

OTTER LAKE RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION ("OLRA")

Minutes of the February 1, 2020 OLRA Meeting at 168 Bradshaw Road (Kerry and AJ's)

Present: Brad Chittick, Martin Chepesiuk, Denise Exler, Gerry McDole, AJ Mueller, Brian Hindley, Kerry Mueller

Regrets: David Amy, John Roberts

Minute Taker: Kerry Mueller

Meeting was brought to order by the President, Kerry Mueller at 9:37 am

1. Kerry welcomed Brian Hindley, the newest OLRA Board member, to the OLRA Board as did the others.

2. **Moved** by Brad Chittick and seconded by Gerry McDole to approve the minutes of the OLRA Annual General Meeting of the Members that was held on May 19th, 2019. Passed
These minutes will now go to a vote by the OLRA membership at the May 17, 2020 AGM.

3. **Moved** by Brad Chittick and seconded by AJ Mueller to approve the minutes of the OLRA Sept. 21, 2019 meeting. Passed

4. FINANCIAL AND MEMBERSHIP REPORTS

AJ Mueller, Treasurer, presented the year end Dec. 31, 2019 statements. He pointed out the following highlights.

The year ended with membership fees of \$6345 and donations of \$778 to the reserve fund and \$1227 to the environment fund received bringing the balances in those funds to 38,479.85 and \$12,780.18 respectively. These amounts were very similar to those received in 2018.

The newsletter advertising revenue in 2019 was \$1,600, up from \$1,350 in 2018.

The largest expenses in 2019 were:

Benthos Monitoring Program: \$2,750

Insurance: \$2,018.52

BBQ Expenses: \$1,825.43 (Note: BBQ ticket sales of \$1,605 left a net BBQ expense of \$220.43)

Association Memberships (FOCA): \$741.00

Newsletter Costs: \$417.38

Photo Contest: \$254.19

Donations: \$400 (\$200 to Safe Quiet Lakes and \$200 to Aspen Wildlife Sanctuary)

The net income for the year was \$3,182.17

The Dec. 31, 2019 balances at the TD Bank were \$45,989.20 in the Operating Account and \$18,000 in TD Direct Investing for a total of \$63,989.20, up from \$61,198.67 as of Dec. 31, 2018.

The membership in 2019 was 409 (172 families plus 237 additional family members). In 2018 there were 400 members (176 families and 224 additional family members).

The Board unanimously voted to adopt the Dec. 31, 2019 financial statements as presented. These statements will be presented to the membership for approval at the May 17th, 2020 AGM.

The Jan 31, 2020 statements were presented. 85 members (40 families and 45 additional family members) purchased memberships in January. Two of the families were new members.

It was discussed and agreed that generally the reserve fund is for emergency purposes (i.e. fighting a legal battle) and the environmental fund is for environment related projects (such as the lake water quality study OLRA undertook in 2017).

Marty offered to talk to David Amy and to report back about possibly:

- creating a by-law to define the process to change the letters patent to define the use of the Reserve and Environmental funds.
- changing the spending limit of the OLRA Board from the current \$2500 to a higher amount.

AJ related that OLRA has a “grandfathered” TD operating account which entitles OLRA to pay zero bank fees regardless of the account balance or the number or type of transactions. The option to change to another bank is there. The fees and plans for Scotia Bank were presented for comparison.

Moved by Marty Chepesiuk and seconded by Gerry McDole - OLRA continue to bank at TD Bank. Passed.

AJ related that Daryle Moffatt has kindly offered to do the tax filing for OLRA for 2019.

5. STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Lake Partner Program (LPP): Brad Chittick, Lake Stewardship, reported that the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MOECP) had not yet posted the water sampling results from 2019. Brad will keep checking and let us know when they are posted. In 2019 Brad tested 4 out of the possible 6 months (in early June, July, Sept. and Oct.) for the LPP.

