

**BELMONT LAKE COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**JULY 21, 2018**

**MINUTES (UNAPPROVED)**

Opening remarks from Peter White, BLCA President: Welcome to the members, members of Council (Mayor Ron Gerow, Jim Martin, David Gerow, Hart Webb) and introduction of the Board: Fred Bennett, Brian Deas, Katherine Deas, Evan Meyers, Donna Peeling, Wendy Vuyk, Greg Alexander (absent).

Peter noted that Mayor Gerow will not be running in the upcoming Municipal elections and thanked him on behalf of the BLCA for all his hard work and support over the past years. Mayor Gerow invited all members to attend upcoming All Candidates' Meetings, dates of which are posted on the Municipality's website.

***Motion 18-01 to approve Minutes of the 2017 BLCA AGM (Peter White, Wendy Vuyk). Carried.***

President's Report – Peter White

Peter noted that the BLCA Newsletter outlines the great efforts undertaken by the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) in managing the lake water levels. Actions include anchoring the dam and stopping leakage of the dam. Current water levels are slightly higher than the summer set level. Concern was expressed by some members regarding the possible erosion caused by wake boats especially given the current levels. Articles by FOCA on this and other matters are posted on the BLCA website by Katherine Deas.

HBMLA, which represents the eight largest lakes in the Township, meets regularly over the year. It was noted that the tax levies have increased 4.8% this year although Council has reported an increase of only 1.6%. The difference is based on the tax assessments, i.e. cottages are higher in value. This will be a key issue at All Candidates' Meetings.

Peter reported that not much action has taken place regarding the septic inspection program and that FOCA has done a study on the best practices for inspection programs.

Peter reminded voters that voting can be done electronically, by phone or in person at the upcoming Municipal election, Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Upcoming candidates' meetings and start times will be posted on the BLCA website including one scheduled for August 25 at the Round Lake Meeting Hall.

The Fire Ban continues to be in effect. A recent fire destroyed a garage and cottage on the Northwest shore. The devastation could have been much worse given a change in the wind direction.

Peter reminded all in attendance that the Association runs on its volunteers. Membership to date stands at 329 members. In closing, Peter reviewed the roles of the Board members and praised all the volunteers who help the BLCA achieve the goals of the Association.

#### Financial Report – Fred Bennett

Treasurer Fred Bennett noted that a financial statement showing the actual results and forecast for the fiscal years 2015 through 2019 was printed on the back of the agenda. The financial year is from April 1 to March 31. The surplus has now been reduced by \$421. The intent is to keep the surplus at 5%

Motion 18-02: It was moved and seconded that the financial statements for 2017 and the ***budget for 2018 and 2019 be accepted as presented (Fred Bennett, Peter White). Carried.***

#### Report from HBM Council – Mayor Ron Gerow

Mayor Gerow introduced the other members of the HBM Council in attendance.

Mayor Gerow noted that over the last four years, the Township has been given grants from the Provincial and Federal governments in the amount of \$4.5 million. This money has been used for a number of projects including road upgrades over the past two year. Other new and approved initiatives include:

- A full 128 bed long-term care facility (2019)
- An assisted living facility (32 units) to be built in 2019
- The erection of shelters in parks around the community

Other items of interest: the Fire Department responded to 396 calls over the last year and a Farmers and Artisans Market opened in June on Hwy. 7 in Havelock.

Mayor Gerow noted that there was still time to register as a candidate in the upcoming Municipal elections. He thanked all in attendance for past support and said it was a privilege to serve as Mayor.

The Mile of Memories Road Parking By-law will be brought to Council in August with input from both the OPP and the community.

Kathy McBey thanked the Mayor for his role in obtaining the Fire Department Tanker Shuttle Accreditation and suggested members should contact their insurance companies to receive a reduction in rates if available.

#### Road Representatives, Calendars, Draw Winners – Evan Meyers

Evan Myers noted that there are currently 39 Newsletter deliverers (Road Reps), up from 35 last year. However, Road Reps are still needed for Bowen Road, Fireroad 18 (Fish Hatchery Road), Fireroad 26G, as well as, a number of roving Road Reps. 313 cottagers' names were entered into the early membership draw (up from 260 last year). 15 prizes, valued at a total of \$900, were awarded to the winners. There is 75% membership to date. Evan identified Road Reps present and asked that they stand to be recognized and thanked for all their efforts.

There are still a few calendars available from the 425 printed. Evan thanked all the contributors for their submissions, in particular Ute Peikert and Lisa Levy.

Evan noted that articles are always welcome for inclusion in the BLCA newsletter. A special thanks to Donna Peeling and Ellen Walsh for all their input on the history of our Lake. Peter is ultimately responsible for the newsletter but would appreciate any help in the development of this publication.

#### Water Quality - Donna Peeling, Wendy Vuyk

Wendy reported that tests are now being conducted at five sites (SE lake, NE lake, Big Island, Crowe River and Deer River). 2017 was an anomaly because of the high water levels but the results were good. The lab has suggested that nitrogen level tests be done as well as those for phosphorous and ecoli.

Donna reported that the Secchi Disk (water clarity) program will take three to four years before a true realization of the results is known. Water clarity was reduced in some areas because of weeds and pollen.

