



Otty Lake Association

Board Meeting Minutes

Sat Nov 7, 2015, 9:30 - 11:30 am
McMartin House

Present: Robert Cosh, Krista Hearty McLean, Barb Hicks, Murray Hunt, Cathy Kari, Christine Kilburn (Secretary), Reid Kilburn (President), Ian McDonald, Roger Nuttall, Gail Read, Wally Robins, Anne Scotton, Chuck Shenkman, Kyla Simpson, Derek Smith (15)

Regrets: Dave Bell

Welcome - Reid called the meeting to order at 9:35. He welcomed Kyla as a new Board member and Murray, our Lake Steward.

Agenda - Motion 2015-05-01 (Gail/Chuck) Approve agenda as amended. **CARRIED**

Minutes of July 28th Meeting - Motion 2015-05-02 (Ian/Roger) Approve minutes as distributed. **CARRIED**

Correspondence - Christine read the thank-you card from Karen, thanking the Board for the donation to the Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Fund in memory of her mother.

- Christine mentioned she had received an e-mail promoting a marking pen to be used to protect against theft, endorsed by the Chiefs of Police. She would circulate it to the Board members.

E-mail Motion - To properly record an e-mail motion in OLA Board minutes, Christine read out the 1 motion passed since our last meeting:

- **Motion 2015-05-03** (Dave/Christine) that the OLA Board approves Reid Kilburn - President as co-signer with Dave Bell - Treasurer, and that the CIBC can update its records for the OLA to reflect this change. **CARRIED**

Nominations - Robert asked Derek to introduce Kyla. Derek provided a brief bio of Kyla Simpson, who has expressed interest in becoming an OLA Board member.

Motion 2015-05-04 (Derek/Robert) - that Kyla Simpson be accepted as an OLA Board member. **CARRIED**

Finance -

- Reid presented Dave's financial report in his absence. Our bank balance is \$1,385.91 compared to \$305.34 in 2014. Paid memberships in 2014 - 270 vs 279 2015 to date.

- Newsletter mailing costs - about \$1.95/hard copy mailing. Can those receiving hard copies switch to e-mail receipt? Should folks requesting hard copies who are not members be charged? Robert and Barb said we send out 150 to 200 copies per issue, costing the OLA at least \$300/issue. The newsletter is on the website for anyone to see. Should we send out a notice with the hard copy newsletters advising individuals of the production and mailing cost, and asking them to consider e-mail copies? No hard copies are sent out to partners - they get e-mail copies.

Motion 2015-05-05 (Barb/Robert) Create an insert with the Feb Newsletter to all those receiving hard copies stating that this will be the last hard copy newsletter unless they take affirmative action, e.g. pay up their OLA membership. The counsellors will reinforce this during the spring membership drive. **CARRIED**

- Reid brought the Board up to date on grant possibilities. He has chatted with Jenn Lamoureux (RVCA) about grants. He, Dave and others have had a discussion about charitable organization status which is an onerous task, as is keeping the status. The average cost is about \$2,000 - \$3,000 annually, because an external auditor has to review the books. The OLA would probably not be granted status. Reid spoke with Barb King (Watersheds Canada) about a partnership. At the Watersheds Canada Board meeting the end of Nov, Barb will discuss support of a long term relationship with OLA so that the OLA can use them to apply for grants, or process donations. In response to a question about using our relationship with RVCA related to grants,
 - Derek expressed caution about working with RVCA - of the \$150K from Trillium, only 10% is going to research, which is being done by students, so not very comprehensive.
 - Reid informed the Board that RVCA have internal competitions for grant money. Watersheds Canada is more open to partnering and delivering all the \$'s to OLA. Let's see what Barb King comes back with. We can still look at RVCA.

Motion 2015-05-06 (Reid/Gail) Accept the finance report and all its components as presented. **CARRIED**

Communications Report - Barb received a request to have the OLA promote the septic business of a lake resident. Questions to the Board:

- Do we advertise on the website or in the newsletter?
- Why not use the cookbook (to be discussed) to advertise?
- We could list the businesses around the lake on the last page of our newsletter.
- Have a space on the website where the businesses can place their "business card".
- Have a link on our website to theirs. Have a disclaimer.