Dissolved Oxygen: On Sep. 12th, 2019, before the lake water stratification turnover, Brad rented an oxygen meter for \$50 from the GBBR and tested the dissolved oxygen(O₂) levels in the 6 embayment sites on Otter Lake and one in Little Otter to repeat the O₂testing that Bev

Clarke had done for OLRA in 2017. Brad submitted his report to the Board which showed readings very similar to those obtained by Bev Clark in those sites in 2017. Anoxic conditions were found to occur close to the bottom in the embayments but not in Little Otter which is not deep enough to stratify. Brad has reached out to Bev for his comments.

Marty asked about testing the oxygen in the deep spots in Otter Lake where the Lake Trout live in the summer. A different piece of equipment would be required. **Brad** said he would investigate measuring oxygen in the deep spots.

Brian and Marty said that they would go out with Brad in spring 2020 to learn how to help share the LPP lake water testing load.

Benthos Monitoring: Brad reported that OLRA's first year of Benthos Monitoring in conjunction with the GBBR went well. We now have 1 year of data. 3 years is recommended to get a good baseline. The 3 sites did not show big differences in their benthic species.

OLRA's request to Seguin to commence a Seguin run Benthos Monitoring program was approved by Council for the 2020 budget. Seguin will allot \$6,000 to be split between 5 lakes to enable 2 sites in each to be monitored. Otter Lake is expected, but not confirmed at this time, to be one of those 5 lakes. OLRA monitored 3 sites (2 on Otter and 1 on Little Otter) which we will continue to do, by supplementing an additional site to Seguin's two chosen sites on our lakes. Seguin's program will reduce OLRA's Benthos Monitoring costs.

Brad will stay in contact with Seguin and GBBR to determine exact 2020 testing dates and costs to OLRA.

6. Lake Levels

Marty Chepesiuk, VP, reported that the lake levels are currently ok and that the MNR&F staff seem to be reacting quickly to manage the levels using the dam on Little Otter.

7. STCR

Gerry McDole submitted his report, He related that the issue of residential property being rented for the short term has increased in all cities and municipalities due to the rise of enabling technology such as Airbnb. What is at issue in Seguin is the harm to lakes and residents from the overloading of septic systems, bathing in the lake, more boat traffic on the water, increased noise, loss of enjoyment of property, etc from intensifying the use of residential zoned property as short term rentals.

Municipalities and cities have generally taken action on short term renting by either:

- prohibiting it
- licensing it by establishing a rental licensing program with fees and inspections.

In Seguin, short term renting is not a permitted land use of residential zoned property. The last Seguin council legally pursued one transgressor, Serenity Vacation Rentals. The case is ongoing.

The current Council is considering their options including possibly adding more clarity and teeth to the existing by-law. There will be a Public Meeting on the issue around late May.

On Jan. 16th, 2020 Kerry, Gerry and AJ met with Mayor Ann MacDiarmid and Steve Stone, Director of Planning and Development to learn more about why Seguin staff issued their Jan 2020 report and how Lake Associations can engage on this issue which largely affects lake shore properties.

The upshot was that Seguin needs to be clearer on the existing by-law permitted land uses. As well, more education is needed since many people who have been renting do not realize that they have been “off side” with the Seguin by-law. Lake Associations can help with this education. (see item 9 in New Business)

8. Clean Yards By-law Revisited – Update

In December 2019 Kerry met with Gary Punfeld of the Three Lakes Association who is spearheading this initiative. They agreed that a good first step, before OLRA writes a letter, should be to meet with Seguin officials in the spring to get their input on the most successful directions other municipalities have taken to help keep properties clean and safe.

New Business

1. 2020 OLRA Budget

Moved by Brian Hindley and seconded by Marty to accept the budget as presented. Passed

2. OLRA BBQ, Photo Contest and Art Show Plans for 2020

Denise Exler presented her report on her progress and ideas for the Aug. 8th, 2020 BBQ.

Brad will give Denise a list of the vendors on the lake that have previously attended.

Denise will be in touch with Amanda at Tappattoo in March re the menu so we can include that info on the tickets we sell and in the spring newsletter.

The 2020 BBQ will focus more on engaging kids. OLRA can bring our own games to Tappattoo.

