

OTTER LAKE RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION Board Meeting

Present: The following persons were in attendance: Kerry Mueller, Martin Chepesiuk, Brad Chittick, Gerry McDole, Denise Exler, David Amy and Daryle Moffatt.

Regrets: John Roberts and Sonja Cigler

Date/Location: November 26th, 2018 via conference call set up by Brad Chittick

Call to Order: Kerry noted that as notice of the meeting had been duly given to all the directors and a quorum of the directors was present, the meeting was properly constituted for the transaction of business. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the previous Board meeting on Oct 14th were not presented but will be at the next meeting in February 2019

OLRA Board Re-organization:

Kerry and the Board members congratulated Daryle Moffatt on winning his seat on Seguin Township Council for Ward 1.

Treasurer: Daryle reported that he had attended the Council orientation session. The new Council comes into effect Dec. 1st. Daryle plans to resign from the OLRA Board as of Jan 2, 2019 which will allow him to complete the Nov. 2018 month end reports for OLRA as our Treasurer. He is also happy to continue to file OLRA's corporate T2 income tax return and Non-Profit Organization (NPO) Information Return.

There is only one council meeting between now and Jan 2nd which is on Dec. 10th. If there is any conflict of interest for Daryle, which is not expected, because of being on the OLRA Board Daryle will declare that and refrain from participating in that issue as per council protocol.

Kerry asked if anyone on the Board wanted to fill the role of Treasurer or had a nominee to put forward. No names were submitted. Kerry said that she had started recruiting close to home by asking if AJ Mueller, her husband, would like the role. He said that he would have been in business and being familiar with financial statements.

The following motion was put forward:

Upon the resignation of Daryle Moffatt, of which he has given notice and is pending as of Jan 2nd, 2019, the OLRA Board appoints AJ Mueller to join the Board.

Moved: David Amy

Second: Marty Chepesiuk

Carried

It was discussed that Kerry, Daryle and Marty currently have signing authority for cheques for OLRA. Two signatures are required. This will need to be re-organized with Daryle's resignation. Kerry, Daryle and AJ will coordinate a time in late December to transfer the OLRA records and Quicken software as well as make plans to contact TD Bank to update their records and bank account access

In 2019 OLRA members will be directed to send in their membership renewals to the email of info@olra.ca

Membership: It was decided that the role of Membership Director should be a shared responsibility with all Board members actively reaching out to their neighbours and friends to promote OLRA.

Nominating Committee: Currently Kerry, Daryle and Sonja are on the nominating committee. Marty, Gerry and Denise expressed interest in joining the Nominating Committee. Kerry will reach out to Sonja to see what her plans are since the marina has been for sale.

We will address this again at our Feb. 2019 meeting.

New Business:

Lake Stewardship – Benthic Monitoring

Brad Chittick reported that the District of Muskoka (DoM) has been offering benthic monitoring to its lake associations for the past 15 years. The DoM considers benthic monitoring to be a key way to monitor the health of a lake as well as doing lake water chemical analysis. If benthic species begin to change over time that would indicate a shift in the food web which may be related to changes in water quality, temperature etc. Hence benthic monitoring can be a key indicator of a changing lake environment.

The summer students that DoM hires are trained in benthic monitoring. Lake associations can request their lake be monitored and can also turn the monitoring into an educational event at which people, including kids, can help dissect the mud samples taken from their lake and possibly try to identify the benthic species to assist the trained student. The best monitoring times would be May/June or Aug.

David Bywater and Katrina Krievens at the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve (GBBR) have given a price to OLRA for them to do benthic testing on Otter Lake and Little Otter Lake in 2019. It was discussed that OLRA should approach Seguin to see if we could team up with them and GBBR to offer benthic testing to OLRA and other lake associations in Seguin in a more cost-effective way. Brad and/or Kerry will reach out to Dominique O'Brien, at Seguin to gauge the interest.

It was discussed that OLRA will likely have to go it alone in 2019 as such a program may take time to set up.

GBBR did a benthic monitoring pilot in 2018 with the Township of the Archipelago.

Daryle recommended that GBBR present a formal proposal. Kerry and Brad will review what they have already been sent and be ready to present that at our Feb. 2019 meeting.

FOCA – FOCA issued a call to action email to oppose the proposed changes to the role of ON Environmental Commissioner. Kerry shared this email with the Board members.

MNR Stop Work Order on the Salmon and Clear Lakes Development Due to the Species at Risk (SAR):

On Monday Dec. 3rd, 2018 at 8:30am a hearing will commence at the Stockey Centre. The builder is appealing the stop work order issued by the MNR. Kerry shared an email from Trevor Kezwer whose family has property on Salmon Lake and has been spearheading a group of property owners opposed to the development due to a lack of environmental studies. The development was first approved in the 1990's and the SAR was known to be there then. Kerry, AJ, Daryle and possibly Brad plan to attend the hearing on Dec. 3rd. It is scheduled to run for 3 days. The SAR in this case is the Massasauga Rattle Snake. During road construction, winter habitat of this SAR was damaged according to the MNR, so they issued a stop work order and are doing an investigation.

TERMINATION

There being no further or other business, on motion duly made, seconded and carried it was resolved that the meeting terminate at 8:15pm.