

Big Basswood Lake Association AGM

July 15, 2018 Sowerby Hall

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:06 and welcomed everyone. He introduced Bob Kellum from CAFC and Erik Novak from Melwel Lodge. Erik gave an update on the status of the lodge construction and shared the plans to open it as a restaurant serving lunch and dinner next year.

The 2017 AGM minutes were reviewed by the Secretary and were approved as submitted.

The Annual Financial Report was presented by the Treasurer. Expenditures totaled \$3270.47 and included FOCA dues, web-site expenses, insurance and the cost of a PO box. Income came from dues and calendar sales. The balance as of 3/31/18 stood at \$6,979.41. Margie Colin made the motion to approve the report. It was seconded by Cheryl Colin and passed.

Larry reviewed the membership numbers. Last year BBLA had 114 members, a record. Membership numbers have been slowly increasing over the last few years. He encouraged everyone to talk to their neighbors and friends. Associate memberships are also available to local businesses and anyone wanting to support BBLA activities.

The 2017 Lake Partner Program (LPP) results were presented by Marilyn. Water clarity readings for 2017 averaged out at 10.6 meters. Total phosphorus was 1.9 in the west basin and 2.0 in the east basin. Calcium was 3.2. There is a concern that Canadian Shield Lakes are showing an increase in dissolved organic carbon which could result in decreased clarity.

The lake association began participating in the Bird Studies Canada (BSC) Canadian Loon Lakes Survey last year. Dixie has organized a group of loon watchers in different sections of the lake. Nesting occurs in June and early July so be on the look out for pairs. Chicks appear in late July. Big Basswood is a staging lake for fall migration. Data is being collected by watchers and at the farmer's market. At the end of the season it will be submitted to BSC.

Nancy is planning the Sweet Sowerby Social, August 15th, which will focus on history. Will Samis will talk about the history of Corduke's Barn and Bob Kellum will be presenting Melwel Lodge, Canadian Club and Indian Point history. There will also be a Robert Service Event on August 21st held at Corduke's Barn as part of the Huron Shores Heritage Series.

Larry reminded everyone that BBLA members are FOCA members. FOCA holds a fall and spring meeting in Toronto that any member can attend. The web-site <https://fo-ca.on.ca> provides information on all of FOCA's activities and resources.

BBLA has applied for a Trillium Grant to fund septic inspections on lake properties. Larry reviewed the steps taken, beginning with a resolution passed supporting the initiative at the BBLA 2007 AGM. BBLA started with a letter of intent informing the Municipality. The amount needed is \$60,000 which includes inspections at \$200/property and administrative costs. BBLA can contribute \$4,000 to partially fund this initiative. The Municipality will provide administrative support. The information obtained will be catalogued. Grants are awarded in July.

Maeve and Larry updated the membership on the Boundary Land Claim with Thessalon First Nations. Recently there have been two meetings in the area. The first meeting was a community meeting in Thessalon with Tom Isaacs, an attorney that specializes in aboriginal law. The second was a Special Council Meeting held at the Iron Bridge Recreation Building <https://huronshores.ca/2018/06/june-20-special-council-meeting-thessalon-first-nation-boundary-claim/>. Both meetings were informative. Mark Richard is the negotiator for Ontario and he encourages communication. Currently, the process of negotiations have been agreed upon. It was stressed that no private land will be expropriated. Fact Sheet #1 September 2017 was reviewed.

Gill netting was observed on the lake recently. The MNRF was sampling for the Broad-scale Monitoring program. The report is due out in spring 2019 and will be shared. This study has been conducted in the past at about 5 year intervals.

The MNRF has created a Dam Operating Plan for the Harris Creek Dam. On July 31st the MNRF has scheduled a meeting with stake holders to review the plan. Expect more information to follow.

Larry presented information regarding the forest tent caterpillar infestation and defoliation. According to Mike Francis from the MNRF, this is the third year of the infestation and it has caused a 50-60% defoliation. Friendly flies are a natural predator and the infestation is expected to collapse this season. These cycles occur about every 12 years. Larry also presented the maps generated last winter by the bobcat tracking study around Big Basswood that was done by students from Trent University.

A slate of 5 returning board members was provided by the Nominating Chair. The Board of Directors must consist of at least 7 members (and no more than 11 members). Cynthia Wood and Phil Conley were nominated from the floor. It was moved by Joanne Falk and seconded by Margie Conley to accept the slate. The motion passed. Ron Trivers, Dave Currie and John Kasch were thanked for their service on behalf of BBLA.

The photo contest had 35 entries. Two of the judges, Joanne Falk and Sheila Currie, were present to talk about photography and the photos. Maeve revealed the winning

photos by Kelly O’Riordan Cleary, James Cavanagh and Jim Falconer. There also was a photo display of the selections for the calendar.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03.

Marilyn Kellum
Secretary