

OTTER LAKE RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION ("OLRA")

Minutes of the September 21, 2019 OLRA Meeting:

Present: David Amy, Brad Chittick, Martin Chepesiuk, Denise Exler, Gerry McDole, AJ Mueller, Kerry Mueller

1. Meeting was brought to order by the President, Kerry Mueller.
2. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Members that has held on May 19th, 2019 were available in draft form but the approval of same was postponed until the February, 2020 meeting. The May 19th, 2019 Board resolution appointing the Officers of the Corporation was passed

3. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

AJ Mueller advised the Board that there were some challenges in getting TD to amend signing authorities on the TD Direct Investing Account to remove Daryle Moffatt and replace him with AJ and Marty. AJ suggested all monies with TD Direct Investing be deposited to the operating account and then invested in various GIC's at a branch level. As at the date of the meeting, AJ had no access to the account.

MOTION made by Marty and seconded by Gerry that AJ contact Daryle Moffatt and instruct him to direct TD to transfer all monies in the TD Direct Investing Account to the OLRA current account and continue to do such transfers on a continuous basis as all GIC's mature. PASSED

MOTION made by Marty and seconded by Gerry that AJ investigate opening an investment account or accounts at other banks in the Parry Sound area and that AJ report to the Board at the next Board Meeting as to possible alternative banking arrangements. PASSED

The financial report for August 31, 2019 was presented by AJ Mueller. He pointed out the following highlights:

- The total revenue as of the end of August was \$10,936. This is \$2000 less than 2018.
- The total expenses to August 31, 2019 were \$7384. This leaves a net income of \$3561.
- The membership numbers are down from last year. As at September 19, 2019, there are 170 families represented compared to 176 members as at December 31, 2018.
- There's been an increase in the additional family members from 224 as of December 31, 2018 to 235 as of September 19, 2019.

- The Barbecue ticket sales were \$1605 compared to \$2530 last year. The barbecue expenses were \$1825.43 compared to \$2840.73 last year.
- The total Assets as at August 31, 2019 were \$65,358.69. There were no liabilities outstanding as of that date.
- The Reserve Fund was \$37,715.25.
- The Environment Fund was \$11,553.18. There was some discussion concerning the Environment Fund and it was agreed the fund needs to be maintained at an appropriate level in order to readily address issues of significance to the membership which impact the Lake.

4. **CURRENT MEMBERSHIP**

See information in Financial Report above.

5. **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

See information in Financial Report above.

6. **LAKE STEWARDSHIP REPORT – Brad Chittick**

Brad shared the information that was in the report he provided to the membership at the AGM on Lake Water Testing. He advised that Otter Lake is at the low end of acceptable with respect to the current levels for phosphorus. Sampling was done in each of May, June, August and September. No samples were taken in July. Low levels of oxygen were detected in the deeper areas of the Lake but this is not an issue which would result in any algae blooms.

Oxygen testing was done on September 12 in 6 embayment areas on Otter Lake and one sample was taken on Little Otter Lake. The test results were similar to those taken in 2018. Brad advised that the results were yet to be discussed with Bev Clarke but he would be doing so in October.

Brad also advised that benthos larvae testing had been conducted by Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve (GBBR) for three sites on the lakes. As of the date of the Board meeting, a final report had not yet been received from GBBR. Brad advised that he was working with Seguin Township in an attempt to have the Township establish a Township benthos observation program.

Brad had sent a copy of the Power Point presentation entitled “Benthos for Healthy Lakes” to the Board Members on August 26th. This was the presentation that had been presented to Seguin Council. Brad advised that Seguin is considering doing its own testing program.

7. **LOON REPORT**

On Little Otter Lake, two loon chicks were hatched on July 16th on a nesting platform and both chicks survived the summer. On Otter Lake, two loon chicks hatched on a natural shore on or about July 1st and only one survived the summer.

8. PHRAGMITES SECOND ANNUAL CUT AND KNOTWEED UPDATES

The Phragmites patch on Bradshaw Road was cut on July 28, 2019. This was the second year for such cutting and was done before seed production. AJ, Kerry, Jeremy Hill and Connor Dudgeon completed the cut this year. This invasive species will have to be cut and the stocks burnt for several years in order to eventually kill the plants.

Japanese Knotweed, another invasive species, is plentiful along sections of Otter Lake Road. It appears that Seguin Township staff will be treating these plants by injecting the roots in the spring with Roundup.

8. OLRA BARBECUE

Brad advised that 73 people attended the barbecue this year. As indicated in the Financial Report above, the amount of subsidy for the barbecue was approximately \$200. Despite the rain and being held indoors, the barbecue was a success. There were some negative comments from members as to the quantity of food for a \$20 ticket price. There was discussion by the Board members as to why the numbers may have been lower than normal. There was general consensus that the date, being three weeks earlier than the previous year, may have contributed to the reduced numbers. Brad advised that the 2020 barbecue has been scheduled for Saturday, August 8 and a \$500 deposit has been paid to Tappattoo. For 2021, the barbecue has been scheduled for Saturday, August 7 and a \$500 deposit has also been paid to Tappattoo to reserve this date. Both dates are the Saturday following the August long weekend. Tappattoo has suggested that its "party" room continue to be used for the event. While this is more convenient for Tappattoo staff for both set up and serving, it limits the space available for the Arts and Crafts show. Brad indicated that it may be possible to set up a tent close to the patio if there is sufficient interest in the Arts and Crafts show.

There was also discussion by the Board as to possibly reducing the price below \$20 in order that prospective purchasers may feel there is greater value.

NEW BUSINESS

1. OLRA BARBECUE PLANS FOR 2020

Please see the comments set out in section 8 above. Brad will also discuss with Tappattoo staff the concerns identified above.

2. THE SEGUIN STRATEGIC PLAN and BUDGET PROCESS MEETING 9/3/2019 UPDATE

Kerry advised that on September 3, 2019, she, together with David Bywater and Katrina Krievens from Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve (GBBR), made a presentation to Council to request support for a Benthos Monitoring Program that would benefit Otter Lake and other lakes within the Township. The presentation explained what benthos monitoring involves, the reason why such monitoring is important, OLRA'S 2019 benthos monitoring program, its results and the lessons learned and why Seguin Township should support such a program.

Mayor Ann MacDiarmid recommended making an application to the Township for a donation from Council to be applied towards such monitoring program. Kerry shared a copy of the application form with the Board.

It was MOVED by Kerry as follows: OLRA apply for a donation from Seguin of \$1500 towards Benthos Monitoring to be done on Otter Lake and Little Otter Lake in 2020 as a continuation of the monitoring initiated in 2019. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Brad took responsibility to complete the application prior to the Township deadline.

3. LOON PLATFORM MAINTENANCE-POSSIBLE CHANGE OF LOCATION

Kerry advised the Board that the loon nesting platform on the Long Arm has not had nesting loons on it for the past two years. It was suggested that the platform remain in its current location for 2020 as it is presently covered with vegetation, which is an attraction for loons and, as indicated by Bird Studies Canada, it can take several years for loons to mature and be ready to use a new platform. If, however, the loons do not nest on it in the spring of 2020, Kerry has approached Martin Cantwell, the executor of the estate of Pamela Cantwell, to see if he would be in agreement to allow the nesting platform to be moved next to their shoreline. He confirmed that the Cantwell family was in agreement with this proposal.

MOTION by Kerry: If loons do not nest on the platform in the early spring of 2020, the nesting platform be relocated to the bay near the Cantwell cottage. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

4. FALL FOCA SEMINAR – NOVEMBER 16, 2019

Kerry asked if any of the Board members would be able to attend the November 16, 2019 FOCA seminar in Toronto. No one was available to attend the seminar.

5. SAFE QUIET LAKES

MOTION by Brad that a donation of \$200 be made to Safe Quiet Lakes. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

6. POTENTIAL NEW BOARD MEMBER

Kerry advised the Board that Mr. Brian Hindley, a permanent resident of Otter Lake and a senior biologist, environmental regulation/planning specialist and senior environmental consultant, has shown an interest in joining the OLRA Board. A copy of his curriculum vitae and a short synopsis of his areas of expertise was provided to the members of the Board.

Gerry Doyle was also suggested as a possible future Board member.

MOTION by Kerry: Brian Hindley be asked by Kerry Mueller to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of OLRA and if he so agrees, he be appointed by the Board of Directors to fill the current vacancy on the Board and such appointment to take effect immediately upon his acceptance to so serve. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

7. CLEAN YARDS BYLAW

Kerry shared a letter she received from Gary Punfeld seeking support from the various ratepayer associations to be proactive proponents in asking the Township of Seguin to revisit the Clean Yards Bylaw that had been considered by the Township but was not passed by Council.

Motion made by Kerry: OLRA shall write a letter to Seguin Township in support of the Township revisiting the development of a Clean Yards Bylaw that would help Seguin to better protect our environment, groundwater, property values and in particular give Seguin the tools to remedy dump sites on private lands. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. NOTE: The word "illegal" was removed from the original proposed motion so that the Motion refers to "dump sites", not "illegal dump sites".

8. RETAINING WALL REBUILD AT MARINA

The Township will commence the reconstruction of the retaining wall in the public parking lot by the Marina in the fall.

9. TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF OLRA FIRE PUMP

Jeremy Hill, the cottage owner who acquired the OLRA fire pump, has built a small storage shed on his dock to house the fire pump so that it will be readily available to anyone who may need to use it.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Brad indicated that he has many duties as a director, including water testing and the OLRA Barbecue. He asked if some of these duties could be shared with another director. Denise offered to accept responsibility for organizing the 2020 Barbecue with guidance and assistance from Brad. Kerry suggested Brian Hindley may also assist the Board in Stewardship tasks should Brian accept the position of director.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

NEXT MEETING: To be determined