

BELMONT LAKE COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
JULY 12, 2009

MINUTES

Introductory Remarks

Jim re neighbours fire; would like to change the agenda to ask the Fire Chief (Ray Haines) to speak first.

Fire Chief Haines provided an overview of the operations of the department. Of particular interest to BLCA he noted that they have obtained certification for sled tanker operation. This certification means that that any structures within an 8km radius of the Havelock or Cordova Fire Stations are eligible for insurance rates similar to those for structures covered with (hydrants)

Ray noted that island residents, when calling 911, should tell the dispatcher where they will meet the fire crew. The fire crew will not bring a boat but instead depend on the island resident to provide the boat.

A discussion followed regarding general safety issues at cottagers, including fire pits, ground fires and electrical wiring.

Call to order

Motion 09-01 to accept the minutes (P. White, E. Meyers). Carried.

President's report:

- not a busy year
- discussion re potential by-laws
- round lake, soil remediation, winter fishery
- Fishing derby

Treasurer's Report

Tresurer Peter White presented the financial statements for the year ending March 31, 2009. Membership was 194, which represents about half of the property owners on the lake. The large expenses related to production and postage of the lake plan survey.

Forecast – the forecast of 190 members is down slightly from the previous year. Peter noted that we are behind in our current uptake of members but are working to recover. A

new budget line item has been added for lake stewardship, with a view to fund projects for water quality and shoreline issues.

Questions:

What is the current balance at the end of the Mar 31 financial year?

NB (summer newsletter w/ advertising?)

Summer – soliciting

Concern that the numbers will recover / 20 received Friday on last day of mail pickup

Discussion regarding the distribution of newsletters and information to cottagers.

Query – what other lake associations charge as a membership fee?

Will there be a calendar this year?

We were unable to get sufficiently organized this year to produce a calendar, but based on feedback would suggest that the 09-10 board pursue this. Uta Pickert noted that we could produce the calendar provided that photos are provided by Jul 18.

A discussion followed regarding ideas to work with membership fees to promote membership growth, such as early season discounts, discounts for fire roads that have a high participation rate, or an overall rate cut.

Motion 09-02 Steve Earle / Betty Coon: It was moved and seconded that the financial statements for 2007-2008, and the budget for 2008-2009 be accepted. Carried.

Lakeland Alliance

Jim McCarthy opened with general comments regarding the 08-09 board and our mandate to pursue water quality issues per the 2008 Lake Plan meeting.

Sue Prentice from the Lakeland Alliance provided a presentation regarding the background to the Lakeland Alliance organization. The alliance is a non-regulatory body that provides information for property owners as to how to improve water quality and shoreline health. Sue highlighted that the visits are confidential and that they do not report results of the visit to any regulatory body. There is a shoreline workshop on the weekend of July 25 (lakelandalliance.net)

Township Report

Councillor Jim Martin asked that the HBM council members be added to email and newsletter distribution for BLCA.

- Ethanol plant discussion; the current plan is for the plant to open in January 2010.
- Mistake on tax bill
- 3M soil remediation plan to be rejected by council, no appeal launched to OBM yet

Board Elections:

Nominations: Nomination for current board members who wish to stand for 2009-10: G. Alexander, W. Buck, G. Clements, J. McCarthy, B. van Asten, P. White.

Nomination: Larry Pick (Jim McCarthy / Betty Coon) – accepted

Nomination: Mary-Ellen Meyers (Ed Bracht) – declined

Motion to close the nominations. Carried.

No election required as there is one vacant seat.

Fish Derby

Brandon van Asten provided a update on the background to the idea to hosting a pike derby. Six teams registered, which was lower than anticipated but likely due to inclement weather.

Other Business

Rock Marking

Markers not removed 08 fall

Ongoing upgrades to anchor systems

Water Levels

BLCA to send an email to CVCA regarding the current water levels. Some fire roads are experiencing flooding issues. It was noted that the lake has been operated at a level that seems to be 12” above the historical level. Cottagers were encouraged to contact CVCA or HBM if they have concerns.

The current level for Belmont Lake is 13” above the set summer level as established by BLCA / CVCA / MNR in the 1960’s.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 11:30 am.