

**Otty Lake Association
Board Meeting Minutes**

Sat Mar 3, 2018, 10:00 – 12:00 pm
McMartin House

Present: Dave Bell (by phone), Kyla Haley, Barb Hicks, Murray Hunt, Cathy Kari, Christine Kilburn (Secretary), Reid Kilburn (President), Wally Robins, Monika Siegmund Savage (via FaceTime), Anne Scotton (10)

Regrets: David Bromley, Robert Cosh, Ian McDonald, Gail Read, Derek Smith, Michelle Soucy (6)

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

Agenda – Motion 2018-01-01 (Kyla/Barb) approve as presented **CARRIED**

Minutes of Oct 28 2017 Meeting – Motion 2018-01-02 (Christine/Anne) Approve minutes of Oct 28 2017 meeting **CARRIED**

Recording of on-line motion: One motion was voted on via e-mail on Jan 17, 2018.

Motion (Dave/Christine) – that the OLA annual General Meeting be held at the Perth Legion on Sunday July 8, 2018 starting at 1 pm. **CARRIED**

Financial Report – Christine provided a brief update on Dave's 2017 income statement, and work done to implement e-Transfers. Christine thanked Dave and Monika for their work on this item. Dave is working with the bank to solve the ATM deposit issue. Dave has prepared a preliminary 2018 Budget yet to be reviewed.

Motion 2018-01-03 (Monika/Dave) – send out broadcast e-mail prepared by Monika, with amendment. **CARRIED**

Communications Report – Anne thanked Barb for all her work. Barb asked for any suggestions for newsletter stories - always welcome. **Motion 2018-01-04** (Barb/Wally) Accept report as presented. **CARRIED**

Land Use Report – Reid reviewed his report, previously sent out. **Motion 2018-01-05** (Reid/Kyla) accept report as information. **CARRIED** Monika asked for clarification on our role in this area. Reid indicated that we do not have a committee, but he and Derek handle any requests. The Township planners keep us in the loop. Anne said that we have the trust of the townships and planners, and she trusts our Board members who get the applications. If necessary, they would bring them to the Board. It's working right now. Reid gave an example of one property – RVCA applied to OMB re respecting the new setbacks. This brought parties together for more conversation, with the end result of an acceptable outcome, namely increasing the setback from 15 metres to 27 metres – without the need for an OMB hearing. Anne volunteered to attend Council meetings at short notice if she is available. **Motion 2018-01-06** (Reid/Wally) Accept report as presented. **CARRIED**

Lake Steward's Report – Murray reviewed his Report, previously distributed. He also advised the Board that, prior to the meeting to review the RVCA catchment report on March 22nd meeting, RVCA will send out the essence of material describing water quality based on their analysis. Reid, Murray and Derek will attend the meeting. They will have an opportunity to review and comment at the meeting. If they have significant comments, they will ask for a separate Otty meeting. Otty will probably receive an increase in rating from Poor to Fair.

Murray also mentioned the Jacob Garrah Survey. Jacob is an undergrad at McGill. He worked for RVCA for the last 2 summers doing sampling on lakes, including Otty. He's trying to find out as much as he can about Lake Associations and what impact the work of associations is having on the quality. He's surveying lakes in the Rideau watershed.

Motion 2018-01-07 (Anne/Cathy) approve report as presented. **CARRIED**

10th Anniversary Survey Proposal – Reid thanked Wally, Barb, Anne, Christine for their work over the winter on the survey. They had healthy discussions, not always agreement, on what topics are of concern, and tie back to previous plans.

Wally addressed the survey itself. The survey instrument will find out from Otty Lake community (people we represent), what their major priorities are, and therefore what they want their Board to concentrate their attention on. The team arrived at 7 themes. These topics are similar but not exactly the same as the ones surveyed 5 years ago at half way point of Lake Management Plan.

We have 2 objectives for this survey:

1. what is of most interest in the community.
2. equip Board so we can focus time, energy, money, resources on key priorities.

Document introducing the survey will ask respondents to prioritize 7 items.

The key reason for prioritization is that we have a small Board, never overwhelmed with volunteers from community. The Board cannot do everything and be everything to everyone.

This survey will be conducted electronically. It will be very straightforward, very simple, extremely user friendly. These characteristics tend to generate high survey response. We need 30% or higher response rate to be able to say that volume of responses is representative of the community. Last time, over 40% response rate.

Online survey, with introduction to be prepared by Reid, should take 10 min max for most people to fill it out. Timeframes – survey administered, data crunched, feedback at AGM, in Newsletter, maybe on line, maybe an e-mail blast.

There was significant discussion about prioritization – only first 3, all 7, a rating of 1 to 4 for each of the 7 items.

It was felt that providing the opportunity to write in comments should be done.

