



BELMONT LAKE COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

JULY 14, 2021

7:00PM

MINUTES (UNAPPROVED)

Note: The 2021 AGM was held via "Zoom" meeting, facilitated by Wendy Vuyk.

Opening remarks from Peter White, BLCA President: Welcome to the meeting in these unusual circumstances. Peter reviewed how the Zoom meeting will be facilitated, and how members will be able to interact with the board during the presentation via the Zoom chat feature.

Motion 21-01 to approve Minutes of the 2020 BLCA AGM (Greg Alexander / Peter White – online poll). Carried. ** Due to technical issues the actual voting took place at the end of the meeting, with all motions voted in one block.

The entire meeting was recorded as a Zoom video meeting and can be viewed at:

https://blca.ca/BoardDocs/2020_2021/BLCA_2021_AGM_Recording.mp4

The meeting agenda, financial reports, and BLCA Board nominations can be found at:

<https://blca.ca/board-documents/>

A presentation was made to help facilitate the flow of the meeting. The AGM Agenda is included in this document: https://blca.ca/BoardDocs/2020_2021/BLCA_2021_Full_Presentation.pdf

President's Report – Peter White (summary of comments):

The Newsletter, Member Directory and BLCA Calendar were printed in hard copy this year. Many thanks to editor John Dixon, layout master Erin Dixon, advertising sales person Sarina Stubbs, calendar creators Lisa Levy and Uta Peikert and Valerie Marshall who oversaw the printing, distribution and advertising collections.

Peter explained that the BLCA provides some funding for the fireworks event, but that the effort to put on the display falls on lake residents Bryon Backus, Bob Prins, Jeff Keating, Todd Taylor, John Tsalkos and Brent Berry, among others. Despite the rain this was once again an excellent event with many boats out for the show.

LDD Moths (aka Gypsy Moths): We were hoping that our efforts to scrape egg clusters in the fall and block the path of caterpillars in the early summer would have a substantial impact on the infestation this year – apparently we were overly optimistic. The numbers of caterpillars were overwhelming this year, and the impact on our trees are dramatic. Some members organized spraying over their properties. Others are sourcing pheromone traps to disrupt the fertilization of the next generation of LLP moths.

We are hopeful that the forces that naturally reduce the numbers of caterpillars will play out next year. Some evidence of the virus and fungus that attack the caterpillars has been noted recently.

The BLCA is unable to reasonably organize a full-lake spraying, as it would require approval from every property owner on the lake, so unfortunately any spraying effort must be organized locally by groups of property owners.

The Crowe Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) did another good job at managing the spring runoff. As of today, the lake was at 28cm over the summer set level, an increase due to the heavy rain last week. Noted that the water inflows to the lake are 3x what would be expected this time of year, and that lake residents should approach the waterways with increased caution due to the high flow rates.

Normally at our AGM each board member provides an update on their activities. In the interest of time and to simplify today's meeting, Peter provided a summary of the activities of each board member and other volunteers with the BLCA.

Fred and Pam Bennett (board member to volunteer)

- * Fred retired from the board last year, but stayed on to close the books on March 31, train Valerie on Quick Books and hand off the records in fine order
- * Pam coordinates road signs and has helped us extensively in the past with editing of our emails and newsletter
- * Pam and Fred will continue on as Road Reps

Valerie Marshall (Treasurer)

Val has agreed to take on the role of Treasurer

- * keeps our member and financial records
- * organized the two Dock Concerts and a Poetry Contest
- * Val worked on the concept and research for the Belmont Expedition
- * organized printing and distribution of the spring member packages

Evan Meyers (Director)

- * recruits and organizes our road reps who are the engines that drives our outstanding membership results, even in the time of a pandemic
- * along with Mary Ellen, hosts our volunteer appreciation event
- * coordinates the early membership draw, including locating the prizes

Greg Alexander (Secretary)

- * documents the minutes of the AGM
- * web master and technical resource
- * oversees the marker buoys
- * manages our email blasts
- * helps organize the regatta

Katherine Deas (Director)

- * looks after our social media
- * manages BLCA clothing
- * helps organize the regatta

Erin Dixon (Director)

- * produces the layout of the newsletter, including helping advertisers with artwork
- * helps with the organization and technical support for the Belmont Expedition
- * helps with road signs

John Dixon (Director)

- * edits the articles for the newsletters
- * monitors time-lines for readying the newsletter for Publication

Donna Peeling (Director)

Donna has resigned as Director and we thank her for her many contributions over the years.