Denise presented four OLRA t-shirt designs which were well received. She will refine the designs and email them to the Board for a vote. The t-shirts could be worn by the OLRA Board and sold at the AGM and BBQ.

Kerry will email Denise a copy of the OLRA logo.

Denise will reach out to Doug and Sharon Link re: organizing the photo contest.

Kerry and AJ will drop off the deposit cheque of \$500 to Amanda to secure the Aug. 6, 2022 date.

3. Spring Newsletter

See Kerry's submitted outline.

Denise will follow up with Cedarland Homes re advertising and will write a blurb on the BBQ.

4. Membership – Strategies for maintaining/gaining members

Board members agreed that reaching out personally to members who had lapsed and new people on the lake makes for the best results in maintaining and gaining members.

Later in the spring, **AJ** will produce a list of those who have lapsed so Board members can see who they know on the list and reach out to them.

5. Seguin 2020 Budget Update

See Kerry's report

6. Seguin Official Plan Update

See Kerry's report.

Kerry related that Mario Buszynski, Seguin's former Ward 2 Councillor, a long time OLRA member/Director as well as a Planner by profession contacted her to offer to share his ideas with OLRA on how the Seguin OP could be updated. The Board agreed that we should accept Mario's offer. **Kerry** will let Mario know.

7. Potential AGM Speakers

It was agreed that we should invite the regular speakers (Seguin's Mayor, Ward 1 and Ward 2 Councillors) plus Ben John, Climate Change & Energy Specialist from the GBBR to give us an update on ICECAP (Integrated Community Energy and Climate Action Plan) of which Seguin is a part. **Kerry** will confirm this with Ben.

8. ICECAP Update

Brad gave an update on ICECAP (Integrated Community Energy and Climate Action Plan). His report arrived after the meeting package was sent so it is recapped below.

January 16, 2019, Brad, Gerry, Kerry and AJ met with Benjamin (Ben) John of the GBBR.

ICECAP is a partnership between First Nations and municipalities in the biosphere region to promote a collaborative approach to energy efficiency and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from an internal operations perspective, as well as the broader communities.

Ben explained he is also working with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) And an Indigenous program (IEIC). Ben hopes to bring these initiatives together under the ICECAP program.

ICECAP has their first 'Kick-off' meeting on February 4th, 10:00 a.m., at the Township of the Archipelago office, 9 James Street, Parry Sound. Several OLRA members are planning to attend.

Ben is hoping to develop an on-line energy calculator for residents of the Biosphere to calculate their carbon footprint. He said that 60-70% of GHG emissions are emitted from transportation in this region especially from the large populations of seasonal residents who drive in from distant locations.

Home heating is the second biggest GHG contributor in the biosphere.

Ben would like OLRA and residents to provide ideas for programs that ICECAP could consider for implementation by municipalities and Indigenous communities.

OLRA suggested a survey of residents could help drive our ideas. Kerry offered her support in developing a survey as OLRA has experience in the on-line tool 'Survey Monkey'.

Ideas put forward by the attendees were:

- Wood burning emissions reduction
- Distributed energy systems in communities (i.e. solar, wind)
- Hydrogen storage and generation sites for transportation
- Publicizing the locations of existing and planned EV (electric vehicle) chargers and possibly promoting the installation of more
- Improving home heating efficiency and increasing home insulation

Further Ben expressed willingness to speak at the OLRA AGM on May17th, 2020 and also at a Seguin Lake Associations spring meeting.

It was suggested at the Board meeting that ground source heating/cooling may be a non-polluting solution for homes. Some dwelling use lake source heating/cooling systems. Brian commented that too many of those could change the temperature of the lake and affect its ecosystem balance.

9. Seguin Lake Associations Spring Meeting for April/May

See Kerry's report

The next meeting will be April 18th, 2020 at the Humphrey Arena meeting room upstairs.

Mayor Ann MacDiarmid and Steve Stone, Director of Planning and Development have agreed to speak on the STCR issue to lake association executives and answer questions. Other speakers will be from Safe Quiet Lakes and Ben John from the GBBR on ICECAP.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm