

First item verbal approval of last minutes-approved. These minutes were approved via email and we were simply following up with verbal confirmation.

1) Follow up on research items--Brad.

a) Tree harvesting: This is a municipal issue with by-laws in place for harvesting trees- especially along a shoreline. The key issues with tree harvesting are: minimizing the affect of the tree cutting on the shoreline; that transporting of cut wood is against recommendations (and in some cases against the law) issued from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. The reason for this is the relocation of foreign species into a new environment- for example the Asian Long Horn Beetle which is devastating trees and must not be moved into other locations.

b) Environmental impact studies required for building sites. This is both Provincial and Municipal and must be investigated before building.

c) Belmont lake properties in compliance with MOE and MNR. One issue that is being reviewed is septic tank compliance. This issue is being addressed by the HBMLA. Another issue is boat house construction. The MNR is but one Ministry that you must consult with in building a boathouse. Depending on whether the boat house is meant strictly as a boat house or is a boat house/bunkie will have an impact on the cost of your boathouse.

d) Increasing law enforcement in/around Belmont Lake. One item reviewed was fireworks. Although there is no real permit required for small "family fireworks" you must provide for both people and the environment being safe and secure.

e) Water quality testing--see item 3 from Brandon. Our lake was tested last year and the results are included/available on the website.

f) Identifying sensitive areas around Belmont Lake. It appears that this type of identification is done for only protected or endangered species. It was recommended that the best efforts that cottagers can make in contributing to promote our sensitive areas both in and around the water are: 1) natural shorelines as much as practical, and 2) for boaters-to boat at a speed of less than 10 km per hour near the shore, as this is very important for maintaining nesting and spawning sites, as this minimizes wake effects.

g) fish species. This is being reviewed but appears very costly.

h) Volunteers: Brad and Greg will review a strategy for involving volunteers in some of the BLCA activities. Volunteers have come forward this past year, and it is the BLCA's board commitment to make effective use of this very important group of people. Brad and Greg will report back at the April meeting.

2) HBMLA update-Peter.

The next activity of HBMLA is to attend the Township Council meeting on April 5th where the draft budget will be presented for community feedback. Peter will attend. It is approved that our BLCA participate in the survey to be developed by the HBMLA and distributed to our members in May 2011. Peter to report back on HBMLA activities at our April meeting

3) Water quality and Pike tournament.

Attached is the fish species review conducted by the MNR last year.

For water quality, Brandon wrote a summary of our lakes water quality and this review is on our website. Overall, our Lake water quality is very good. It is expected that we will continue this testing and we will also add additional attributes to be tested

Volunteers will play an important role in the collection of data for our lake quality testing.

The Pike tournament is scheduled for May 21 and we encourage families as well as the pros to come out for a day of fun and prizes. If you are over 16 you will need a fishing license. Updates on this will be provided at our April meeting.

4) Proposed monthly/bimonthly information sessions. It was agreed that Brad and Tamara finalize a schedule for the summers information sessions. The first session is likely to be in late June and the topic proposed is Belmont Lake water levels. We are confirming the guest speakers and should know by the end of April.

It was also agreed that seasonal/as appropriate bulletins be placed on our website updating members on those specific issues. The first 2 will be: 1) the use of pesticides on your property; and 2) geese and your property-who manages who. Brad to draft the first 2 and send to the board before the April meeting.

5) Finalize list of social events.

The list of summer events will be voted on in our April meeting. July--fire works event, scavenger hunt, golfing and Regatta; August-sailboard races, year end dance;

Round lake is very interested in partnering with us on some summer events and we will continue to work with them to identify possible opportunities. To be finalized at the April meeting

6) Communications discussion.

a) Board Minutes: It is agreed that our minutes will be posted on our website.

b) EMAIL responses: We will also alternate with a different board member each month responsible for checking and coordinating responses to our emails.

c) Seasonal updates--see number 4 above.

d) FOCA alerts will be posted on our website.

6) other business.

a) AGM: there is a recommendation by the president of our BLCA that the AGM be held every year in mid August. This allows the Board to function through the summer with a full slate of activities rather than having a new board in the early part of the summer season-July. A final vote of this will be at the late April meeting.

b) Greg to finalize payment to George for placing the Lake markers.

c) Evan--will continue to promote lake stewards. The roles, responsibilities and accomplishments of this group should be highlighted in our upcoming newsletter.