- * acted as our contact with the Lake Partner Program
- * conducted water testing
- * prepared a number of articles on Belmont history

Wendy Vuyk (Director)

- * carries out water testing not related to the Lake Partner Program
- * facilitates Zoom meetings
- * coordinates the Parade of Lights

Lisa Levy and Uta Peikart (volunteers)

- * edited and produced the BLCA calendar

Richard Wood (volunteer)

- * led the Parade of Lights on the big night

Havelock Belmont Methuen Township Update (Jim Martin)

Mayor Martin discussed how the COVID pandemic was far beyond any emergency scenario that HBM had trained for, and that they are getting support from our MPP Smith and MP Monsef on a regular basis. The state of emergency began in March of 2020 pushing the township into online meetings, and the expectation is that these will continue beyond the end of the pandemic. All meetings are recorded and available on YouTube.

The HBM office stayed open throughout the pandemic but on a by-appointment basis, but with additional relaxation of COVID restrictions the office plans to re-open more fully in the coming months.

Mayor Martin also reported on these township developments:

- HBM is working with Peterborough County on a "Service Delivery Review" to look for efficiencies that can be found between township and county services, in particular roads and the utilization of technology for service delivery.
- The township received a Modernization Grant to help implement technology to assist with the township interface with residents.

- HBM purchased the property just north of the Tim Horton's (ex-auto shop), and have developed plans that can be put into place if/when grant money comes available to develop the property for township use.
- By-law enforcement: Much of this is complaint-driven, and with the increased presence of visitors in the township the need for by-law enforcement has increased. AirBnb's have posed a particular challenge, with all the local municipalities jointly looking at ways to manage this.
- Recreation Grant: \$5M grant for HBM to make improvements to the Recreation Centre.
- Taxes: The budget process is complete, with a 1.14% increase in taxes. Roads improvements include the Deer River bridge (\$1.5M), Sawmill Bay Road, Round Lake Road resurfacing.
- Waste: The Clear Bag policy is in place now. HBM was the last in the county to implement this, and received pressure from the county to implement as it does seem to help ensure the proper diversion of recyclables. The 6th line transfer station will be installing a weigh station to deal with larger waste drop-offs. Garbage pickup is under discussion in HBM as well.
- Deputy CBO (Chief Building Official): HBM has a new deputy building officer. The CBO is been very busy in the past year, and HBM has been able to hire an experienced individual for this role.
- Planning: HBM has joined the Peterborough County official plan and planning process.
- Deputy Fire Chief: HBM hired a deputy Fire Chief to help the HBM Fire Chief.
- EORN: Eastern Ontario Regional Network continues to push for rural internet access, and HBM is participating in this process.

Questions from the floor:

- Thank you for parking control on Mile of Memories; question about speed control on Mile of Memories and the implementation of new parking spaces. Reply: HBM unable to issue parking tickets for now, working on a plan to resolve this.
- Incinerator proposal: What do residents need to do to ensure this doesn't happen? Reply: Unlikely to move forward during this session of council. HBM council was also surprised by this proposal.

Upcoming Events – Peter White

- Dock Concerts – July 10 and August 14. Peter estimated that 200 people attended the July concert.
- The Belmont Expedition: New for 2021, essentially an app-based scavenger hunt. Members can still register for this.
- Poet Laureate Contest: Also new for 2021, two divisions (U18 and adult)
- Sailboat races and Parade of Lights on the Aug. 1 long weekend
- Volunteer Appreciation Event - Saturday September 11
- Fall Hike – October 2

Financial Report – Val Marshall

The following is based on Val's written report submitted prior to the meeting, with additional comments added at the meeting.

Membership:

- The BLCA report a record number of members in 2019 with 387 or approximately 500 cottages on the lake.
- 2020 final count was 341 members.
- 2021 July 14 (today) 307 members. 2021 forecast of 365 members may be optimistic. (+20%)

Review of Books:

After year end, we had an experienced Bookkeeper look at the financial records. Spot checked looking for any irregularities or discrepancies in Quick Books. Also stressed the need for all expenses being supported by appropriate documentation. The 2020 Final budget is as printed in the current newsletter, with the exception of \$143 interest earned on our GIC (\$5679), and \$100 moved from Lake Stewardship to AGM expense. FOCA hosted 2020 AGM on Zoom.

