

## **Minutes For The Big Basswood Lake Association 2013**

**Board Members Present:** Michael Hunting, Lolly Hunting, Larry Allcorn, Jack Hodgson, Phyllis Coosaia, Ron Trivers, Andrew MacKay, Maeve Coccimiglio

Regrets: Marilyn Kellum

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 am 28/7/13 by the Chair. An impassioned introduction by the Chair was followed by the reading of last years minutes from the 2012 AGM.

Moved by: Anne Dutlinger

Seconded by: Steve Olson

The guest speakers were announced. Will Samois  
Lincoln North  
Steven Timmermans OPP

### **Reports of Committee Members and Officers**

#### **1. Treasurers Report**

Maeve read the. Our balance on July 22, 2012 was 3,625.87, the FOCA dues had been paid and there were approximately 42 members dues paid. The balance as of July 28 was 2,750.06 following web hosting payment of 129.95 and an insurance payment of 961.20 as well as cheques for 22.96.

The Treasurers report was Moved by: Rod Grambeau

Seconded by: Jim Thomson

#### **2. Lake Stewardship Report**

Given by Larry Allcorn on behalf of Marilyn Kellum

Marilyn has developed a wildlife and Habitat Survey for lake residents to monitor share information about plants and animals we see around the lake all year. The website creates a community forum in which we can all participate. There are brochures at the side which can help you identify species.

Jon Cavanaugh continues to monitor secchi levels in our lake through FOCA's Lake Partner Program sampling s taken three times this year have given 14 metres, 11 meters and 12 metres making Basswood one of the clearest lakes in Ontario.

Foam around Docks have concerned residents however this is a natural occurrence and Larry Allcorn provided an article from Cottage Life that explains this phenomenon.

The MNR was contacted to speak to the lake Association regarding lake levels which were low in the early fall. It was difficult to determine the policy for opening and closing of the Harris Creek Dam which allows water to flow into Bright Lake when blue-green algae blooms are causing water quality problems. Calls to the MNR do seem to influence the opening and closing of the dam.

A fish inventory was completed by the MNR in July but results will take 4-6 weeks. We may be able to determine phosphate levels in the lake from the sampling of fish done in this study.

Results will be posted to the web site.

Report moved by: Doug Conley

Seconded by: Bob Running

#### **3. Membership Report**

35 members in 2012 down from previous years lead to vigorous phone and personal contact campaign to increase membership in the lake association. Increased membership gives us more clout when dealing with organizations and

when seeking government funding.

60+ members have signed for memberships in 2013. It is not too late to join continue to invite neighbours and others with an interest in Big Basswood Lake to join our Association!

Moved: Sheila Currie

Seconded: Mary Gass

#### 4. **Historian Report**

This year Lolly will interview Bob Hudson but would entertain other interviews from the lake community. Jim Tompson suggested his Aunt Joy Mills .

Lolly also mentioned the Boat tour of the lake which was scheduled for last Tuesday but had to be postponed due to bad weather would begin at Cross Rock. Do you know why it is called Cross Rock ? Well come join us at a new date and time to be posted on the BBL website to find out how Cross Rock was named?

Vendors List available to members on the side table to locate all types of businesses in the area and many of the skilled workers in the area.

Sue Hutton will again be bringing the **Port Dover Bag Pipers** to the lake on **August 17 2013** they will perform off the Hunting's Dock on the south west side of the lake.

Moved: Margie Conley

Seconded: Dixie Olstead

#### 5. **New Business**

FOCA has an excellent presentation "Keep The Family in the Family Cottage" by Peter Lilico which can be found with a link on our website. He unfortunately does not travel more than 3 hours outside Toronto to give the presentation. There may be a video in the future which we will try to get a copy of for the association.

A new mission statement was developed by the board in June and posted on the website because it was determined the original was ambiguous and vague.

Do we have direction on taxation? To be addressed by our guest speaker.

Mike proposed a change to the Membership bylaw to eliminate the 500 feet limit. We would continue to have voting and non-voting members.

It was decided that a restatement of the by- law would be dealt with in a discussion at the board level.

#### **Donation by Big Basswood Lake Tennis Association**

Steven Olson made a donation from the association on behalf of the Big Basswood Lake Tennis Association to our organization. The donation was gratefully accepted by the Chair. The amount of the donation was \$4,082.03.

Mike introduced the first of the guest speakers, Will Samois who is responsible for maintaining and managing the Sowerby Hall and the Round Barn. He acknowledged that there were a number of people in the room who had contributed to the establishment of the 12 sided barn at Sowerby including Ron Trivers, Dave Currie and Jon Cavanaugh. He came seeking assistance from the summer residents to consider setting up a committee or association who would coordinate cultural events. During the 2 to 3 months you are at the cottage you would have an opportunity to enrich the lives of your community. The capacity of the building is 275. The Municipality of Huron Shores has set fees for usage but the property is owned by the tax payers for whom the building was developed. Mike pointed out that we would be meeting with the other lake associations in the area in September and would bring it to their attention.

Next Mike introduced Steve Timmermans of the OPP who addressed boating safety. He did begin with the fact he had only been a member of the Marine Unit for one month. He did his best to address the many questions posed by a very informed boating public. Many were not aware that only Canadians required a boating license and Americans require only a driving license. The fine for life jackets includes paddle boards and that as long as you wear a life jacket on a jet ski you are not required to have a paddle, buoyant 15 metre rope, bailing can , flare, whistle, water tight flashlight and fire extinguisher required for pleasure crafts. All boaters should make a copy of drivers license and boating license to be on the boat at all times to avoid hefty fines.

The OPP role on the lake is educational.

Mike introduced the third guest speaker whose numerous credentials as a Civil Engineer had lead him to numerous countries and projects over the years in Real Estate Taxation, evaluation as well as dealings with the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation. He gave an explanation of his various roles in projects that outlined the two parts which are value and the setting of mill rates. If valuation were to be reduced then mill rates could go up in response. We need to take a balanced approach to fair taxation. We need to develop a strategy together with a group of stakeholders. A number of members thought it might be best to take an individual approach to MPAC while Dave Currie proposed we could take a collective approach as a lake association.

Mike mentioned that FOCA thought we could take a province wide collective approach. Since the present MPAC reference point for valuation is based on a Muskoka cottage we decided to forego the FOCA approach and consider the other two.

Jim Thomson suggested we need a connection with Huron-Shores? Even if we are successful at reducing taxes 15% they could raise the mill rate to nullify the reduction.

Michael thanked the guest speakers on behalf of the association and said there was plenty of work to be done by the board over the next year. He thanked those in attendance for their support and participation.

Another additional Board Member is required after the resignation of Len Iverson who was on the Roads Committee.

Dave Currie volunteered

nominated by Phyllis Coosaia and seconded by Lolly Hunting

The meeting ended at 11:53 a.m

Moved: Margie Conley

Seconded: Tim Coyne

### **Actions resulting from the Meeting**

A restatement of the Membership By-Law removing 500 feet from the associate membership by law.

A Roads Committee person no longer required all are separate from the lake association not under the BBLA .

Dave Currie was welcomed and given the Taxation Portfolio to lead with the help of Lincoln North and anyone else he needed.

Liaison to Huron Shores was the Portfolio assigned to Maeve Coccimiglio.

Michael Hunting will set the Lake Association Meeting for late August early September.

Minutes Submitted by: Maeve Coccimiglio