



**BELMONT LAKE COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
JULY 27, 2013**

MINUTES

1. Call to Order:

Peter White called the meeting to order and introduced the board of directors:

- Evan Meyers, Brian Deas, Brandon van Asten, Larry Pick, Gerry Hutcheon who were present at the meeting
- Greg Alexander who sent his regrets

2. Approval of minutes of last year's AGM:

Peter noted that copies of the minutes have been available on the BLCA website for several months and that a link to the minutes was included with the general email sent to members July 25, 2013

Motion: To approve the minutes of last year's AGM

- Moved by Larry Pick, seconded by Ron Marshall
- Approved

3. President's Comments:

The following is a summary of Peter White's comments:

3.1 Actions from last year's AGM

- a. Survey – thanks to Brian Deas who prepared the questionnaire and to Diane Pick who loaded it into Survey Monkey. They both spent considerable time to make this happen. Brian will report on this later in the meeting
- b. BLCA Accumulated Surplus: At the meeting last year it was proposed that we keep a \$10,000 surplus in the event that funding might be required for repairs for the Belmont dam. An analysis of the dam by CVCA showed that there were no structural problems with the dam. However, leakage through the dam resulted in CVCA not having the ability to control flows out of the dam. The board approved a contribution of \$3,000 to mitigate the flows through the dam. As you will see in Larry's report, we will maintain the surplus at \$10,000 for this year for future contingencies.

3.2 Water levels: Gerry Hutcheon and/or Peter White represented BLCA at four meetings with CVCA – one special meeting with the past chair Bob Styles and Major Gerow, and three CVCA board meetings. Our recommendations were two fold:

- a. Mitigate leakage through the Belmont dam so that CVCA can control flows out of the lake, rather than have the dam dictate flows
- b. In the event of low water levels, share the scarce water among all of the lakes in the area.

At the June CVCA board meeting, short-term measures were approved to reduce the flow of water through the dam. Our commitment of \$3,000 was a show of good faith which helped in getting approval of the repairs. Major Gerow played an important role in supporting the repairs, as did Barry Rand, the new chair of the CVCA board. We also discussed the usually high water levels through the spring and early summer of this year – Barry will have more to say about this later in the agenda.

3.3 Evan Meyers organized road reps to deliver newsletters and sell memberships. Evan will have more to say on this, but the 35% membership increase last year is a direct result of the efforts of the road reps. Special thanks to Evan and all our road reps for their outstanding efforts.

3.4 The HBM Lakes Association was also busy throughout the year. We provided feedback on the township budget and were pleased when tax levy increases were held under 3%. We also provided feedback on the new Official Plan and Zoning Bylaws, and for the most part were satisfied with the results. I want to thank council and in particular Major Gerow for working with us on these important items. Of special note is the reference in the township letter that came with the tax notices disclosing the change in tax levies rather than mill rate, something we fully support. Also in that letter, council references their intention to continue to work with HBMLA on important issues.

3.5 Social activities are important to our members. Greg Alexander organized the regatta, Evan Meyers hosted a lake party, Tamara Flynn arranged fireworks and Brandon van Asten held a Pike Tournament. Brian Deas is heading social programs this year, and will report on them in more detail later.

3.6 Looking ahead, we will continue most of our social activities and will add a few new ones. We will continue to work with council through the HMBLA. We will continue to lobby CVCA to help achieve acceptable water levels. We will expand our water testing to make sure we have early warning of potential problems.

3.7 If you would like to volunteer to help with any of these activities, let any board member know.

4. Havelock-Belmont-Methuen Council Update

Present from the council were Mayor Gerow, Councillor Larry Ellis and Councillor Jim Martin. The following is a brief overview of Mayor Gerow's comments

- There continues to be "silent" downloading of financial commitments from the province that puts pressure on township budgets
- The official plan was approved in November, but an appeal was made to the OMB which has delayed implementation
- OPP will be on the lake this weekend
- The long term care facility is being worked on
- Mayor Gerow applied to the Ontario government for \$25,000 to be used by Crowe Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) to help in dam maintenance. Approval is imminent

Larry Ellis noted that his request to have an OPP officer at this meeting was approved – Officer Aaron MacMillan was present

5. Crowe Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) Update

Barry Rand, Chairman of the CVCA spoke to the meeting.

- Budget for CVCA is close to \$300,000 per year
- HMB Township is the biggest single funder of the budget
- \$35,000 was spent on the assessment of the Belmont dam, which determined that the dam was structurally sound
- Barry distributed a chart that showed water levels in Belmont Lake for each year from 2009 to July 26 of this year and a chart that showed Belmont Dam Flows for the same periods.
- Barry noted that in the drought conditions of last year, Belmont Lake dropped 8” per month, so CVCA has targeted a level of 8” above summer set level for July, or 187.3m above sea level. He noted that an analysis by CVCA staff is pending, and this target may be lowered to 187.25m, or 6” above summer set level
- It was noted that levels above 187.3m present flood problems for low lying areas of the lake. CVCA must guard against quick rises in the lake level that could result from unusual storm conditions like the one that hit Toronto a few weeks ago
- CVCA has approved short-term mitigation of leakage of the Belmont Dam. The \$3,000 funding that BLCA offered for this work played a key role in getting it approved. This work must be done when flows at the dam are low enough to assure safety of the workers. It is uncertain if the work can be done this year due to the high flow rates experienced to date
- Long term, CVCA needs a moveable coffer dam that will enable work on dams one bay at a time. The funding from the province due to Mayor Gerow’s request would enable this

