

Big Basswood Lake Association AGM-July 20, 2014
Sowerby Hall

Board Members Present: Mike Hunting, Larry Allcorn, Andrew MacKay, Marilyn Kellum, Lolly Hunting, Maeve Coccimiglio, Ron Trivers, Jack Hodgson, Phyllis Coosaia,

Board Members Absent: Dave Currie

Guest: Lincoln North, Victoria Thomas

The meeting was called to order at 10:20 by the Chair, Mike Hunting, restating the purpose of the BBLA to keep our lake clean and clear. The revised Mission Statement was read to the members. The current Board members were introduced.

Minutes from the 2013 AGM were read by the Secretary Marilyn Kellum. It was moved by Anne Dutlinger and seconded by Rod Grambeau to approve the minutes as read. The motion carried.

Ron Trivers, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Reports. The Annual Report ending March 31, 2014 reported a balance of \$3818.67. As of May 31, 2014, the balance is \$5526.13. Expenses paid include FOCA dues, bank charges, web-page costs, directors' insurance and new checks. Both reports are to be posted to the web-site. A motion was made by Phyllis Coosaia and seconded by Margie Conley to accept the report. The motion was approved.

Old Business:

The Property Assessment Review Committee (PARC) formed at the 2013 AGM reported their findings. Property values and recent sales were reviewed. The data collected did not provide a basis for a collective action. Individual actions are to be encouraged and the BBLA has planned a Town Hall Meeting, Thursday, August 7th at Sowerby Hall. Lincoln North will be there as a consultant. Mike reiterated that Lincoln is volunteering his services to the association. David Ratz (Clear Lake resident) suggest that the BBLA consider meeting with council members from the Municipality as well.

The Board has revised the Mission Statement to read as follows:

To preserve and protect the quality and natural beauty of Big Basswood Lake and its watershed; leading the lake community in making sound choices towards sustainable solutions.

It was moved by Dave Perneau and seconded by Pat Mizzi to adopt the new mission statement. The membership approved this change.

New Business/Committee Reports/Announcements:

The Board has recommended a By-Law change to expand the membership. It would eliminate the 500 feet property owner restriction for non-voting Associate Members. It reads as follows:

3. Membership

b. Associate Membership

i. Anyone not within 500' of Big Basswood Lake

ii. Membership fee applicable

iii. Non-voting members

The motion was made by Harold Thompson and seconded by Larry French to adopt the By-Law change as presented. Discussion followed with the suggestion that the association consider an additional membership category to recognize individuals that have made contributions to the BBLA. This will be discussed at the fall board meeting. The motion for the By-Law change was passed.

During the sign-in procedure, self-testing septic system pills were given out to interested members. Maeve reviewed the procedures for their use and members were encouraged to check their systems. For more information about the product, check www.colepalmer.com Dave Ratz reported that Clear Lake residents, in conjunction with the Municipality, had Tulloch Engineering inspect and compile a record of systems, buildings and GPS locations for approximately \$120 per property. Victoria Thomas, Watershed Management Facilitator from CAFRC, offered that water testing is available for residents through Algoma Health. Sample bottles were available at the meeting.

Mike reported the Secchi readings obtained by Jon Cavanagh were as follows:

8/13 14.5 meters

6/14 7.5 meters (pollen)

7/14 13.5 meters

The MNR Fish Study conducted was recently released. The most prevalent species in Big Basswood is whitefish.

Mike has been in contact with Ray Lipinski from the MNR about water levels. The MNR controls the lake level at the dam. Last August, levels were low. The level was very high in September following the big rain. In the fall, lake levels are routinely lowered 6-8 inches to control the ice.

Suggestions for guest speakers were asked for. Several ideas were mentioned, including a geologist, Algoma Health and the MNR. A discussion ensued regarding invasive species prevention and education. A speaker on the subject, signage, a billboard, a community boat washing station, a boat washing workshop were brought up as possibilities for action. It was suggested that the Municipality should be involved with this issue.

The Nature is Art: Wildlife and Habitat Photo Contest was presented by Marilyn and Maeve. Photos are to be submitted to a link on the web-site. The contest is open to BBLA members and their families. Judges will be professional artists from the community. The prize will be a Sheila Currie original valued at \$325. Rules will be posted on the web-site.

Marilyn reported information regarding macro and micro plastics in the water and referred to the article in the recent newsletter. She asked Victoria Thomas to update us on the Bright Lake watershed study CAFC is conducting. Initial testing will be for phosphorus and nitrogen. CAFC also is planning to sponsor a septic system workshop.

Lolly announced that there is a Now and Then page on the web-site. She also thanked Bob Hudson for his interview with Jack Hodgson. There are Vendor's Lists available on the table in back.

Last year the BBLA had 65 members. So far this year we have 60 members. Larry stressed the importance of speaking with neighbors regarding the benefits of membership.

A slate for the BBLA Board was presented by Bryan McDougall, representing the Nominating Committee. Nominated for a two year term were: Larry Allcorn, Maeve Coccimiglio, Ron Trivers, Mike Hunting, Lolly Hunting, Marilyn Kellum, Andrew MacKay, Jack Hodgson and Dave Currie. There were no volunteers or nominations from the floor. A motion was made by Anne Dutlinger and seconded by Ken Jones to accept the slate as presented. It was passed. Mike thanked Phyllis for her service on the Board these past 2 years.

One final concern was raised about the closing of the dump. It was suggested that we address this issue when we meet with the counsellors.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Marilyn Kellum