

# **Big Basswood Lake Association 2017 AGM**

**July 30, 2017 Sowerby Hall**

Board members present: Larry Allcorn, Maeve Coccimiglio, Dixie Olmstead, Marilyn Kellum, Dave Currie, John Kasch, Ron Trivers

Board member absent: Mike Hunting

Guest: Mayor Gil Reeves, Councillor Nancy Jones-Scissons, Dave Ratz

Chairman Larry Allcorn welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:08. He began the meeting by reminding everyone present that Big Basswood Lake is one of the most pristine lakes in Ontario with secchi readings consistently at 13-14 meters. He also welcomed Mayor Gil Reeves from Huron Shores and Dave Ratz from CAFC.

The minutes from the 2016 AGM were summarized by Secretary Marilyn Kellum. Copies were available and the minutes are also posted on [bigbasswood.ca](http://bigbasswood.ca). Doug MacCleod motioned to accept the minutes as presented. Linda Zahuruk seconded the motion and it was carried.

Treasurer Ron Trivers presented the annual financial report summarized as follows:

Total Revenues: \$3197.04

Total Expenditures: \$3110.83

Bank Balance: \$7359.14

It was noted that there was a difference of \$591.06 that represented calendar and dues revenues that were directly deposited into the BBLA Northern Credit Union account by other board members. It was moved by Jack Hodgson and seconded by Linda Zahuruk to accept the financial report. The motion carried.

The Membership Report was presented by Larry in Mike Hunting's absence. Last year the BBLA exceeded 100 members for the first time. Membership is 108, half of the lake population. The association now has a table at the farmers' market in the Sowerby Cordukes/Weber Barn and that provides an opportunity to recruit new members and keep the membership informed. All members are encouraged to talk to their neighbors and invite them to join BBLA.

Marilyn updated the members on the 2017 secchi disk readings and are as follows:

May 26, 2017: 8.0 meters

June 24, 2017: 9.5 meters

July 29, 2017: 13.1 meters

She also noted that samples were submitted for total phosphorus reading were submitted from both the east and west basins of the lakes. These result are pending and will be released in spring 2018.

Larry reported on lake water levels at the Harris Creek Dam. Last year the water was 10 inches below the wing wall in the summer. The MNR norm is 4-7 inches. This summer the water level is 2 inches above the wing wall.

An inquiry was made last winter about a Canadian Camp Club on Lake Wahquekobing from a New York Times article in 1905. It was noted that Teddy Roosevelt was included on the membership list. The clubhouse operated from 1905 until 1945. Bob and Marilyn Kellum's cabin was built the foundation of the clubhouse in the early 1960s. Bob made a brief presentation of the history of the site and intends to continue gathering information.

Marilyn attended the FOCA AGM in early March. In April 2018 membership rates will increase \$.25/member and \$150/organization. BBLA is a member organization. BBLA members are considered FOCA members. Marilyn reviewed the programs FOCA supports. Larry referenced their web-site [fora.on.ca](http://fora.on.ca) as an excellent resource.

Septic tabs are available again this year. Maeve reviewed their use and recommended that each property owner learn about what type of septic they have. She stressed that the tabs do not work in sand systems. Larry plans to meet with Algoma Health and will review system types with them.

The OPP Marine Unit was contacted in regards to wake warning signs. The signs are not aids to navigation. They can be purchased and installed with the property owner's permission. Residents by the little island are concerned.

Larry circulated the new BBLA brochure that is now available. It also has the new address: Big Basswood Lake Association, PO Box 377, Thessalon, Ontario P0R 1L0.

BBLA is continuing to move forward with mandatory septic inspections. Dave, Marilyn and Larry have been researching funding and mechanisms to get this done. Dave provided a bit of history on the subject of the handling of sewage and noted that it has certainly improved over the decades. Larry reviewed the steps BBLA has taken so far. Fall 2016 a letter was sent to the Municipality of Huron Shores. Tulloch Engineering has been contacted and provided an overview of the inspection and cost. The local authority for septics is Algoma Health and the Canadian Building Act provides authority for access. BBLA plans to send a letter to property owners in Spring 2018.

Dixie announced that Big Basswood is now participating in the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey through Bird Studies Canada. Initial data will be collected, including location, time, and number spotted will be compiled. Lynda Trivers, Jill Glaser, Mike Hunting, Marilyn and Dixie are organizing this.

The Sweet Sowerby Social is scheduled for August 23rd, 7-9 PM, at Sowerby Hall. The subject will be managing natural shorelines.

Maeve announced that BBLA is having another photo contest: Seasons of Basswood. Pictures should include name and e-mail. A question was raised in regards to the technical requirements of the photo file.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the Thessalon Boundary Claim which became public knowledge this spring. Land claims involve both the Federal and Provincial Governments. BBLA board members have been in correspondence with Mike Mantha, MPP, met with Mark Richard, negotiator from MIRR and have Mayor Gil Reeves here to address the topic and answer questions. Mayor Reeves then thoroughly reviewed the many of the factors involved in this process. The Robinson-Huron Treaty was signed in 1850, prior to the existence of Canada. The claim involves both the Federal and Provincial Governments. Ontario has determined there is a basis for the claim. It was noted that this claim is its early stages. The Municipality is a stakeholder, as is the BBLA. Relationships between the municipality and Thessalon First Nations have been good. A public meeting with the negotiator is recommended for the summer of 2018. Mayor Reeves was thanked for his willingness to come and address this subject.

After one last question on who monitors the rules and regulations regarding mobile homes, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00.

Marilyn Kellum  
Secretary