Mississippi Lake publishes a glossy newsletter annually, entirely funded by ads, with minimal articles.

This topic will be reviewed by the Communications Committee and if necessary, be on the next agenda. **Motion 2015-05-07** (Barb/Anne) Accept report as distributed. **CARRIED**

Counsellors' Update - Gail provided an update, firstly on the Counsellor Survey she conducted. One question dealt with the timing of Counsellors' meetings. In the past, the Counsellors' meeting followed the Board meeting. Feedback from Counsellors indicated that they felt like they were spoken at, rather than sharing in the group. They requested education over and above what the general public sees. Gail requests they be included in any educational sessions. They are aware of Board meetings if they'd like to attend.

Motion 2015-05-08 (Anne/Ian) - Accept Gail's report for information. **CARRIED**
Robert thanked Gail for all her work to improve relationships with Counsellors.

Land Use Committee - Reid reminded the Board that Peter had done an excellent job in this role, but resigned in August. We want our members to enjoy their roles, like Dave enjoys Finance, Derek/Murray/Wally/Gail/Ev enjoy their roles. Reactions from certain members of our Otty Lake community are that we should back off the Land Use role.

- Perhaps we need an Ethics and Education Committee rather than Land Use. Use media and messaging to be in touch with the community in a more proactive way, so that when we see applications come through from the Townships, our message is already out there. Education would precede applications. Explain why we have rules, e.g. governing where you can build, where the septic has to be. Develop an OLA communication package which would include information like what the townships will require, and why. Identify how to complete an application correctly.
- Gail pointed out that Karen established excellent relationships with the townships.
- D/NE Township doesn't have the same enforcement power as TVT. They can't enforce the owner having a site plan. Perhaps the OLA could have discussions with the D/NE planners to help assist and empower them with their committees.
- Consider a resource bank/education/awareness packages for residents, particularly new ones.
- Do we still need a Land Use person? Would it be useful if the OLA could say we're partnering with individuals and are being proactive in assisting our community when preparing applications?
- Look at what FOCA has as a resource in this area.
- OLA as a "neighbour" is advised of any variances by the townships. We are not a regulatory body. But there is a misconception in some cases that we are.
- Informing the community of the regulatory process would certainly be beneficial. Include the Conservation Authority in the process. We need to find balance; the townships apply the rules. If there are rules we think are beneficial for the lake, then we have to communicate that.
- The townships could say to anyone on Otty Lake who is thinking of applying that there is an excellent supportive association resource. An education program to develop the mindset of making modifications to a property with the health of the lake in mind can be beneficial.
- Commenting on variances is still an essential part of the OLA.

- Wally volunteers to work on a committee to consider content of an Education resource. Anne also volunteered to be on the committee. Derek volunteered to comment on environmental issues. Christine volunteered to be on the committee as well. Reid will ensure the townships advise the adjacent land owners of any variances.

State of the Lake Report - Derek recognized others who were part of this report, e.g. Ian, Roger, the Hendry's - as well as the very diligent Murray.

