



Otty Lake Association

Board Meeting Minutes

Sat June 11, 2016, 9:30 - 11:30 am

McMartin House

Present: Dave Bell, Robert Cosh, Kyla & Sierra Haley, 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, Derek Smith (17)

Welcome - Reid called the meeting to order at 9:30. A quorum was present.

Agenda - Motion 2016-02-01 (Chuck/Dave) Approve agenda as distributed. **CARRIED**

Minutes of Mar 5th Meeting - Motion 2016-02-02 (Roger/Wally) Approve minutes as distributed. **CARRIED**

Financial Report - Dave informed us that our bank balance is \$1,335.27 after paying the FOCA membership. There will be a big surge of income at the AGM. Money will be available for the Cookbook when it is needed. **Motion 2016-02-03** (Dave/Wally) Approve Dave's report. **CARRIED**

AGM - Agenda - Christine let the Board know that she has been in touch with all presenters. There is an eagerness to be a part of our AGM. The Townships are looking forward to bringing their updates and information about their 200th celebrations to our members. Christine apologized to Robert for having shown Reid's name against the Nominations Report AGM agenda item. She will change that to Robert. She mentioned that we will be filling any white spaces during the AGM with infomercials. Gail suggested that praise for our Fire Department might be used as a filler. She called them to come and drive their road to determine required tree clearing. They were very responsive.

Display Tables - Christine identified updates to the Display layout. Understandably, Kyla will not be having a loon display table. Eric will be attending another lake AGM so won't be at ours with Septic Reinspection information this year. The Fire Department will take a break this year and also not have a table.

Chuck volunteered to take care of sound.

Anne has offered to be the time keeper, letting presenters know they have 3, 2 and 1 minute left.

Michelle Soucy has volunteered to assist Dave and Joan Potter at the registration table. Reid gave a brief overview of the AGM theme. We will celebrate stewardship of our lake in the past, look at the present and plan for the future. The past will be celebrated with the launch of the cookbook/history book, celebrating the 200th anniversary of the naming

of Otty Lake, and the 40th anniversary of the OLA in 2018. Then Murray and Derek will discuss the 30 years of water quality results we have, look at trends, whether issues can be managed or not, look at what can be done going forward for the health of our lake. Then we'll hear about a successful current project namely Fish Habitat. Initial plans for the remaining 2 years of the project will also be presented. We'll invite the Perth TD manager for a photo op, for giving us and RVCA \$4,050 via the TD Friends of the Environment initiative. The RVCA portion will go to Jenn's staff time, and the habitat building on Sep 8th. Paula Stewart will then move us into future stewardship of our lake via the Nature 4 Life presentation. The AGM will end with Q&A.

Anne suggested that for the photo op with RVCA and TD the photo should be taken with the audience as the back drop and perhaps include past OLA presidents. She thinks we're hitting the right notes with the chosen theme. She suggests that our mass mailing prior to the AGM could suggest that each community around the lake consider organizing their celebratory luncheons in their smaller communities after the AGM.

Technology - Gail thanked Dave for purchasing a projector, so we can have 2 at the AGM. She also thanked Tiger for his years as projectionist. Thanks to Krista who is our new projectionist. Thanks to Robert for setting the trend to receive presentations in a timely manner. Hopefully all presentations will be in by the 17th, so all can be ready for the dry run on the 23rd. All presentations will be in sequence on one computer, 120 photos and infomercials on another computer.

Robert asked who would have the voting cards, in case there are nominations from the floor. Dave has them.

Fish Habitat - Wally provided a brief history about the construction of smallmouth bass habitat. 250 nests have been constructed on Otty. Monitoring took place in May and June. Utilization of the nests was 55% this year, which is an incredible success and twice what Wally and Jenn were hoping for. Videos taken during monitoring were outstanding and will be displayed at the AGM. As an example, one video was of smallmouth at a newly constructed bed. Another captured activity at 2 brush bundles. The most exciting one was of 2 smallmouth on a newly constructed nest, possibly spawning or engaging in foreplay. This is very rare footage. This year we will be building 20 to 25 large mouth nests, since we're at a saturation point for smallmouth. During monitoring the team identified some nests that will be supplemented with submerged and semi-submerged brush piles. Bird and bat boxes will also be installed on Sep 8th. 11 bat boxes and 3 wood duck boxes have been requested. Krista, Robert, Gail, Anne and Cathy (already on the list) would also like bat boxes. Richard Hendry and Reid will be cutting the cedar for the kits, then volunteers will assemble them with RVCA as was done last year.

