

OTTY LAKE ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
7p.m. Thursday February 15, 2024
Zoom Meeting

Attendance

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

Welcome

Chair welcomed everyone.

Motion (2024-01-01)

Moved by Kirsten and seconded by Cathy "that the agenda as amended by adding under Reports, Spring Shoreline Plant Sale, and under New Business, FOCA Spring Seminar, be approved".

Carried

Motion (2024-01-02)

Moved by Susan and seconded by Cathy "that the minutes of the October 19,2023 OLA Board Meeting be approved as distributed".

Carried

Reports

The following reports were distributed prior to the meeting and some required discussion to determine best next steps:

Membership/Membership Incentive Gift/Area Counsellor Name Change
(Susan)

Lake Steward (Kevin)

Communications (Barb)

2023 Survey Analysis (Barb and Susan)

Volunteer Recruitment (Kirsten)

Love Your Lake Program Update (Reid and Barb)

Actions Arising from the Reports

Survey Analysis

The board was pleased with the number of survey responses and comments. Thank you to Barb, David and Susan for their work designing and analyzing the survey.

Responses to survey questions about the AGM generated a discussion about considering a change of date. Respondents indicated a preference to have the AGM held on a Sunday in May. The July date is mandated in our Constitution so it would require a motion to change the Constitution and this would have to be done at an AGM. This year we will look at holding the AGM on the first or second weekend in July. Susan will ask David to check on the availability of the Perth Legion for these dates.

Respondents also like that the AGM focuses on “lake news” and has informative “guest speakers”. The survey results will provide valuable input for this year’s AGM planning committee.

The survey results provide a clear direction with respect to lake priorities members would like OLA to focus on. They would like focus be given to the following: water quality, aquatic vegetation, development pressures, boating safety and water safety.

Board actions to address some of the issues:

1. Barb will include more boating safety tips in both the April and July newsletters
2. Jen will have boating safety tips included in the email blast announcements about the shoal markers.
3. Participation in the “Love Your Lake” program.
4. Recruitment of a Lake Steward Team to work with Kevin this calendar year.

Some of the more popular OLA activities indicated in the survey analysis were: Spring Shoreline Plant Sale, Paddle Power, and educational events.

Board actions with respect to these activities:

1. Rachel Roth has agreed to assume responsibility for the Spring Shoreline Plant Sale. She would like to focus on flowering plants as well as shrubs this year but has to confirm availability.
2. Keith will be in charge of the Paddle Power event this summer.
3. Kirsten will look into planning an educational activity for children.

Barb agreed to write an article for the newsletter summarizing the survey results and some of the actions the OLA is taking to address the survey results.

Membership/Membership Incentive Gift/ Area Counsellor Name Change

Membership

This year David and Susan plan on emailing every member when they get their renewal to thank them for their support and provide them with dates of upcoming OLA events. In 2023 we had 243 members.

Linda will send a thank you note to friends of Josie and Merv Roberts who made a donation to OLA in recognition of the couples' 60th Wedding Anniversary. Linda will inform the Roberts of their friends' thoughtful donation.

Membership Incentive Gift

Susan reviewed the different gift options described in her report. The board would like Susan to further investigate the mixed seeds for honeybees packet option to find out what native plant species it contains. The lead free fishing tackle samples and information might be a good floor display option for the AGM.

Area Counsellor Name Change

It was agreed that the name should be changed from "Area Counsellors" to "Lake Ambassadors". The new name more accurately implies what these volunteers do.

Susan has agreed to coordinate the Area Ambassadors but needs help finding Ambassadors for some areas.

New Business

Proposed Budget for 2024

Jen presented the proposed budget for 2024. It is similar to the version sent out for consideration in October. It includes \$1000 for a membership incentive gift and some money to digitize lake steward data. There is also \$600 of unallocated funds for things that may come up during 2024. It was noted that there might be an increase in the cost of plants for the Shoreline Planting project.

Motion (2024-01-03)

Moved by Susan and seconded by Anne "that the proposed budget be approved".

Carried

Love Your Lake Program

The program is a team effort to improve the health of shorelines across Canada. The main partners and program administrators are Watersheds Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Federation. Otty Lake participated in the program in 2014. Shoreline property owners who participate in the program receive a detailed report on how to improve their shorelines. Reid has been in contact with Watersheds Canada and they have agreed that Otty Lake will be considered for the program in 2024, as there have been many changes to the shoreline in recent years. The board confirmed we would like to be part of the program in 2024 so the next step is to complete and forward our application. Barb and Reid will complete the application request and Barb will investigate the role our association will need to play if accepted in the program.

FOCA AGM and Spring Seminar

The event is on March 2nd. You need to register by February 28th. Barb forwarded more detailed information to all board members.

Susan moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:05 p.m..

The next meeting will be by zoom at 7p.m. on Thursday April 18, 2024.