



Otty Lake Association

Board Meeting Minutes

Saturday, May 2nd, 2015, 9:00 - 10:30 am
McMartin House

Present: Phil Anderson, Dave Bell, Robert Cosh (President), Ginger Hay, Barb Hicks, Karen Hunt, Christine Kilburn (Secretary), Bill McLeish, Roger Nuttall, Anne Scotton, Peter Siemons, Derek Smith (12), Guest Reid Kilburn

Regrets: Cathy Kari, Ian McDonald, Gail Reid

Welcome - Robert called the meeting to order at 9:05 am

- Robert thanked everyone for following the document distribution process, and taking the time to read and comment on the items being broadcast prior to the meeting.
- **Agenda - Motion 2015-02-01 (Anne/Karen)** Approve agenda as distributed
CARRIED

Minutes of Jan 31st Meeting - Motion 2015-02-02 (Phil/Ginger) Approve minutes as distributed. **CARRIED**

NOTE: These minutes do not capture the details of all the excellent discussion which took place. They summarize the presentations and results of those discussions. Thanks to all who participated and created thought provoking conversation.

Nominating Committee Report - Karen summarized the report she had circulated on behalf of the committee.

- For the 3 Board positions and the President's position, we were fortunate to have candidates from around the lake. The Committee approached more than 20 candidates. Some of those not able or willing to be on the Board at this time expressed interest in helping the OLA in other ways. Krista and Chuck, whose resumes had been distributed, are candidates for Directors' positions. Reid is a candidate for the presidency. The Committee is still looking for the final Director candidate. It hopes to have the final slate for the June Board meeting.
- The package developed by the committee and provided to the candidates informed them about lake activities.
- Though Phil will not be continuing on the Board, he informed us that he will remain as a Counsellor.
- Karen pointed out that 2 Directors had expressed concern about having 2 individuals from the same household on the Board. There was a brief discussion about this topic. It was felt that both couples bring value to the Board and can be trusted.

Motion 2015-02-03 (Anne/Dave) - That we accept the nominating committee's report as presented. **CARRIED**

Financial Report - Dave reviewed our budget. He also reviewed the 2014 financials.

- Website hosting costs about \$400, and is included in office operations.
- Derek mentioned that Caduceon won't give us the reduced rate of \$100 again - they normally charge \$140.
- Ginger responded to a question about our inventory of shirts, hats. In general we don't keep an inventory.

Motion 2015-02-04 (Dave/Peter) - accept financial report as presented. **CARRIED**

AGM - Robert led the discussion on this topic.

- He briefly reviewed this year's format, to put the emphasis on activities around the lake. The presentations will be kept light and short.
- Ian has volunteered to put up road signs, a task held for many years by Murray.
- Barb will send out an e-mail in early June to advise everyone, namely residents and community partners, of the AGM.
- In extending invitations to our Community partners, e.g. townships, fire dept we are having discussions with them to see if they'd prefer to put a report on their websites, have a link from our website, and our constituents can then ask questions on their websites. They are also invited to have a display at the AGM. Some of our partners, e.g. the townships want visibility but they don't have to feel obliged to be there or to stay for the entire meeting. We are giving them the option.
- During the hour before the meeting, we'll have pictures on the screen of activities around the lake. Robert asked the Board to please send photos to Gail. Gail and Tiger will pull together the rolling slide show for prior to the meeting. There was some concern about how 2 slide shows will work. It was decided that slide shows applicable to presentations will be done separately from the rolling slide show by Gail and Tiger. Dave is planning to put his financials up on the screen, but his talk will be a narrative explanation of the budget and actuals.
- Christine mentioned the idea of an introduction and summary for our presentations.

Communications - Barb reported that the Summer Information Packages were put together on Thurs Apr 30. It took 5 to 6 people 4 hours to do the assembly. She also mentioned that CPanel, our tool to distribute e-mails to everyone on the lake, is boring-looking and restrictive. The body of the e-mail does not allow any formatting. Some people will not click on attachments. We pay for the web hosting, not internet.

Motion 2015-02-05 (Karen/Ginger) - empower Barb to look at alternatives to CPanel and bring back to the Board. **CARRIED**

Blue-green algae - Karen and Murray distributed thoughts on this topic prior to the meeting, prompting an e-mail discussion with other members. Karen indicated that at the

Lake Networking Group (about 30 lake members) on Fri Apr 24 reports were given by MOECC and the Health Unit. Points raised by Karen were as follows:

