

OTTY LAKE ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
9 am Saturday October 30, 2021  
Zoom Meeting

### **Attendance**

Present: Kirsten Brouse (Meeting Chair, Zoom Host), Susan Murray, Barb Hicks, David Murray, Kevin Terrion, Robert Cosh, Jen O'Donoghue, Keith Desjardins, Anne Scotton, Cathy Kari, Kyla Haley, Linda Cuthbertson (Secretary)

Regrets: Reid Kilburn, Rachel Roth, Ian McDonald

Special Guests: Michael Desautels, Victoria Gibb-Carsley

### **Welcome and Agenda Approval**

Chair welcomed everyone to our zoom meeting. Approval of previous meeting minutes was added. Agenda order enabled our guests to present first and following the Indigenous Relations Working Group discussion they left the zoom session.

Motion (2021-05-01)

Moved by Kirsten Brouse and seconded by Susan Murray "that the agenda with the one additional item be approved."

Carried

### **Approval of Board Meeting Minutes**

Motion (2021-05-02)

Moved by Jen O'Donoghue and seconded by Kevin Terrion "that the minutes from the June 19, 2021 and August 2, 2021 Board Meetings be approved."

Carried

### **Decisions**

#### **1. Indigenous Relations Working Group**

Michael Desautels and Victoria Gibb-Carsley shared both their professional and personal involvement in indigenous issues. Michael shared a video that he was involved in making 10 years ago to highlight indigenous issues. The issues raised continue to resonate today and are the reason why this working group is looking at steps towards educating and building relations with our indigenous community. Michael and Victoria have a family cottage on Otty Lake and have recently moved to Perth. They expressed a willingness to share their expertise and knowledge of

indigenous history and actions they have taken towards reconciliation at OLA planned events.

The Purpose/Objectives section of the Draft terms of Reference for the group were changed as the group and board members supported suggested objectives that were more measurable.

Motion (2021-05-03)

Moved by David Murray and seconded by Jen O'Donoughue " that the Terms of Reference of the Indigenous Relations Working Group be approved with the reworded objectives."

Carried

Motion (2021-05-04)

Moved by David Murray and seconded by Kyla Haley " that \$500 be budgeted to cover anticipated costs of next steps for the Indigenous Relations Working Group."

Carried

## 2. Shoal Marking

The detailed proposal from this team included: proposed approach, anticipated costs, liability and risk, and next steps. Volunteer activities always have a possible risk factor but steps suggested and good communication should reduce the risk. They recommend updating the OLA's liability insurance to include a shoal marking rider which is an additional \$75. The team plans to contact Reid Kilburn and the mapping team to assist in determining which shoals will be marked and possible signage at the public boat launch. Jen O'Donoughue, Keith Desjardins and Kevin Terrion are willing to continue working on this project and would appreciate names of people who might be interested in volunteering to place, monitor and remove markers.

Motion (2021-05-05)

Moved by David Murray and seconded by Susan Murray " that the proposed start up cost of the shoal marking program of \$2000 be approved."

Carried

## 3. Clothing Sales Seed Funding

Liz Lightford is willing to look after clothing sales.

Motion (2021-05-06)

Moved by David Murray and seconded by Keith Desjardins " that \$200 be budgeted for the purchase of sample OLA clothing."

Carried

## Discussion Topic: Water Levels on Jebb's Creek

The water level on Otty Lake was higher than normal most of the summer due to a beaver dam on the creek on the west side of the bridge on County Road #1. Higher water levels are a problem for some homes and cottages. Historically at one time they created a dam on Jebb's Creek to raise the water level in Otty and reduce the number of shoals that made boating difficult.

There are concerns and arguments both for and against removing the beaver dam. Kevin Terrion's report provided a few options for dealing with this contentious issue. Hiring a third party or trapper to control the number of beavers would be \$1000 annually. Lanark County has a vested interest in clearing the dam if the water levels get too high and could jeopardize the infrastructure of the bridge. At this time we decided not to interfere with nature.

## Reports

### Finance

Jen O'Donoghue presented an Income Statement 2021 and Proposed Budget as of June 18, 2021. There was an increase in membership this year. She will have a proposed budget ready for approval at our February meeting.

### Water Quality

Kevin Terrion has all of Murray Hunt's past records. Derek's data for 2021 is available but needs to be put in a communication report format.

### Membership List

A group met to review the history and data requirements of our membership list. In their report they listed 14 information items that would provide the data required. They determined the format, who would have access to the data and who would update the information. The master file became active on September 5th. As of October there are 555 listed properties, 241 paid membership dues for 2021. Robert Cosh was invited to contribute and provide historical information to this group.

### Map Project

Ian McDonald's report indicated 400 of the 550 maps produced were distributed by OLA area counsellors. Feedback indicates residents are

pleased with the product and providing the map free with payment of membership dues appears to have contributed to an increase in memberships. The mapping project committee will begin meeting again in November to consider the creation of an electronic copy and posting a map at the public boat launch.

#### Phragmites Report

The team of David Murray, Selik Shainfarber, Dan Woods, Glenn Tunnock, Reid Kilburn, Christine Kilburn and Linda Cuthbertson worked the morning of October 13th to remove a stand of invasive phragmites from a property on Loon's Way. Used equipment and supplies purchased by OLA using grant money awarded to OLA from FOCA's Green Shovels Coalition Initiative. Linda Cuthbertson completed an invasive phragmites project report for FOCA that included OLA activities and actions, volunteer hours, impact, control efforts and future actions.

#### Land Use Updates

In Reid Kilburn's absence Kirsten Brouse summarized 3 land use updates. The new owner of Otty Woods is considering putting in a boat slip for about 20-25 boats. Property at 197 Three Bay Road has had a minor variance application approved. A property dealing with shoreline erosion is considering use of rock rip rap as other attempts at stabilization recommended by RVCA have not worked.

#### Shoreline Planting

Barb Hicks will put an article on the website to encourage and request volunteers to assist with the planting program. At least one board member should be part of the team.

#### State of the Lake Report

David Murray, Kirsten Brouse and Reid Kilburn will use the data collected to complete a State of the Lake Report.

### **New Business**

#### Cookbook on Website

Since printed copies of the very popular special commemorate 2016 cookbook "Our Table to Yours" are no longer available it was suggested it be put on the OLA website. Looking at options to make downloads and printing of single recipes possible.

### Virtual Newsletter

Looking at going to a fully virtual form for the newsletter and spring package. It takes considerable extra time to fit an on-line version so that it is a printable document. Not sure how to deal with members who really like a hard copy but a majority of our members have gone digital.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

Motion (2021-05-07)

Moved by David Murray and seconded by Keith Desjardins “that the meeting be adjourned at 11:23 am..”

Carried

### **Next Zoom Meeting Saturday February 26, 2022**

### **List of Reports/Items shared prior to this meeting:**

Agenda - Kirsten Brouse

Proposal for Marking Shoals- Jen O’Donoughue, Keith Desjardins, Kevin Terrion

Draft Terms of Reference of the Indigenous Relations Working Group- Michael Desautels, Victoria Gibb-Carsley, Kirsten Brouse, Reid Kilburn, Christine Kilburn

Managing Beaver Dams on Jebb’s Creek- Kevin Terrion

Income Statement 2021/ Proposed Budget as of June 18, 2021- Jen O’Donoughue

OLA Membership List Report, 5 October 2021- Susan & David Murray

Communications Report - Barb Hicks

2021 Green Shovels Program Report for FOCA on Invasive Phragmites Initiative- Linda Cuthbertson

Mapping Project Update- Ian McDonald