

Other Business

Peter reported that Greg Clements will take over the rock marking from George Shelswell of Belmont Lake Marina. This is a paid position that involves both the placing and storage of the buoys.

Peter noted that information on FOCA and its activities was available at the meeting and in the newsletter. He encouraged members to sign up for FOCA alerts by visiting the FOCA website (foca.on.ca).

Member Larry Ellis suggested that on-line membership payment instructions should be communicated in the newsletter. Although these instructions are on the reverse of the membership registration form, this form is not left with the cottager.

Peter introduced member Kathy McBey as the new BLCA roving reporter. Kathy reported that she has met with the local Fire Chief and that her follow-up article, as well as relevant contact numbers, i.e. Township, OPP, K. McBey), will appear in the next newsletter. An updated map of cottage roads (last issued in May, 2000) will be made available.

The Fire Chief will attend the next meeting of the Roads Committee to address the issue of emergency vehicle access on private roads during the winter months.

Member Mark Roper is arranging a group hike of Blue Mountain, Nephton, on October 3. Anyone interested in participating should meet in the Cordova library parking lot at 8:30 a.m. for a 9:30 a.m. start. Information will be provided in an email to members.

In response to a request for information on damage caused to the shoreline by wakeboats, it was noted that FOCA addresses this issue.

Election of the Board of Directors

The current six members of the Board will continue to stand.

Motion 15-03: That Wendy Vuyk be nominated to the Board of Directors. (Sandra Balind, Wayne Alexander). Nomination accepted

A motion to nominate Donna Peeling was deferred. Immediately after the meeting Donna accepted the nomination.

There being 8 nominees for 8 board positions, all were confirmed without a vote.

The new board is as follows: Greg Alexander, Brian Deas, Katherine Deas, Evan Meyers, Donna Peeling, Larry Pick, Wendy Vuyk, Peter White

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.