

Otty Lake Association Board Meeting Minutes

Sat Oct 28, 2017, 10:00 – 12:00 pm
McMartin House

Present: Dave Bell, David Bromley, Robert Cosh, Kyla Haley, Barb Hicks, Murray Hunt, Cathy Kari, Christine Kilburn (Secretary), Reid Kilburn (President), Ian McDonald, Gail Read, Monika Siegmund Savage (via FaceTime), Anne Scotton, Derek Smith, Michelle Soucy (15)

Regrets: Wally Robins (1)

Welcome – Reid called the meeting to order at 10:00. A quorum was present.

Agenda – Motion 2017-04-01 (Dave/Michelle) approved as presented **CARRIED**

Minutes of 2 Meetings – Motion 2017-04-02 (Christine/Gail) Approve minutes of June 3 and Aug 7 meetings **CARRIED**

Recording of on-line motions: Two motions were voted on via e-mail.

1. Motion – to donate \$25 to the Toronto Zoo for their frog and turtle contributions to the 2017 SIP's, and \$50 to Friends of Murphys Point for Tobi Kieseewalter's (AGM) and Mark Read's (picnic) contributions. **CARRIED**
2. Motion – to hold a bear education session. **CARRIED**

Financial Report – Dave reported that \$3,295.16 is the current bank balance, and cheques are coming in. Memberships and bank balance are higher than in previous years. He is moving his finances to an excel spreadsheet. Next year the financial reports will show Revenue and Expense sections, and the Net Income as favourable/unfavourable. **Motion 2017-04-03** (Dave/Derek) Accept financial report as handed out. **CARRIED**

Jebb's Creek Flow & Otty Lake Levels – Reid introduced Murray's report by explaining that it evolved as a result of questions during the summer about beaver dams and high water levels. Murray summarized his report, distributed prior to the meeting. Private landowners have the right to make decisions re beaver dam work. Discussion includes RVCA. Murray recommends our policy of not actively managing beaver dams on Jebbs Creek be maintained. **Motion 2017-04-04** (Gail/Ian) accept Murray's proposal. **CARRIED**

State of the Lake Report – Reid thanked Derek and team for their work on this. Derek reminded everyone that this is a report card of how the lake is doing. Each Board member who had input to the State of the Lake Report summarized their section. After some discussion, Reid summarized to say the State of the Lake Report is an excellent report as it is. **Motion 2017-04-05** (Derek/Robert) – approve the State of

the Lake Report as presented, with the addition re Parks Bay algae and Gray Ratsnake update. **CARRIED** Monika volunteered to make these 2 changes.

10th anniversary of Lake Management Plan – Reid spoke about the report he had distributed earlier in the week. He thanked everyone for their contributions, leadership and time over the past while, assisting in completing some significant projects appreciated by our members. However, Reid feels that we've been coasting, leveraging off of recent successes but at the same time failing to chart new direction with key input from our members, our municipalities and our partners. In discussion with team members, Reid reported that it is felt that as this is the 10th year we should validate again, to ensure we understand our constituents' key items. Wally was part of the original Lake Management Plan development. He suggests we come up with a Light survey version to validate priorities amongst our residents and partners. We could use SurveyMonkey rather than mailing. We would seek input and structure future activities to better support the health of our lake. Reid turned it over to the Board for their input.

Good discussion ensued. As a member of the Lake Management Plan team, Ian pointed out that one of the successes was the septic reinspection program. This was a huge success. Gail, who was part of the LMP team, praised the way the various input sessions were done, some at the AGM. The data collected was invaluable. Kyla, as a new Board member, felt that the LMP and 5 year survey were both excellent documents, and recommended we not reinvent the wheel. So many amazing things have come from the LMP. She suggested we look at the various issues, e.g. water quality, identify what we've done, then ask if there are other factors we should be considering. Our constituents need to know we care about what they think and want. We should present our findings in a summarized format. Our residents would like a snapshot.

David spoke about the benefits of communicating visually with our residents.

Infographics help people to read data. He volunteered to take this on.

Michelle pointed out that as a new resident of 3 years, the only item she knew about was E-coli. Now she is far more aware of water quality parameters. Education is key.

Robert suggested we take full advantage of the website Barb has created.

Derek agreed with a survey but it should be carefully developed. We'd like people's input.

Reid summarized the Board discussion. If the survey is done well, it causes communication with our residents and partners, serves as an educational tool, sets direction for the future. The Board agreed that the existing committee (Wally, Anne, Barb, Reid, Christine) should continue to work on developing a strategy. Cathy volunteered to help.

RVCA Tay River Sub watershed report 2017 – Reid shared with the Board that this is the 5th anniversary of this report. Five years ago, Otty came out of that with a POOR rating. This year, we were more proactive in dialogue with RVCA. They invited us to a very early meeting. Murray, Derek and Reid attended. At the meeting, RVCA proposed the rating would move from POOR to FAIR. After discussion, the 3 came away thinking

a FAIR rating was reasonable given how measurements were being taken. The deadline for the watershed report is Mar 2018. It will be published 2 to 3 months later. RVCA asked us to directly contribute to the Summary section of the Sub watershed report, discussing what we've achieved. We are also reaching out to Friends of the Tay Watershed so we can also input via that avenue.

Derek reminded the Board that Otty's POOR rating 5 years ago was based on a process which uses a small dataset and only a few samples. He's fine with a FAIR rating this time.

Murray volunteered to pull the Otty input together for input to RVCA, with input from the 10th anniversary committee in terms of our priorities. He will also ensure that RVCA is aware of all the measures we use.

LAP Report Update – Ian reported that he's tracked 10 projects, 6 completed, 4 still underway (Calendars, Area Counsellors Meeting, Water Testing, Cookbooks). He'll work closer with Dave to get the financial information. Money is being well spent. Ian will issue LAP reports to Board when completed.

Counsellors' Update – Gail reported that the Counsellors meet twice a year. The purpose of the spring meeting is to distribute SIP's, in the fall to get feedback. Each meeting has an educational piece. It would be excellent if we could have another Counsellor in Area 3 which is very large. We also need another person in Area 9. We have no one for McLaren Lake. Gail believes the increase in membership is due in large part to the work of the Counsellors.

Calendar update – Gail informed the Board that, after long interaction with Images InterAlia, the owner apologized for the errors as well as for the overcharging. A cheque for \$300 was provided to the OLA. Any work should be checked. **Motion 2017-04-06** (Anne/Christine) that the OLA reimburse Gail's personal expenses of \$135 to replace the incorrectly printed month. **CARRIED**

Lake Networking Group & OPP meeting Update – Robert reported that he attended this meeting on behalf of the OLA. Derek Needham (Detachment Commander – Lanark County) was there. Topics discussed included:

- Bears – don't leave garbage in garage and door open.
- Private road access for Emergency services – make sure road is cleared wide enough for emergency vehicles to get in.
- Theft – make sure your neighbours are aware when you're away.
- Buoys

Motion 2017-04-07 (Robert/Cathy) accept report as presented. **CARRIED**

Bear Education – Cathy reported that the session went very well. Trevor, the MNRF (Kemptville Office) Conservation Officer was humorous and educational. He volunteered to do another session in the spring if he's still the conservation officer (he's on contract). Cathy will follow up.

SIP – Barb raised the point that we could develop packages less expensively. She’s looking for volunteers to structure next year’s packages. Monika, Cathy and Gail volunteered to help. They’ll get together in January.

Meeting Adjournment – Reid adjourned the meeting at 12:00. Moved by Robert.

Next meeting – March 3rd 2018, McMartin House at 10:00 am