- Murray reviewed his portion of the Report, including discussion about e-coli and phosphorous levels. Sampling is done not only by the OLA, but also with MOECC and RVCA.
- Derek then reviewed his portion of the Report, e.g. water clarity, zebra mussel counts, water temperature, algae. He will continue to monitor algae, zebra mussels, etc. In his opinion, measuring biomass with an ecosounder doesn't teach us about species (Trillium project). He feels the project is not doing very much research, only monitoring. He also doesn't think the app is very viable. He wishes we would have more input. Algae moves around the lake, so identifying its location at one point in time is not useful. Taking pictures also doesn't help. Derek recognized Murray for taking more samples in areas where there were issues.
- Wally reviewed the fishery portion of the Report. The information is based on observation only. He was on Otty Lake for about 178 hours this year. Wally shared his observation that in the last 7 to 10 years there has been a massive decline of weed growth, potentially causing the observed decline in the bass fishery. Healthy water systems have healthy weeds. Overall water quality is #1, #2 is weed growth. Otty has lost 75 - 80% of milfoil in the last decade. Weeds provide a buffet as well as protection for fish. Wally and others have noticed an increase in cormorants on Otty. Cormorants are fish eating machines, daily eating 1 lb of fish. 70 lbs of fish/week would be the impact of 10 cormorants on Otty. They strip bark off trees to build their nests. Their waste is toxic to everyone. An island the size of Whiskey Island could be devastated in a decade. Their presence could impact property value. Their waste smells like ammonia and rotten eggs. We should consider having a discussion in the future about what we might be able to do if cormorants become an issue. They're protected. Wally is speaking with a professor at Queens.
- Add a section to the Report about Bird Boxes.
- Cathy takes exception to the cormorant and Zebra Mussel articles. Human habitation had a major impact on our forests and lake. When humans try to interfere we often make the situation worse. She does not agree with publishing something which states the OLA will consider taking remedial action. Anne felt the articles are properly worded, i.e. we're monitoring not taking any action at this point. Derek feels there will be solutions. There have been amazing advances in recent years.

Motion 2015-05-09 (Anne/Cathy) Approve the State of the Lake Report as presented, with a minor wording change to the cormorant section and adding the Bird Box section.

CARRIED

200th Anniversary - Cathy updated the Board on the committee's work. Barb, Karen Hunt, Anne and Reid are also on the committee, as well as Krista when available. They are thinking of creating a cook book which would also include history. Does the Board feel this would be a fund raiser for a specific project, or a particular celebration? The cook book could include meaningful recipes, e.g. from original residents.

Motion 2015-05-10 - (Anne/Cathy) that the concept of a cookbook, including history and helpful hints be developed with a celebratory purpose i.e. anniversaries and celebrations, that the committee be directed to establish format/size, get quotes and come back to the Board with a proposal and request for funding, and to put a notice out to the community for input. **CARRIED**

2016 Project Ideas - Reid introduced this topic, thanking Derek for putting together the initial list which was distributed. One project underway is the building of 10 bat boxes over the winter for installation in the spring. One idea on Derek's list is the education series. Derek has volunteered to take over the loon survey and has already registered. We do have limited funding, and we don't want to inadvertently take funding from existing projects. Roger asked if we should consider raising our membership fees to \$25. Reid pointed out that if we do so, we should have a strong program so that we can explain the reason for the increase. Robert indicated that costs go up. We have increased sampling over the years, yet haven't increased our fees. We monitor but don't have enough money to do research. Let's put membership on the agenda for a future meeting.

Lake Activity Projects (LAP) - Ian presented a proposed reporting form. There are projects coming up which haven't gone through the process. Money won't be handed out until they do so. The cookbook committee will provide Ian with the reporting form ASAP. One of the benefits of filling out the form is to see if there is overlap between projects.

Shoreline Planting - Gail summarized the report she had sent out prior to this meeting. She has used the proposed LAP reporting form for the past 2 years since the project does require funding. Concerns exist around selling plants to non members and to people who do not live on the lake.

Motion 2015-05-11 (Gail/Anne) - that the discount on plants apply only to members, and that they must live on the shoreline of the lake or marshes. The OLA will purchase 72 wildflowers, 40 shrubs and 160 good sized bareroot trees, maximum cost to OLA of \$538. **CARRIED**

2017 Calendar - Gail is taking this off the table since it will conflict with the cookbook. She was going to include the history of the area, with input from the counsellors. The Cookbook initiative could ask for photos for it, as well as other initiatives.

Other Business -

- Spring Information Package (SIP) - **Motion 2015-05-12** (Anne/Wally) - that the principle of an annual SIP be approved. **CARRIED**

Next Meeting - Sat Mar 5th 2016

Adjournment - (Robert/Ian) The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.

DRAFT