2021 Budget:

We reported a notable increase in Advertising revenue. All this revenue is from the Newsletter Ads. This is not an actual increase, only a slight increase from # of 2019 ads. Previously we had an outside business (Paperworks) doing the whole Newsletter production, so much of the Ad revenue was deducted in the Newsletter expenses, meaning the Ad revenue line item was actually net of production expense. For 2021 we had to bring the production in-house as Paperworks was not able to do the newsletter, with board members volunteering their time collecting the ad revenue directly and producing the Newsletter. We also found a different printer this which gave us considerable savings there and for the calendar. We can expect to see an increase in newsletter production costs at a time when this task is hired out again.

Other changes are the continued higher Bank Charges due to e-transfers because we are a commercial account. E-transfers continue to be our preferred way of receiving lake association fees from BLCA members, so we expect this figure to continue to increase as more members use this service.

Shout out to FOCA – Fall 2020 Webinar presentation on different initiatives to engage lake during COVID. This led to the planning of the Dock Concerts and The Belmont Expedition. Those along with continued contribution towards the Belmont Lake Fireworks comprise most of the event spending in 2021 budget. No volunteer judges from the lake yet for the Poetry contest. This is a minor expense, and we may need to add something on if we are having it judged externally.

Overall we are predicting 2021 surplus of \$1000 based on membership of 365.

2022 Budget:

We are anticipating to run the Fishing Derby (revenue neutral), Regatta and Golf Tournament on 2022. We are in a good revenue position to offer all these events. The board is open to ideas that add value to living on the lake and we can work with members who bring forward ideas.

We are projecting a small increase in our equity balance for 2021 and 2022 as a result of the small projected surplus for each of these years.

Motion 21-02 to accept the Financial Report as presented (Valerie Marshall / Peter White – online poll). Carried.

Change to Financial Year End

Treasurer Val Marshall explained that most of our expenses follow the calendar year, with a slowdown in activity towards the end of the year. The change to a December 31 YE would also remove the complication of trying to properly allocate transactions that come in close to the end of the current financial year end, and would also mean that preparation of our financial statements could be done in January, which is typically a quiet time for the BLCA board.

Motion 21-03 to change the financial year end to December 31 (Valerie Marshall / Peter White – online poll). Carried

Winners of the early membership draw (Evan Meyers)

Evan gave a shout-out to Val and Fred for the great work done keeping up with the financial situation in the BLCA. Evan also thanked Peter White for his many efforts on behalf of the BLCA. Evan also commented on the success of the July Dock Concert event.

A big shout out to Trans Canada Nissan, Belmont Lake Getaway and Pup's Tree service for donating our early membership prizes. Our members join because they value what the BLCA does for them but the ability to provide these prizes provides the incentive to get it done. Most members now use an electronic payment system which greatly simplifies our newsletter delivery system. We had 290 names in the draw this year, the same as last year. Although it is a bit down from the 334 in 2019, I find it to a wonderful show of support during a most difficult time. Thank you all!

The Road Rep program continues to be successful due to the amazing group of volunteers behind this part of the BLCA.

The full list of winners can be seen in the accompanying BLCA 2021 AGM:
https://blca.ca/BoardDocs/2020_2021/BLCA_2021_Full_Presentation.pdf

Nominations for the Board of Directors (Peter White)

Ellen Walsh has agreed to stand for election as a new member to the BLCA Board of Directors, along with the returning members of the 2020-2021 BLCA Board. Donna Peeling and Taylor Homer have resigned from the board.

No new nominations were received from the floor.

Election of Board of Directors – Peter White

The following individuals have agreed to stand for election to the board of directors:

Greg Alexander
Katherine Deas
Erin Dixon
John Dixon
Valerie Marshall
Evan Meyers
Wendy Vuyk
Ellen Walsh
Peter White

Motion 21-04 accept the roster for the BLC A Board, as presented (Peter White / Greg Alexander–online poll). Carried

Comment / Question from the floor: Can the BLCA organize spraying for LDD? Reply: No, the BLCA is unable to request spraying for the lake, as each owner needs to consent individually to the application.

Comments from the floor: Congratulations to the BLCA Board on another successful year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM