

## OTTER LAKE RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

### Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting of October 1, 2016

**Location:** Home of Sharon and Doug Link

**Present:** The following persons were in attendance: David Amy, Todd Backman, Tony Buszynski,  
Sonja Cigler, Art Coles, Sharon Link, Kerry Mueller, Daryle Moffatt and Brian Nelson

Meeting was brought to order by the President, Art Coles

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016 were reviewed. One change was recommended to be made as per Kerry Mueller to page 2, Other Board Activities, 4.: remove "The decision was upheld by the OMB." With that amendment the AGM minutes were unanimously approved.

The minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016 were unanimously approved.

#### **Financial Report:**

Daryle Moffatt reviewed the August 31, 2016 year to date financial statements with the directors. The statements indicated the operating account had a balance of \$5,494.58, the Reserve Fund had a balance of \$35,837.48 and the Environmental Fund had a balance of \$15,418.18. The retained earnings year to date were \$56,750.24. Art advised that he had received an additional \$700 not yet reflected in the statements. A portion of this amount was to be applied to the Environmental Fund with the balance for memberships. Not including the monies received by Art, contributions to the Environmental Fund year to date were \$875.

#### **Membership:**

Art Coles advised that there are presently 184 members in OLRA plus 198 family members for a total of 382. Of the total membership, only six members do not have email addresses. One-third of the members have indicated they still wish to receive the Newsletters by mail.

#### **Barbecue:**

The Board reviewed the summer barbecue event. The cost for the barbecue was about \$2,600 (including HST) of which \$1,300 was received from the membership and \$390 was received from non-members leaving a loss of about \$950. Of the 156 people in attendance, 130 purchased advanced tickets. A general discussion about the barbecue addressed some of the following issues and concerns:

- lack of coffee and tea;
- no dessert or water was available;
- not enough food at times;
- would a pig roast by Murray Orr be a possible alternative? Art indicated he would be get a price from Murray Orr for such an event

**Photo Contest:**

The total number of entries in the photo contest was 35 consisting of 23 adults and 12 children. Last year the total number of entries was 50. Sharon Link advised that the voting method will be changed next year. Each photograph will be assigned a specific number and people will vote by ballot indicating which numbered photograph they have selected in the various categories.

**Lake Stewardship Program:**

Brian Nelson presented an extensive report entitled "Proposal to Improve the Otter Lake(s)". Brian advised that the water testing for Otter Lake needs to be expanded beyond the single site test for phosphorus content, water clarity and at-depth temperature. He advised that the Dorset Environmental Science Centre offers testing services for numerous indicators not presently included in tests done on Otter Lake. In his report, Brian recommends the testing on Otter Lake be expanded to include a greater number of indicators such as dissolved oxygen, acidity and alkalinity, total nitrogen, E. coli and giardia, calcium and nitrate and nitrite. The samples would be reviewed by Dorset Environmental Science Centre. This organization will also provide guidance on how to properly collect, store and send the samples to Dorset. Brian also proposed that \$850 be allocated from the Environmental Fund to cover the costs of such expanded testing.

Brian indicated that at present he has not aware of any significant concerns as to water quality. He indicated that the Health Department tests water quality at Foley-Matheson Park for E. coli and, to his knowledge, there has been no problem disclosed by the test results.

It was suggested by the Board that Dorset Environmental Science Centre be requested to recommend the appropriate testing for the lake. It was also suggested that North Rosseau be asked what testing it currently does on its lakes. Brian also indicated he would attempt to determine if anyone at the University of Waterloo would be in a position to provide recommendations and assistance in the development of an appropriate testing program, assist in the interpretation of the results from such water quality tests and assist in the implementation of any recommendations as a result of the water tests. As water quality is a significant concern for Otter Lake residents, it was suggested that an article on water quality and testing procedures be included in the Newsletter. The article should include a request for volunteers to assist in the testing program.

