

Big Basswood Lake Association Board Meeting

September 18, 2017, Sowerby Hall

Members present: Larry Allcorn, Nancy Bakemeier, Mike Hunting, Ron Trivers, Dave Currie, Marilyn Kellum, Maeve Coccimiglio

Members absent: Dixie Olmstead, John Kasch

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:59 and reviewed the agenda for tonight's meeting.

Minutes from the 2017 AGM were read by the Secretary and, after a motion by Maeve and a second by Ron, they were approved. The minutes from the July 30 Board Meeting are not available tonight. Marilyn will send out a copy to the Board for electronic review and approval.

The Treasurer reviewed the financial report. The current balance is \$8,637.69. Anticipated expenditures for this fiscal year include FOCA dues, CAFC dues, insurance costs, and mailbox fee. Ron should be notified of every deposit and ideas were presented to assure that this happens. There needs to be an adjustment done to note the extra \$591.00 balance. It was noted that it has been 3 years since the financials have been audited and 2 years since BBLA has filed a tax return. It was moved and seconded to arrange for an audit and to file tax returns after the close of the 2017 fiscal year (March 31, 2018). The motion was passed unanimously. Laura Szczepaniak will be contacted.

Committee Reports:

Membership stands at 111 or 112. Mike and Maeve have been reviewing and updating the list of property owners. Collecting dues can be difficult. PayPal has been problematic for its users. Larry will check the PayPal process and also check with the credit union about electronic funds transfer.

Dixie will compile the loon information that has been collected around the lake. Lake residents have been engaged and involved with this citizen science project. In follow-up, BBLA could plan an educational presentation about loons and other lake birds. The Loon Survey Committee will consider this.

The historical information about the Canadian Club that was presented at the AGM has generated a lot of interest in lake history. Larry has received some written accounts from lake residents. Nancy has volunteered to chair a History Committee to compile and archive these accounts.

The water level, which has been high all summer, has dropped noticeably. It is now 4" below the wing wall. Larry has contacted the MNR and they had opened a gate

recently. The MNRF was to recheck early last week. Water levels are lowered in the fall as needed. Larry will check with Peggy Wilson to see if MNRF can give BBLA notice when this will occur so lake residents can plan for the change.

Marilyn reported the Secchi disk reading for September was 9.5 meters.

Old Business:

After reviewing the attendance and responses from both the AGM and Sweet Sowerby Social, it was decided to continue the two meeting format. Obtaining member feedback could be helpful for future planning. Fisheries was suggested as a possible topic.

Maeve presented the specifications for the photo contest. Submissions are digital and should include the location, contact person and phone number. The winner will be announced at the 2018 AGM. Maeve will have an article for the newsletter that includes all the specifics.

Larry will pass on the information re: wake warning signs to the property owner the requested it.

The Bill Phillips property is involved in a mediation process between the new owner and the lessees. This has affected the septic upgrades and the MOE access to the property. Maeve suggested that someone from BBLA reach out to the new owner and talk to him about the lake and our interests.

Larry reviewed the septic inspection initiative. BBLA has announced its intent to the membership and the Municipality. Tulloch Engineering has been contacted. A phase one inspection is \$200/property and will detect 75-80% of any problems. Larry received information re: a distribution system and will review this with Nancy, who has knowledge in this area. Chris Spooner, from Algoma Public Health reviewed authority for accessing properties. Triggers for inspection are 1) a zoning change, 2) a building permit, and 3) a letter of concern. Chris recommends a second attempt after a refusal. Funding was discussed. The Municipality has been informed of the plan and, after some discussion, it was decided to request the full funding from them. Marilyn will also make contact with Trillium and CAFRC.

Larry distributed the Thessalon First Nation Boundary Claim Negotiations Fact Sheet #1, September 2017, from Mark Richard. It stressed that private property will not be expropriated and access to properties will be maintained. Any acquisition of private land will be on a willing-seller/willing-buyer basis. This information will be included in the newsletter.

New Business:

Maeve has agreed to follow-up with the question about trailers that was raised at the AGM.

The fall-winter newsletter should go out in early November. Larry will send an e-mail out with suggestions and assignments for articles.

2018 meeting dates were set as follows:

June 25th- Board Meeting

July 15th- AGM*

August 15th- Sweet Sowerby Social

September 17th- Board Meeting

*AGM date to be confirmed with summer wedding bookings

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Marilyn Kellum