

OTTY LAKE ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
1p.m. Sunday February 12, 2023
Zoom Meeting

Attendance

Present: Kirsten Brouse (Chair), Barb Hicks, Robert Cosh, David Murray, Cathy Kari, Susan Murray, Anne Scotton, Jen O'Donoghue, Keith Desjardins, Linda Cuthbertson (Secretary)
Regrets: Kevin Terrion, Reid Kilburn

Introduction

Chair welcomed everyone and expressed the land acknowledgement.

Motion (2023-01-01)

Moved by David and seconded by Susan “ that the agenda as distributed be approved”.

Carried

Motion (2023-01-02)

Moved by Susan and seconded by Barb “ that the minutes of the October 16, 2022 OLA Board Meeting be approved as distributed”.

Carried

Two motions were given email approval in correspondence shared in December 2022. It was agreed that an addendum be added to the October 16, 2022 minutes to list these two motions.

Decision Items

Membership Fees

Susan submitted a revised “2023 Membership Form” for consideration. The Board decided the membership fee will remain the same at \$25. Under the “Payment Options” section it was agreed that the e-transfer option be put first and highlight that e-transfer is the preferred option.

An online version of the revised form will be posted.

Approval of OLA Budget for 2023

Jen provided a working copy of the year to date revenues and expenditures for 2022 and a proposed budget for 2023 along with a report explaining allocation of funds. The revenue target for memberships and donations is based on last year. It is proposed that \$2000 be taken from the surplus in the account to allow for extra costs for projects.

Motion (2023-01-03)

Moved by David and seconded by Cathy “ that the working draft of the Income Statement for 2022 and Proposed Budget for 2023 be approved”.

Carried

Jebb’s Creek Beaver Management

Kevin’s report summarizes the existing practices regarding management of nuisance beavers on Jebb’s Creek. There is no management plan for beaver activity between the Rideau Ferry Road Bridge and Otty Lake on Jebb’s Creek. Otty Lake residents have benefited having RVCA and Lanark County monitoring and paying for the control of nuisance beavers from the bridge to the Tay Marsh. Although Kevin wasn’t present for today’s meeting in his report he posed 3 questions for Board members to think about and bring responses to for our next meeting.

Discussion Items

Board and Volunteer Continuity

Most Board members are willing to continue their role as directors so therefore ensuring role continuity. Kirsten announced that she will be stepping down as president at this year’s AGM. Although she gave good personal reasons for stepping down we will miss her leadership, sincere concern for lake and resident issues, and guidance of projects.

Keith is the vice-president but doesn’t want to assume the president role due to family and work commitments.

Area Councillor Coordinator

Gail Read is no longer the chair of the area councillors and the position has not been filled.

Everyone agrees that personal contact plays an essential role in keeping residents aware of the role OLA plays. The pandemic and technology have created a lot of changes in how we approach being connected and collecting membership fees.

In lieu of a spring package of material distributed in hard copy or online it was decided to create a letter from the OLA containing relevant information and dates. It was agreed that a letter and/or free item enables area councillors to engage in a more friendly positive way.

Changing the job description of the area councillor coordinator by eliminating the task of creating a spring information package might make it easier to find a replacement.

Anne will contact Gail and ask her if she knows someone who might consider the role with the suggested change in the job description. Cathy agreed to look into how other lake associations have dealt with the recruitment and use of area councillors. Susan is our Board liaison for this team.

Board Recruitment

We need a new president or two people willing to be co-presidents. The OLA constitution was changed to allow for co-presidency. It was suggested reaching out to past executive who might be interested in returning to fill these positions.

Send out a notice that we are looking for OLA members who would be interested in serving on the board and those who might be willing to serve leadership roles.

We should all be thinking about actively recruiting new members. If you think of someone but don't feel comfortable approaching them you can send the name to Reid.

Updates

New OLA Website

Barb's Communications Report provided an update on Captain Otty's Log, Mail Chimp, Facebook and the Website. The website should be ready for April 1st. The "Otty Lake .ca" domain became available and so it was purchased. You have to pay a minimal monthly fee to use it.

Land Use Updates

RVCA has approved a remediation plan for the causeway. Two culverts are to be installed by the landowner to allow for water flow.

We are advised that an appeal would not be a successful option legally.

Keith will write a letter on behalf of OLA to express our disappointment and concern that the remediation plan approved is not a solution that the Board or lake residents feel is the right decision in this incidence.

Keith will forward a draft letter to Board members for review before it is put on our website or made public.

The Gun Range land use decision has been deferred by DNE Township until they receive additional requested expert reports. Police are required to do an environmental clean-up of the lands in question.

State of the Lake Report

Cathy is finalizing the report for email distribution.

Boat Launch Signage

All OLA suggestions and input have to go through TVT. The word content has been approved by TVT and now has gone to the Algonquins of Ontario for their approval. Historical and current pictures, our logo and slightly revised map have all been forwarded. Hopefully a design draft will be ready in a timely manner to ensure the sign can be installed this spring. The map project team had some very tight timelines to meet. We are very grateful for the assistance provided by CGIS, Dave Bromley, Susan Code and Linda Davies.

Nature Flotilla

We look forward to a repeat of this successful venture in 2023. Kirsten will approach last year's team to see if they will coordinate the event again. Kirsten will also ask Jen to be our Board contact.

Lake Association Government Relations Committee

OLA was approached to be part of a local lake associations' group submitting a letter to TVT concerning some 2023 budget items. It was decided that OLA has not and will not take an advocacy role in political actions with local townships.

TVT Septic Inspection Program

TVT is considering expanding their septic inspection program for all the lakes and rivers in the township. Barb agreed to draft a letter, for Board email approval, that Kirsten will send on behalf of OLA supporting this initiative.

AGM

We would like to plan an in person AGM for 2023. Susan will check to see if the Legion in Perth is available on July 8th. Barb volunteered to coordinate the program.

Shoreline Planting Project

Susan will contact Rachel to see if she will lead this project again this year.

Next Meeting will be by zoom at 6 p.m. on Wednesday May 17th.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m..

List of Reports and Items Shared prior to this Meeting:

Agenda and Zoom link - Kirsten

Minutes of October 16, 2022 OLA Board Meeting - Linda

Draft Income Statement 2022, Proposed Budget 2023 - Jen

Communications Report - Barb

Jebb's Creek Beaver Management Strategy - Kevin

Draft OLA 2023 Membership Form -Susan

Email Motions from December 11th and 28th, 2022 - Kirsten