- Blue-green algal blooms are being reported more frequently in the lake areas of North-Western and South-Eastern Ontario
- Future objective for the MOECC lab in Dorset is to be able to better predict when a Blue-green Algal Bloom may occur on a lake.
- Blue-green algal blooms occurred at 4 local lakes last summer- Upper Rideau, White, Dalhousie and Mississippi. Circumstances around each occurrence were different.
- Concerns have been raised about the MOECC response times to the 2014 Blooms. MOECC 's new approach is that any Blue-green Algal bloom will be regarded as potentially toxic until proven otherwise. (not all Blue-Green Algal Blooms are toxic).
- There is a need to create an awareness (without being overly-alarmist) in the Otty Lake Community about: 1) Blue-Green Algae and the fact that such blooms could occur at Otty and 2) that there could be toxins in some of these blooms.
- *Historical note - Page 28 Report on the State of Otty Lake and its Watershed indicates that there was a bloom of Blue-Green Algae that accumulated at the north-eastern end of the lake in 2002.*
- The OLA has an education role to assist members of the Otty Lake community to know who on the lake to contact to identify a potential Blue-Green Algal Bloom and who will call the MOECC Spills Action line and inform the Otty Lake Association.
- The OLA should determine in advance the process that it will use to both educate the community and also how it will inform Otty Lake residents if there is a potential Blue- Green Algal Bloom reported (both in the specific area near the bloom and more broadly in the lake community)

Background

- Last fall, following the Upper Rideau Lake Blue-Green Algal bloom, there was considerable interest and concern by lake associations in the Lake Networking Group about the blooms and delays in how lake residents were being informed. As a result, Emergency Contact Lists have been provided to the Health Unit so that they can reach an affected lake association when they are notified by MOECC that a potentially toxic Blue-Green Algal Bloom had been identified on that lake. The contacts for Otty are Barb Hicks, Gail Read, Christine Kilburn and Robert Cosh. The lake association can then contact their lake residents to disseminate information about the Blue-Green Algal Bloom.
- At the LNG meeting on April 24/15, Laurel Rudd, Surface Water Specialist MOECC, Dr. Paula Steward/Med. Officer of Health Leeds, Lanark and Grenville and Teresa Clow, Health Unit's Senior Public Health Inspector provided information to the Group. MOECC takes 2 weeks for positive identification of toxins in Blue- Green Algae in the lab but Dr. Stewart stressed that it is prudent for lake communities to take precautionary steps in the interim.(results of Elijah pre-screening are available in 24 hours)

- Karen has received copies of the Health Unit's Blue-Green Algae presentation from April 24 as well as other related info from them and hopes to have the MOECC presentation shortly. Once she does, she will circulate this information to the lake associations who can use it to better inform their communities about Blue- Green Algae.

Derek indicated that all lakes have blue green algae, the concern is the cyanobacteria variety. He advised that we not sensationalize.

Derek and Murray will determine how best to communicate to the lake community, being informative and educational without being alarmist. General education can be posted on the website. The Lake Steward should be the first point of contact. Derek also has contacts, e.g. Ottawa U. Encourage our residents to use the process to be defined by the OLA Board. Emergency contacts will now be Murray, President, Barb, Secretary. Derek stressed that MOECC should be contacted by someone familiar with the terminology, and with a relationship, .e.g. Derek and Murray.

Environmental issues - Derek led this discussion.

- Derek reminded us that last year's State of the Lake Report had 10 issues. Derek would like to produce the same format in the fall 2015.
- May 11th will be the first lake water sampling date. Sampling is done on Mondays, since that is when Caduceon picks up. Derek would like others to join them, for education. Phil offered his pontoon boat for a couple of sampling days, allowing more than 1 person to join them.
- Derek went through his 2015 "wish list". At the top of his list is an infrared aerial photo allowing for easy identification of where the algae is. The cost would be \$8,000. He suggested writing a proposal to RVCA, suggesting OLA would kick in some funding from private donors. August would be the time we would want the photo taken. Phil asked if we want to set up our own foundation.
- Jesse Vermaire has gone all around the lake with an echo finder to identify where the algae is. He's also taking cores from the bottom of the lake, to prove global warming.
- Derek indicated that the OLA's issues are invasive species, water quality, algal species. Jesse is not identifying the algal species.

Motion 2015-02-06 (Anne/Peter) - The Board supports the ongoing environmental work. Derek will come back to the Board with a business case for additional work , e.g. an aerial photo. Board members will look at sources of funding, e.g. FOCA may have a grant program. **CARRIED**

Land Use - Peter reported good news, that at TVT's meeting on Tues Apr 28, the vote of 4 to 3 determined that TVT will continue with the 100 m setback.

Lake Liaison Group - Motion 2015-02-07 (Anne/Karen) That we set up a committee to look at our partners and develop a more disciplined approach to ensure continuation of our excellent relationships. Anne, Karen, Christine, Reid will be on the committee. **CARRIED**

Next meeting -June 13th 9:30 am to noon at the Hunt's.

Adjournment - (Dave/Peter) The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am.

DRAFT