Another point of discussion was our e-mail list (sometimes more than 1 e-mail per household), the database, and the number of residents we have on the lake. How can we reach as many as possible?

Reid summarized the discussion:

1. 7 topics are supported. Murray volunteered to help with the wording of the description of each

2. Introductory letter – Reid will revise the current letter, incorporating Anne’s written comments.
3. Anyone with property on the lake can respond, not just members.
4. We have support of an electronic survey as primary method. Snail mail surveys will be sent to the approximately 55 addresses who receive newsletters.
5. Use Survey Monkey, with rankings of 1 to 7.
6. Timeline – move quickly. Get results as quickly as we can. Opportunity at AGM to have feedback/workshop possibility. Tight timeline to get it out, analyze, develop response, feedback, get ready for AGM. Have it go out by end of March,. Give e-mail recipients 2 weeks time to reply, snail mail 3 weeks.

Robert’s Participants Survey Proposal – Reid let those present know that he had met with Robert to discuss his proposal, sent out to the Board previously. There is value to be able to call upon certain talents, skills for specific projects. Anne suggested that, at end of our survey, we could mention that, from time to time we embark on specialized projects for which we require particular skills. Ask the respondent if they would give us contact information if interested in being contacted at the time of a particular type of project. Anonymity was discussed. From Monika’s experience, prioritization is separate from the personal info. It was decided that, when we send out the proposed survey to the Board, ask if we want to include skill question.

Counsellors’ update – Christine delivered Gail’s report. “Area Counsellors will hold their spring meeting on Fri May 11th at St Paul’s United Church at 1 pm. All residents are welcome to join our MNRF Bear Alert presentation that will follow at 2 pm. Please join us if possible. Handouts have been provided for inclusion in this year’s SIP’s. Cathy will check with MNRF re holding another public session on a weekend.

Fish Habitat Project – Wally met with Jennifer early in Feb. Monitoring of bass beds on Otty. Jennifer, Wally, and others will monitor bass beds on June 5th, with rain day backup. They will check usage of bass beds installed over 4 years, also checking on status of beds built in Year 1 and maybe 2 to ensure there hasn’t been any degradation. The Jebbs Creek Embayment habitat enhancement project (previously distributed) would have a relatively large scope, converting a meadow – semi-flooding of meadow, creating a mini marsh. Create new spawning and nursery beds for about 20 species, e.g. northern pike, amphibians, etc. Vegetation would be planted which tends to be an attractant for fish for spawning in the spring. If approved, the project will start in Sep 2018. Cost to OLA is zero. This would be an opportunity for people around lake to get involved again. There’ll be all sorts of ongoing monitoring, e.g. increase in amphibian population (listen to frogs at night), fish spawning – the ultimate biodiversity project. RVCA did a similar project on the Rideau and it was widely acclaimed. Other lake associations are following our example re fish habitat. **Motion 2018-01-08** (Wally/Barb) accept report as presented. **CARRIED**

Nomination Committee – On behalf of Robert, Reid asked those Directors whose term ends this year are, to let Robert know of their intentions: Gail, Christine, Cathy, Kyla, Michelle, Derek. Gail has already indicated she will not be renewing.

AGM Planning – Reid advised those present that Gail will help with slide show and photos. Krista will help with the projection of presentations, and run computer. It was decided there would not be a guest presenter, that we would concentrate on survey responses, We would let our townships do presentations again, since they did not have the opportunity last year due to the Legacy Cottage presentations. We will give them survey results beforehand, and ask them to be prepared to field questions). Anne volunteered to once again be the time keeper.

OLA Picnic – Gail will not be coordinating this year. The consensus was to take a year off. Ask at AGM if someone else wants to take on picnic management. Anne will check with Darlene Bishop re having a children's picnic. May not require OLA involvement, parents/grandparents might organize.

Friends of the Tay Watershed Board of Directors – Robert has stepped down. The AGM will be on March 22nd. FoTW asked if OLA would like to continue on Board. Reid has volunteered to represent OLA. We may be working with them on the RVCA embayment project. Murray thanked Reid for taking this on.

Bear Contact Information – On behalf of Dave, Christine let everyone know that, in the package with tax bills, D/NE provided bear contact numbers. Barb will put them on the OLA website.

Radon – Murray gave some history on a previous case on the property of a resident. Kyla has high radon in their basement. We should have education on this since many in the area don't know about it. Murray emphasized that Radon is not specific to a lake community. Basements are a contributing factor in any home. Kyla will write an article for the next newsletter.

Septic Workshop – Reid let us know that the Lake Networking Group is putting together a workshop on Sat May 26 in Perth. We'd like to see as many Otty Lake residents as possible in attendance. Some townships don't have mandatory septic inspections. It will be an opportunity to support those Lake Associations who want to see mandatory inspection implemented.

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

Next meeting – Fri June 1st 2018, McMartin House at 4 pm