In response to questions regarding any increase or sightings of green algae, blue algae, or algae blooms, Peter noted that none have been reported.

#### Social Media Update, BLCA Clothing, Fireworks – Katherine Deas

Katherine reported that the BLCA has an Instagram account (belmontlake\_blca), a Twitter account and a Facebook page. There are currently 525 followers and between July 12 and July 18, the Facebook page was viewed 257 times.

As well, BLCA tee shirts will be available for sale at the Regatta. There will be two styles available in four colours.

Katherine noted that this year's BLCA fireworks display on the lake was very impressive and provided a wonderful sense of community to see the number of boaters who come out to watch. Thanks and acknowledgement of the financial support of the Canadian Government – Department of Canadian Heritage, through the Celebrate Canada program, for providing the BLCA with a cheque of \$650 to help with the cost of Fireworks. There was also a private contribution and money contributed by the BLCA. At present, the Government provides funding only if displays are held on the actual day, i.e. July 1<sup>st</sup>. However, funding guidelines for 2019 will be released in the Fall and this rule may be changed.

#### Golf Tournament, Signage, Parade of Lights, Ride Sharing – Brian Deas

Brian reported that Brian Bacchus indicated that the lake fireworks display will probably be held on Sunday, June 30 next year.

The Golf Tournament, spearheaded by Debbie Howe, will once again be held at Salt Creek Golf Links on Saturday, August 25, 9:00 a.m. sharp. Fees remain at \$35/member and \$50/non-member. Debbie reported that this year three custom made signs from Rustic Creations will be raffled off as prizes.

Brian reminded members of the BLCA sign at the corner of Hwy. 48 and County Road 6 which is updated after each event. As well, FOCA has provided signs on how to clean your boat. These signs are located at the Belmont Lake marina, public beach and Sam's in Cordova. An extra sign is available for posting.

Brian reported that although a possible ride sharing program had been discussed previously, a recent call from a member has brought this issue to the forefront once again. He suggested that the Association study this matter further, specifically with regard to liability, execution and demand, and that an informal committee of three or four members be convened to do so. Please contact Brian Deas or Peter White if you are interested.

#### Regatta, Marker Buoys – Peter White

On behalf of Greg Alexander, Peter reported that Greg Clements is putting in and taking out the buoys for which he receives compensation. Greg noted that six to eight buoys have been replaced this year. Any issues regarding the rock marking should be emailed to [rockhead@blca.ca](mailto:rockhead@blca.ca).

Peter noted that Katherine Deas will be spearheading this year's regatta. Wayne Alexander will be in charge of the Sailboat races on Saturday, August 4, followed by the Parade of Lights.

### Septic System Care and Maintenance – Kathleen Shepherd

Peter introduced Kathleen Shepherd of Peterborough County Public Health who has 30 years' experience inspecting and issuing permits for septic systems. Kathleen presented a detailed slide show outlining the six classes of septic systems, when permits are required, and how each system works. (Kathleen will submit a copy of her presentation to be made available on the BLCA website). The Ontario Building Code sets out the regulations for the operation and maintenance of septic systems. Permits are on file for septic systems installed since 1976. The Municipally Mandated Re-Inspection program in the Township of Trent Hills involves a questionnaire to all property owners enquiring as to the number of bedrooms and bathrooms and current system in place.

Kathleen reminded members that additives should not be used in septic tanks. As well, phosphorous is still used in dishwasher detergent and tar-based shampoos should not be used.

Peter thanked Kathleen for her very informative presentation.

### Options for Accumulated Surplus – Peter White

Peter reported that \$10,000. had been set aside for contingency and that the surplus will be used up slowly. As a result of the last Board meeting, three suggestions will be acted upon:

- Tee-shirts for Road Reps and members (at a loss)
- BLCA decals for members to display
- Area map for distribution (possibly folded inside the newsletter)

Betty Coon suggested that the BLCA might share in the maintenance costs of the Municipality's fire pump, given the fact that there were problems with the operation of the pump at the recent fire on the lake. Mayor Gerow responded that he would look into why the pump did not work properly. As a result of the Mayor's findings, Peter suggested that the BLCA might consider a contribution towards maintenance.

As well, Peter noted that the CVCA may need financial assistance with the purchase of additional logs for the dam but that no money would be spent until given approval at next year's AGM. He also noted that any money spent should benefit the whole lake and that any suggestions should be emailed to him at [pandkwhite@hotmail.com](mailto:pandkwhite@hotmail.com).

### Other Business

A question was raised as to the percentage of members concerned with noise pollution, particularly from racing boats. As a result of a discussion between boat owners and concerned members, it was suggested that because these boats are operating legally, neighbours should

discuss their concerns with each other in order to reach a mutually satisfactory conclusion to any issues.

Members thanked Katherine Deas for her involvement in the BLCA social media. In one case, a member reported finding her lost dog through social media awareness.

#### Election of Board of Directors – Peter White

Peter announced that all eight members of the Board have volunteered to stand for re-election. The floor was then opened for nomination of other candidates. As a result of no other names being brought forward, the nominations were closed and the current Board was acclaimed.

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.**