State of the Lake Report - Derek identified that at least 8 people are involved. Wally inputs comments and observations about the Otty Lake fishery at large, including the status of the fish habitat project, and information about the health of various species, changes in the forage base, etc. Kyla is doing great work on tracking loons. Gail, Ev and

Ian are doing a great job with plants, covering 3 different zones this year. Thanks to them. Murray provides water quality information. Murray gave us a brief update on the current status. On May 2nd they collected the first nutrient sampling. On May 30th the full sampling included e-coli. Nutrient samples are very good on both days. 12 samples of E-coli were taken. 1 was slightly elevated in Parks Bay. Others were fine. Murray and Derek will do 3 samples. Murray took RVCA for their first sampling at the deep points in Otty and McLaren. Derek has placed zebra mussel samplers around the lake. We had more last year compared to previous years. This year, algae appeared the beginning of Apr vs July 1st in the past. This leads us to surmise that solar radiation is the trigger and not water temperature. Derek then introduced the idea of an educational series. Derek proposes we call it the "Learn about your Lake" series. Derek's suggestion for the first seminar is Dr Rebecca Dalton, a limnologist with Environment Canada and University of Ottawa. Another possibility is Frances Pick at U of O, who is an expert on algae. Wally has a contact at Queen's U who is a fish expert. Gail knows of a doctor in Westport who is an expert on ticks. The format would be a presentation by the guest followed by an open forum for discussion. Derek generously offered to donate \$500 as a per diem for each speaker. He does not require a tax receipt. He would prefer to invite Otty Lake residents and not open it to other lake communities since we can attract 40 or 50 people around the lake. We could hold the seminars at McM Martin House which Chuck says held 60 people for an event he attended. Gail thinks that, based on the Counsellors' enthusiasm about the education sessions she's organized, they would want to attend. Reid suggested the series should be ongoing, not just for one year. Barb asked if we could include a piece on Invasive Species in each year's State of the Lake report, so we have history of the various species. Roger agreed to provide this annually. **Motion 2016-02-04 (Anne/Dave)** - that the Board support the idea of a seminar series called "Learn about your Lake". **CARRIED**

Communications - Barb reminded us that a lot of people will be dropped from this Canada Post mailing of the Newsletter since they didn't provide e-mail addresses and didn't pay for their memberships, as was requested with the last Newsletter. Gail raised issues with Burgesswood. Craig, the past Counsellor, was e-mailing newsletters to the Burgesswood e-mail list. Could we do something similar with the SIP's? Robert mentioned that e-mailed newsletters allow more info to be obtained via the links. Should we consider putting the Shoreline Handbook on the web? Barb advised everyone that it is already there. But it is difficult to have all parts of the SIP available electronically. There were no updates to the handbook in this year's SIP. **Motion 2016-02-05 (Anne/Dave)** - that the communications report be accepted and that Barb should be commended for all her work on the newsletter as well as the SIP. Her efforts are greatly appreciated. Few know how much Barb does for the OLA in so many areas. **CARRIED** Krista indicated that she likes to get a hard copy of the newsletter, with the photos of invasive species for example. We don't get much mail any more, and it's nice to hold pictures in your hands.

Cookbook – Barb says they'll be ready to go to print by June 20th. The last draft will be looked at after this meeting. 4 Perth businesses (InterAlia, Cafe Bean, Foodsmiths, The Book Nook) and Oliver's Maple sugar bush (they'll have them at the Farmer's Market) have offered to sell them. Anne has offered to mail out any which are requested by mail. David Bromley has been key to the success of the cookbook, with his additions and all the work to produce it. The book is made up 50/50 of recipes and history. It will sell for \$10. Krista will ask at Coutt's if they would sell them. If we are looking for other retailers, we should be looking in Smiths Falls. We have enough outlets in Perth.

