

Belmont Lake Cottagers' Association

Minutes, Board Meeting Sunday, August 11, 2013

Present: Jeff Bondett, Brian Deas, Katherine Deas, Evan Meyers, Larry Pick, Peter White

Absent: Greg Alexander, Brandon van Asten

1. Hydro One Seasonal Rate Change Proposals

- Peter attended a session organized by Hydro One to get feedback on potential rate changes for seasonal customers (those customers who have service at a location that is not their primary residence)
- Currently seasonal residents pay \$24.42 per month fixed charges and 8.311 cents per kilowatt hour for delivery charges. There are other fixed charges such as debt retirement fees and regulatory fees
- There is a separate charge for power used based on time of use
- At the session, Hydro One presented three alternatives to delivery charges, all of which would result in higher fixed costs for seasonal customers. On average, seasonal rates would increase approximately 10% as a result of these changes
- At the session, Peter recommended to maintain the status quo for delivery charges for the following reasons:
 - We need to encourage conservation of electricity to avoid large investments in generating plants that result in higher air, water and/or ground pollution. Raising fixed charges in comparison to charges for electrical usage will result in less incentive for users to conserve electricity
 - Most of our members are seasonal residents. The proposed changes will result in increased monthly cost to them, like MPAC has done for taxation
- The board recommended that we provide this information to our members, and provide contact information for Hydro One and the Ontario Energy Board so that our members can express their opinions directly to the key decision makers

2. AGM

- We have received feedback from a number of members on the recent AGM. Most complimented us on the meeting. Some thought the meeting was too long
- The board discussed the pros and cons of shortening the meeting. Consensus was that we need to communicate what we are doing and get feedback at the meeting. We believe it is important for each board member to have visibility at the meeting to demonstrate a team effort
- We agreed on the following approach for next year's meeting:
 - Invite only needed guest speakers to the meeting. Township council for sure, and others as indicated by "hot" topics at the time
 - Have speakers early on the agenda, followed by board member updates

3. Fireworks

- After much discussion, we agreed that we would not organize our own fireworks next year
- Katherine will apply for a government grant once again so that we can help fund the Cordova Mines fireworks
- We will provide information to our members and encourage them to attend the Cordova Mines display

4. Newsletter

- The board approved going forward with the same newsletter model that we used this year
- Evan will follow up with Brenda Tonn to let her know and get her feedback on the process
- Peter will be the point person for the articles since he needs to review them all before he writes the president's comments
- We need to identify as many articles as possible now, and get started on them wherever possible
- Peter will draft a schedule for next year for feedback from the board

5. Water Testing

- Brandon is sampling the lake three times per year in 20 locations for ecoli tests
- Jeff will contact FOCA and explore what is available at reasonable cost in terms of additional analyses
- Hopefully we would be able to use the same samples as Brandon is collecting

6. Social Events

- Brian recommended that we should hold the same events in 2014 as this year
- He suggested a number of improvements to events:
 - Regatta: have better advanced planning of events; have a better BBQ available
 - Lake Party: consider starting earlier in the day, and include a corn roast
 - As part of an existing event, add a "you got talent" feature
- It was also suggested that a picture contest would be of interest to our members
- Time did not allow a detailed discussion of a variety of ideas – as we get closer to the events in 2014, we can explore options

7. Permanent Residents

- Jeff would like to create a repository of information that would be of use to Belmont Lake property owners, such as key supplier contacts and knowledgeable people in the region who could answer questions
- Jeff will contact other lakes to get templates on how to establish and maintain this kind of information
- Katherine noted that the information could be made available on our web site, with the ability to have users do updates
- Peter will prepare a new list of our contacts in the Havelock area (Postal Code K0L 1Z0)

8. Water Levels

- At the request of members on FR28, Evan has contacted the road reps and asked for feedback on the current water levels as it relates to fire road accessibility.
- Feedback to date indicates that there are no roads with flooding problems at current water levels of 187.3m

Thanks to all for a very productive meeting