



Otty Lake Association

Board Meet and Greet Meeting

Friday, August 01, 2014

Minutes

Present: Phil Anderson, Dave Bell, Robert Cosh, Ginger Hay, Barb Hicks, Christine Kempster, Gail Read, Peter Seimons, Derek Smith

Regrets: Chris Harrison, Karen Hunt, Cathy Kari, Bill McLeish, Roger Nuttall, Anne Scotton

Welcome

1. Introduction of new members Christine Kempster, Derek Smith whose participation on the Board is most welcome.
2. "Musical roles" of the Board:
 - Gail Read will be resigning as secretary. Thanks to Christine Kempster for volunteering to take over this role.
 - There are currently 2 Vice Presidents. We need to ensure that Vice Presidents are active in a variety of areas of the Board, are current with Board initiatives and demonstrate interest in a possible future role as President of OLA. Identified changes include:
 - Vice President Finance: Anne Scotton
 - Motion by Robert that Dave Bell assumes this responsibility. Seconded by XXXXXXXX. Carried.
 - Accepted by Dave Bell.
 - Vice President: Chris Harrison
 - Motion by Robert that Cathy Kari assume this role. Seconded by Dave Bell. Carried.
 - Accepted by Cathy Kari.
3. A motion to approve the agenda as presented was moved by Robert Cosh and seconded by Peter Siemons.

AGM feedback:

1. A discussion was held in regards to the locations chosen in recent years for the hosting of the AGM included a review of the Legion and the Lions Hall. Comments supported a return to the Legion based on lay-out, staff support and parking.

- Although the projection screen was broken this year, OLA's smaller one was used to show lake pictures. We will repeat this event next year, hoping to use the large screen.
- Q. How does the price of the two facilities compare?
A. The Legion provided the coffee and Timbits at the refreshment bar. This means that the cost was a little less than the Lions Hall.
- A return to the Legion for the 2015 AGM was moved by Dave Bell and unanimously supported by all Members present at this meeting.
- Dave Bell will contact the Legion and book the 2015 meeting.

2. Recommended changes to the AGM format resulting from the discussion include:

- Change presentations to focus on our projects and related updates. Keep them short and focused. This will include project updates, next steps and their related expenditures.
- Townships should be asked to provide a link to their website so attendees can receive current information. Townships would be invited to post any updates or respond to resident written questions on our OLA website.
- It was recommended that we remove presentations by townships, police department, and fire department from our next agenda but ask each to offer an informative display for attendees to visit.
- Timing is a concern in spite of presenters being given, in writing, a specific area of focus and a time limit of 5, 10 or 15 minutes in which to present. Several speakers went well over time and this year we had people present who were not expected nor were they written into our agenda. In 2015 it was suggested that an OLA member be assigned as "time keeper" and would hold up a number to indicate 3 minutes left, 1 minute left. It was suggested that the President would adhere to times allotted.
- The organization and use of door prizes was discussed. It was suggested that door prizes should be carefully considered and could be drawn between speakers, using the time more wisely.

Schedule of meetings for 2014/15

- A DRAFT of proposed dates was shared and discussed by Gail Read. Additional meeting dates of October and January were added for the Board. Partner events will be updated by Karen Hunt.
- As of this past year, projects have been updated/overviewed and forwarded to the Secretary ten days prior to Board Meetings. These attachments were then forwarded with the agenda to all members 1 week prior to the meeting.

This approach has streamlined our meetings as discussions and Q&As replaced presentations.

- It was recommended by Robert Cosh that project updates be distributed to all on an as-needed basis. This would be followed by an email discussion prior to the meeting if so needed.
- Use of email for voting can be done as well. It was noted that Members are tech savvy and this could expedite some initiatives.
- Email updates have included minutes from meetings. Responses have been integrated by the secretary before posting such minutes on our website and seeking acceptance at the following meeting.
- Formal/informal gathering of groups should continue to ensure open and ongoing communication and collaboration.
- An alignment between Capt'n Otty Logs and Board meetings was discussed. Barb Hicks discussed the timeline in development of the newsletter (eg. Sept 1 cut off for the October issue) which could cause challenges in the gathering of information for some projects and communication of Board Meetings as well. It was decided that minutes would continue to be posted on the website. Projected Log dates would stand.

Area Counsellors:

- The value of the OLA spring package was discussed and Phil stated that this initiative should be retained as it was an informative document and provided a purpose for Counsellors to visit the residents within their area.
 - Dave Bell added that he had received many membership forms from the package.
- The benefits of Counsellors meeting face-to-face with residents were reiterated as a package at mailboxes is less engaging. Phil Anderson stated that he had covered one area where 80% of residents were not available. In such situations, the parcel must be left.
- Phil noted the excellence demonstrated by some Counsellors and stated that Wendy Wagner maintained strong records and would be missed in her area. It was asked if she might do a quick Board and Counsellor overview prior to her moving from Otty Lake? An interview for Capt'n Otty perhaps?

State of the Lake Report:

An annual overview of lake science will be created by Derek Smith in the form of a *State of the Lake Report* each fall and the first edition is planned to be published the 3rd week of October 2014.

- A coupon could be included in the October Capt'n Otty's Log for readers to mail in to OLA identifying their interest in a hard copy of the State of the Lake Report.

"Planning an OLA Program of Activities for 2014-2015":

A three page overview was distributed by Robert Cosh for all to read and discuss.

The Lake Planning Action Committee has been described as running parallel to the Board and overseeing many events. Some people have seen this group as a decision making body although it was open to all Board members as well as non-members. Robert, in consultation with others, has disbanded this Committee and is suggesting Lake Activity Planning, LAP, as its replacement. (A 3 page overview is attached entitled: "Planning an OLA Program of Activities for 2014-2015")

Discussion:

- Maintenance of the data base has been omitted and Dave Bell recommends that this be maintained. This will be included as 2(j) and recommend it being maintained by the Treasurer who will also be responsible for voting cards, email access approval, etc.
- Land Use will be added under #5 "Maintain Contacts" and will be overseen by Peter Siemons.
- All were asked to check Derek's submission on "State of the Lake" where many exciting activities are described.
- Project development will occur through the Lake Activities Projects (LAP) to be overseen by Ian McDonald. This will be a support program that encourages participation.
 - Dave will have the cheque book and Ian will be able to make budget requests for approval and support of individual projects in the form of petty cash.
 - Large items would go to the Board for approval and this could be by email.
- Additional comments included:
 - The purchasing of signage to promote communication was discussed. Commercially printed signs will be created where regular events need to be communicated.
 - It was suggested that we create a parking lot of possible future projects (eg. birding, field naturalists)

Focus On a Cohesive Lake:

The OLA Board will build participation and involvement, focusing on lake cohesion.

It was stated that OLA is not a political body and such action can be divisive

Robert plans to move the following:

"OLA is not a political body and will not get involved in municipal, provincial or federal politics in any way" was motioned by Derek Smith. Seconded by Robert Cosh. Carried.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, August 14, 2014

7 p.m. Board

7:30 p.m. Board and Counsellors

Respectfully submitted by Gail Read