Shoreline Planting – Gail let us know that the sale of upper level plants was spectacularly successful. There are only 7 trees left. She and Ian have been doing lots of watering. Cages are protecting the trees and shrubs. Spruce are laden with buds, maples are getting tall. They only lost 3 trees. We have 10 shrubs out of 40 left. They have grown over the top of the 4 foot cage. Flowers are harder to move. Phillip Fry, the provider, will keep the ones we haven't sold. No orders will be accepted after June 21st. Ev will pick up the flowers on June 23rd, with general pick up on the 25th. There will be a few left for the AGM, just to showcase them. The OLA will break even. Next year, Gail will not be available to coordinate the trees and shrubs but is happy to back up anyone who would take it on. Ev would like to have someone else take over the flowers next year.

Picnic -will take place on July 23rd, 10:30 to 1:30, at the Maple Glen waterfront. Hugh and his hawk will be there for 12:30. Face painting will take place from 10:30 to 11:30, then BBQ. More advertising will go out closer to the date. We'll finish at 1:30. Roger will bring his parachute and sling shot again. There'll be a Bocce ball competition for the adults, with the trophy to pass on. Ginger will help with food again. Baking contributions are welcome. We had 20 games last year, and will have many again this year. We will charge \$3 for BBQ, \$2 for face painting. Robert added his thanks to Gail for all her efforts to increase the picnic participation. Initially only Board members attended.

Counsellors – Gail provided a brief update. Phil has offered to fill in where necessary, but will not be a counsellor. Gail and Ian are still taking care of 4 areas. But new folks are coming on board. Meetings are very well attended. Thanks to Gail's enthusiasm counsellors are inspired.

Paddle Power – Ian reminded the Board that it's privately funded, not by OLA. It will be held on Sun August 7th. Anyone interested can also paddle into Jebb's Creek.

Other Business –

LAP – Ian brought up this issue since it was outstanding from the last Board meeting. LAP was started by Robert as a means of looking at the activities around the lake, with accountability. A project report would be presented to the Board for approval. Dave looks at finances from a CRA point of view, the LAP report looks at projects associated with the

lake. Robert added that LAP is meant to help the Board track whether we are achieving our goals, and are on track. Do the projects recognize our priorities? Our prime objective is the health of the lake and must be kept in mind. Ian listed the projects he has in LAP, namely shoreline planting, cookbook, AGM, BBQ, Paddle Power. Derek will submit the Seminar Series to Ian. Nothing re water quality has been submitted. Wally asked what Ian needs and he will submit a report for Fish Habitat. Ian will send out the Project Application Form to the Board. Components of the form are budget, goals and objectives, accomplishments, methods of tracking successes. If results are 7 years out, that's fine, just identify that. If cost components are not known at the start, TBD is fine. Even though the newsletter and website are ongoing, Ian would like a project report for them, just as he gets for the AGM. Anne agrees that we need discipline around the process but don't want to stifle creativity. Reid pointed out that Ian is very collaborative and helpful and ensures that we see a consistent presentation of projects. Gail shared her experience about reporting her projects. It is not an onerous task. When a project is complete, she summarizes the costs and income. It is the project which determines the report generation, not a LAP schedule. There was some discussion about the need to include ongoing projects in the process. Christine pointed out that it is useful information for current and new Board members and especially for someone taking on accountability for one of the ongoing projects. Ian is open to continuous improvement and welcomes suggestions for change to the process.

Next Meeting - Reid asked whether the next meeting should take place in the summer or in the fall. Summer "Meet & Greet" meetings have taken place the last 2 years. It was an opportunity for Board members to get to know one another, especially when there are a number of new members. Also, it's a post mortem of the AGM. Feedback on the AGM can be provided via e-mail, so a summer meeting is not required for this reason. The concentration in the summer should be on the activities. Filling of positions e.g. VP, can be determined in the fall. Krista pointed out that the picnic would be an excellent forum for Board members to get to know one another better. **Motion 2016-02-06** (Anne/Ian) that we try the president's suggestion and have the next meeting on Oct 29th. **CARRIED**

Adjournment - (Dave) The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.