6. Special Recognition Award for Norm Harris

Due to his many contributions to the BLCA and surrounding community, Norm Harris was given a special recognition award and a lifetime membership in the BLCA. Many thanks to Norm for his efforts in selling advertising for our newsletter and representing lake interests with various levels of government. He has truly earned his award

7. Peterborough County Environmental Services Update

Kassia from Environmental Services provided an update:

- Garbage has dropped 4% due to recycling and composting
- Kassia answered questions as to what is recyclable: If in doubt, speak to the attendant at the transfer station
- The county has a program whereby anyone in the county can request to have a composter installed on their property free of charge. Call the county to arrange the installation
- If you would like a quarterly newsletter sent to you via email, contact the county to set it up

8. Treasurer’s Report

Larry Pick distributed a report showing financial results for 2009 through 2012 and a financial forecast for 2013 and 2014. We plan to maintain our surplus of \$10,000 through 2014.

9. Social Update

Brian Deas provided an update on social programs. He noted that the survey provided direction for our social programs, including new activities at the regatta and a golf tournament. He called on volunteers to help with the regatta. The golf tournament includes 18 holes of scramble (aka best ball) golf with carts, lunch, prizes and the promise of a fun and relaxing time. Please register and pay by August 15. If you are interested and want further information or to sign up your team (or just yourself), please contact Donna Deas (donnadeas@hotmail.com, 705-778-5253) or Lyle Stricker (artistic@nexicom.net, 705-778-3205). Cost: \$30/for members, \$50/non-members.

10. Water Quality, Emerald Ash Borer, Pike Tournament

Brandon van Asten provided an update as follows:

- We are now testing for ecoli at 20 locations around the lake 3 times per year.
- Concerns arise with a ecoli count over 100 – the highest Spring reading was 14 in Munns bay, with all other readings below 6. Most were zero. Brandon speculated that the heavy Spring runoff resulted in higher than normal readings. He will test again in July and October
- The Emerald Ash Borer is a threat to the Ash trees in our area. Avoid moving firewood into our area.
- There were 8 to 10 boats in this years Pike Tournament held in June. There is capacity to have many more boats entered.

11. Road Reps, Calendars, Road Summit

Evan Meyers provided an update on these activities:

- We now have a road rep for most fireroads around the lake.
- Due to the efforts of road reps, we grew membership last year by 35%, and are already above last year's membership this year. Many thanks to the efforts of all our road reps
- The first ever Road Rep Rabble Rouser, was held at Evan and Mary Ellen's place in June to thank road reps for their efforts. A great time was had by all, with delicious burgers and sausages from Primal Cuts in Peterborough.
- Feedback on calendars has been very positive. We printed 150 calendars this year and most are now sold. Thanks to Lisa Levy and Uta Peikart for putting it together.
- A road summit was held in July with representation from 5 lakes in the area. Over 40 people attended to exchange ideas on maintaining private roads that are critical to our cottage enjoyment. Evan plans to make this an annual event
- The "Pontoonarama" program was announced. It will begin with cottagers from Round Lake visiting Belmont Lake and having a tour. The visiting lake cottagers will provide lunch. Later in the summer, Belmont cottagers will visit Round Lake and have a tour there. If successful, we can branch out to other lakes in the area

12. Permanent Residents

Jeff Bondett reported on his early organizing efforts for a permanent residents' group:

- Jeff would like to test if there is interest in forming a permanent residents' group to share experiences and establish social contacts
- If there is sufficient interest he will organize a group
- Several experiences were shared by members related to emergency response – some good, some slow.
- Mayor Gerow noted fire responders come from Havelock, ambulance comes from Norwood and OPP come from a wide area and response depends on where they are at the time of the call
- If anyone has a concern about emergency response, contact Mayor Gerow who is our contact with the OPP and can influence the other first responders

13. Other Business

Recent Incidents on the lake

- There was a drowning last week just upstream from the Belmont dam
- There was a report that there was an incident involving a motor boat and paddle boat near Twin Sisters Islands

Hydro One

- Peter White will provide feedback during a forum entitled “Seasonal Property Energy Rates Consultation” organized by Hydro One on July 30, 2013.
- Information on seasonal hydro rates can be found at <http://www.hydroone.com/RegulatoryAffairs/RatesPrices/Pages/SeasonalDeliveryRates.aspx>

Sandbar concerns

- Feedback was received from Crowe River property owners about boaters' use of the sandbar just south of the Preston Road bridge. Concerns included loud noise, alcohol consumption, long stays with no bathroom facilities and dangerous use of jet skis. In one reported case, there were 6 pontoon boats and 3 jet skis at the sandbar at the same time

OPP Update:

- OPP officer Aaron MacMillan provided information on the situation:
- There are 6 officers to cover our geographic area, and when they are called to other areas, that could effect response in our area
- Avoid calling OPP for minor issues. For road accidents not involving personal injury, get the names of those involved, take pictures and report the incident later if OPP is not available for immediate response
- Good idea to have CPR and first aid trained cottagers

14. Election of Board of Directors

Gerry Hutcheon does not want to run for the board again. We thank Gerry for his contributions over the year.

Jeff Bondett and Katherine Deas have agreed to stand for election, as nominated by Peter White. There were no other nominees proposed.

Given that there are 8 people standing for election and 8 board positions available, those standing for election are acclaimed. They are Greg Alexander, Jeff Bondett, Brian Deas, Katherine Deas, Evan Meyers, Larry Pick, Brandon van Asten, Peter White

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20pm.