

Big Basswood Lake Association
Annual General Meeting
August 15, 2021-10 AM
Melwel Lodge

Board members present: Larry Allcorn, Phil Conley, Marilyn Kellum, Cynthia Wood
Absent: Nancy Bakemeier, Joanne Falk

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:09 AM and welcomed everybody back to an in-person AGM. He reviewed the agenda and introduced the current board members. He also thanked Leigh Olmstead, who resigned from the Board this spring, for her service and contributions.

The 2020 AGM Minutes were summarized by the Secretary. The minutes are available on the web-site at <https://www.bigbasswood.ca> . It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

The Treasurer reviewed the Annual Financial Statements for both the BBLA account and the Trillium account. Opening balance on April 1, 2020 stood at \$9,376.37. Closing balance on March 31, 2021 is \$8,699.81. The Trillium Account was closed on March 16, 2021 when the balance of \$8,043.58 was returned to the Ontario Trillium Foundation. It was moved and seconded to accept the Treasurers Report as presented. The motion passed.

The Membership Report from Joanne was presented by Cynthia. The importance of membership was stressed. At the end of 2020 BBLA had only 48 members as compared to 105 members in 2019. It was noted that many renewals happen at the AGM and this past year on-line memberships were the only means available to join. Benefits of membership were listed and payment options were reviewed. The membership fee remains at \$25 annually. Associate memberships are also available. It was suggested that BBLA look into an auto renewal system and/or a process to invoice members.

The Lake Partner Program (LPP) has been resumed for 2021. Bobby Swain and Laura Foley have recorded the Ice On Date as January 23, 2021 and Ice Out Date April 9, 2021. They also submitted water samples testing for phosphorus and calcium in May to the LPP. Secchi disks readings have been taken monthly starting in May. The latest reading from this month is 11.5 meters in the East Basin and 11.0 meters in the West Basin.

Leigh Olmstead reported that the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey conducted by Birds Canada has resumed this summer. The nesting pair has returned and one loon chick has been spotted. Members have noted that the loons seems to be gathering on the lake. It was also noted that bird species have been shifting. The question was raised

about a format to communicate these observations. Marilyn noted that several years ago a Wildlife and Habitat Inventory was created on the BBLA web page to provide a platform for communicating nature observations. It was difficult to use. Marilyn will follow up with this. Leigh suggested that Carter Dorscht from the Kensington Conservancy would be an excellent resource to develop a system for Citizen Science.

The new information on the Thessalon First Nation Land Claim is that the claim is in an ongoing court action. That means no further information is publicly available. Jane Thomas, Phd, a Senior Negotiator for the Ministry of Indigenous Affairs has been responsive to concerns and questions. Larry reiterated that private land and access routes will be retained.

The Dam Operating Plan that has been in effect has been working. Lake levels have seemed to be more consistent and following the guidelines for fish habitats and recreation. Two years ago the wing wall was repaired and the long term plan is to replace the dam. Rob Berry is the new MNRF contact person and has been responsive to BBLA's questions and concerns.

The BBLA Board is continuing to develop the Mike Hunting Stewardship Award that recognizes initiatives that demonstrate citizen science, preservation of water quality, promote natural shorelines, and prevent or mitigate invasive species. The award would recognize initiatives and ideas that are: impactful, creative, applicable and collaborative. Nominations will be accepted through August 31, 2022.

The Septic Inspection Program, funded by Trillium and BBLA, has been completed after a one year extension. There are 261 properties on the lake with 208 properties that have residents. Of those, 119 properties were inspected for a 57% response rate. No major problems were reported. The "Big Basswood Lake Septic Inspection Report" prepared by Tulloch Engineering is an excellent summary of the program. It was also noted from members that they observed neighbors upgrading and pumping out their systems. The Trillium account was closed March 16, 2021.

A discussion began with questions and ideas about monitoring and maintaining water quality. BBLA does participate in the Lake Partner Program and submits samples annually. Looking into more frequent and localized testing for phosphorus was suggested. Shoreline management was also suggested. BBLA has provided information about that in the past but based on the interest expressed today it might be a topic for a future meeting. Concerns were also raised about micro plastics that have entered the environment, including the water and fish. Members were advised to check out FOCA for information on these topics. The Board will continue to pursue these areas of concern.

Larry reviewed the planned changes in electricity pricing i.e. the elimination of the seasonal rate classification. It is proposed to begin in 2022 or 2023 and an increase at a rate of 10% per year. FOCA is monitoring these changes.

Board elections were deferred last year under the COVID emergency act. Elections occur in even number years. In between elections the Board can appoint members to fill vacancies. The Board is at 6 members now. Bobby Swain and Dave Bascomb have agreed to serve. Other members are encouraged to serve. Joanne and Marilyn are working on a By-Law amendment to stagger the board member terms. This will be presented for membership approval in 2022.

The Huron Shores broadband initiative was mentioned. Last year Mayor Georges Bilodeau updated the members on the project. Since then a company has been formed, HMCofi. Larry has invited Mayor Bilodeau to an information session about this and any potential tax-payer liability. As of today there has been no response.

Finally, a letter was written to describe the environmental and safety concerns from the proposed development and expansion of a trailer park in Phillips Bay. The letter was read and the issues discussed. Issues of concern include: land use and density, sewage treatment, garbage disposal, water, electrical safety, positioning of trailers, fire safety and lake stewardship. The letter questions regulatory authority on these issues. The letter will be addressed to appropriate agencies and government officials. Members were asked to sign the letter. The topic generated more discussion on lake behaviors including noise and trash. It was suggested that BBLA consider reaching out to camp owners with relevant education materials to distribute to their customers. The sandbar, a unique natural feature is an example of a spot that generates loud music, garbage and unsafe boating practices.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.

Marilyn Kellum
Secretary