The Board asked that Brian present his recommended water testing procedures with the expected benefits and costing at the next Board meeting in February 2017.

**Loon Report:**

Kerry advised that despite five loons being seen on Otter and Little Otter Lake as soon as the ice went out and more came later, this past summer only one loon chick survived and it was hatched on Little Otter Lake. Another Little Otter loon chick was pecked in the eye, presumably by a male loon, and, despite efforts by Aspen Wildlife Sanctuary, it had to be euthanized. Since loons return to the lake on which they were hatched, the question was raised whether or not we will continue to have loons on Otter Lake. As noted in Kerry's report, the number of surviving loon chicks on big Otter Lake has declined in the last five years to zero. Ways in which the Association could help include providing more education to the public and increasing the number of community loon watchers. It was suggested that it may be necessary to build loon platforms and place them in protected areas to protect hatchlings from the large wake of increasingly bigger boats on Otter Lake. It was recommended that this issue be raised at the Annual General Meeting and determine if anyone would be willing to volunteer in building such platforms.

## **Newsletter:**

The total printing/ mailing cost of the Spring Newsletter was \$2,806.29. Of this amount, \$1,018.63 (54%) was the cost of printing the Newsletter for non-members. The cost for printing the Newsletter for members was \$862.80 (46%). In addition to the printing, total postage cost was \$810.15. Of this amount, \$648 was the postage cost associated with mailing the Newsletter to non-members. This represented 80% of the mailing costs. Overall, 62% of the total printing and mailing costs for the spring newsletter were for OLRA non-members. The revenue generated from advertising in the spring Newsletter was \$1,000.00, resulting in a net cost to the Association of \$1,806.29. The Board was advised that despite providing the Newsletter to non-members, very few non-members who receive it have become members of the Association. Several suggestions were made as to how costs could be reduced and how membership could be increased. It was suggested that only a slimmed down version of the Newsletter be made available to non-members or possibly not at all with more emphasis on personal invitations to join OLRA being made. The directors recognize the need to reduce costs with respect to the Newsletter and decided to make this an agenda item for the February Board Meeting.

## **Survey and OLRA Objectives**

Kerry reviewed the OLRA 2016 Survey Report, a copy of which had been previously forwarded to the directors. The key objectives identified by the respondents were water quality, ecology, maintenance of property values and safety when boating and swimming. The objectives differed from the existing six objectives of the Association. The OLRA Objectives Review Committee proposed four new Objectives to more accurately reflect the results of the survey. The following Motion was made and unanimously passed by the Board:

“The Board shall use reasonable best efforts to establish a focus group to assist the Board in developing a revised Purpose Statement and such revised Purpose Statement shall be presented to the Board at its February meeting. If the Board accepts the proposed Purpose Statement or such amended Purpose Statement as approved by the Board at its February meeting, a motion to amend the Purpose Statement of the Association shall be presented to the membership at the Annual General Meeting.”

## **Engaging Survey Respondents**

The Board discussed the possibility of establishing a committee to contact members who showed an interest in becoming involved on the Board of Directors. The survey indicated that 21 people showed an interest in being involved on the Board or in other activities of the Association. Several directors indicated a willingness to contact some of the website respondents to discuss opportunities available to them for involvement in the Association.

## **OLRA Website Updates**

Daryle and Kerry met with our OLRA member who supports our website and is the owner of the source code for the website, Mike Comrie. to discuss possible enhancements to the website for the purpose of financial accounting and reporting and membership information. Mike indicated that the enhancements requested could be accommodated but he would need specifications as to what the Association requires. Daryle expressed his concern that, since significant financial data is on the website, the Association must have access to the source code. It was agreed by the Board that if the Association cannot get access to the source code, it needs to continue to run a parallel system on financial matters. Daryle also indicated the owner of the source code has no succession plan as of yet and the Association is not able to download all the data on the website without his participation. It was also disclosed that the owner of the source code does not back up the website and the data contained on it on a regular basis. He also owns the Domain name. As things stand now, Daryle and Kerry recommended that the accounting for the Association be done through the website and also continue to be done with the systems that are currently in place. Daryle and Kerry recommended that the Association continue to pursue

enhancing the website for the purpose of contacting more members and clarify our position with regards to our rights to the current website. Failing that we may have to consider a new website solution in the future. Mike has been a great supporter of OLRA and so we favour working out a long-term solution with him going forward.

It was also recommended that the membership form be amended to include a provision that gives the Association the right to send members emails with respect to Association issues.

David Amy was asked to prepare a Privacy Statement for posting on the website to update the language that is on the website now.

### **Fall Newsletter**

Kerry advised that a rough draft of subject topics is in progress.

### **OMB Hearing**

The Association submitted a response to the OMB with respect to the submission by Donald and Marlene Johnston to amend the Official Plan to allow for the creation of an additional lot on Oastler Lake. It was an excellent submission and clearly set out the reasons the Association opposes the application. The application by the property owners was also opposed by a majority of lake associations who, together with OLRA, worked closely in the development of the Official Plan for the Parry Sound area.

### **Proposed Seguin Clean, Clear and Safe Bylaw**

A copy of Bylaw Number 2016-056 for the Corporation of the Township of Seguin had been circulated prior to the meeting. This Bylaw is intended to protect the environmental integrity of private property within the Township and to do so, the Bylaw provides the Township with the authority to require property owners to maintain their property within environmental, health, safety, fire and societal standards as determined on an individual property basis. The Bylaw requires every owner to keep his or her property free of any objects or conditions that are likely to create an environmental, health, fire or safety hazard. Daryle drafted a letter concerning the application of the proposed Bylaw which Art submitted and received a response from Mayor Bruce Gibbon. It was apparent that not all residents within the Township are fully supportive of the Bylaw.

### **Henvey Inlet Power Line**

Daryle advised that the Township of Seguin is waiting for Henvey Inlet to provide additional information and until this information is provided, nothing further can be done by the Association. Our council member, Mario Buszynski, has advised that he will keep the Association advised on this issue.

### **Rezoning for Battery Storage Facility**

Tony advised a rezoning request had been made to the Township to allow for the storage of lithium-ion batteries on lands adjacent to the Hydro substation on Elliott House Road. The storage facility would consist of approximately six "Sea-Cans" that would be fenced and buffered in the existing sandpit. The said land would be subject to a 10-year lease. Council passed the rezoning but requested more information before any development can proceed. The property would be subject to site plan control. The facility will include a standby propane generator that will run periodically. The Council also requested more information concerning any noise associated with the proposed use.

### **Renewal of Safe Quiet Lakes Support**

The Board approved the continued support of the Safe Quiet Lakes organization in the amount of \$200.

### **New Business**

A proposed Budget will be presented at the February Board Meeting. It was proposed that the Budget include any increase that may be required to cover the cost for enhanced water testing of the lake.

Todd Backman and Art both submitted their resignations from the Board of Directors; Todd's resignation was immediate; Art's was to be as of October 10, 2016. Art also resigned as President. Art shared with the Board his personal objectives while serving on the Board, one of which was the implementation of the Lake Stewardship Program. He felt these objectives had been accomplished and it was time to retire from his role as President and director. Both Todd and Art were thanked for their past commitment to the Association. They both indicated they would continue to support OLRA.

Following Art's resignation as a director and President, Kerry was nominated and unanimously elected as President by the remaining directors. The directors also proposed that Brad Chittick and Cheryl Andrews be approached to see if they would be willing to serve as directors.

Tony Buszynski also announced his intention to resign from the Board after the next February 2017 Board meeting. He said that other commitments are taking more of his time and as well, for the foreseeable future he won't be able to attend the AGM due to personal scheduling. He too was thanked for his strong support of the Association." Daryle confirmed that he would file the required Notice of Change of Officers and Directors.

### **Next Meeting:**

To the determined

### **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.