

OTTER LAKE RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MAY 19, 2019

INTRODUCTION

Upon confirming that a quorum of Members was present, the meeting was called to order by the chairperson, Kerry Mueller, at 9 AM.

The Chairperson made introductory comments and introduced the following guests:

- Ann MacDiarmid, Mayor of Seguin Township
- Daryle Moffatt, Ward 1 Councillor
- Art Coles, Ward 2 Councillor
- JJ Blower, Communications and Program Coordinator, Seguin Township
- David Bywater, Georgian Bay biosphere Reserve State of the Bay Program Coordinator

The Board Members were then introduced to the membership.

PREVIOUS Minutes

The minutes from the May 20, 2018 Annual General Meeting as posted on the OLRA website were approved by the members.

TREASURER'S REPORT

AJ Mueller, the Treasurer, then presented the 2018 Financial Statements. He highlighted the following information:

- the Assets for 2018 were \$62,198
- the Retained Earnings were \$61,807
- the Operating Fund had a balance of \$ 11,994
- The Reserve Fund had a balance of \$37,701
- the Environmental Fund had a balance of \$11,553

- the total revenues for the year were \$12,951 with Membership Revenues consisting of \$6400. The Barbecue revenue was \$2530 and the Barbecue expenses were \$2840.
- To date, the total Membership was 208 of which 92 were Primary Members and 116 were Additional Family Members
- Worthy of note, one half of the members contribute to either the Reserve Fund or the Environmental fund.

It was moved and seconded that the Financial Statements be approved by the Members as presented. Passed by the Members.

LAKE WATER LEVELS

Marty Chepesiuk gave a report on water levels for Otter Lake for the spring of 2019 which included photos and graphs. Marty advised that the rapid spring melt and heavy rains raised water levels well above the norm. Such levels exceeded the capacity for the dam on Otter Lake. Marty also advised that “ice out” in 2019 was on April 29 or 30th. He advised the Members that there is a link on the OLRA website to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) website for more information and updates.

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY WITH SEGUIN TOWNSHIP

JJ Blower, Communications and Program Coordinator, Seguin Township, shared with the Members that feedback is needed by the Township on numerous issues which affect cottagers within the Township. She advised that there is a feedback survey on Seguin Township’s homepage with hard copies of the survey also being available at the local library, the municipal office and also the arena. She encouraged those in attendance to complete the survey to help Seguin improve its communication strategy and also to attend a meeting on June 15 at the Township Hall to obtain more information with respect to the future Township initiatives and also to enable ratepayers to share their views and concerns with respect to the Seguin Strategic Plan Review. Views on the Strategic Plan update can also be shared via the Seguin website.

REPORT FROM MAYOR ANN MACDIARMID

The following is a summary of the Mayor’s report:

- four times the normal annual amount of sand and gravel was used this past winter on area roads. Because of the concern for the environment, the amount of salt content has been significantly reduced by the Township;
- the Ontario government will be cutting ambulance service within many communities, including Seguin Township;
- climate changes continue to have a significant impact on the Township's budget, in particular, costs associated with flooding. The budget related to severe weather issues has been increased in 2019 to \$246,000 from last year's expenditure of \$63,000;
- tests are being undertaken within the area to facilitate access to high-speed Internet for rural communities, including Seguin Township;
- Seguin Township is opposing efforts that may give rise to the amalgamation of various municipalities which would result in a regional upper tier government. She indicated that Council and may need to become more vocal in imposing such amalgamation efforts.;
- There is no property standards bylaw in force within the Township. She indicated that McDougall has not been able to enforce its bylaw on this issue.

REPORT FROM DARYLE MOFFATT – WARD 1 COUNCILLOR

The following is a partial summary of Daryle's report to the Members:

- 60% of the Seguin budget is spent on police services, social services, Parks and Recreation and health services;
- the Foley library will now be open on Mondays;
- the Foley Recreation Committee requires more members;
- currently there is no bylaw that regulates the use of fireworks.

REPORT FROM ART COLES - WARD 2 COUNCILLOR

The following is a partial summary of Art's report:

- work is being done by CN Railway on the rail line at Blue Lake Road. In the event of an emergency, CN will stop work to enable any emergency vehicle to get through the construction zone. In future, appropriate signage will be posted by CN.

- The construction at Clear Lake/Salmon Lake has been put on hold by the MNRF to allow for the issuance of a report as to the application of the Endangered Species Act to this project;
- the contribution by Seguin Township of \$500,000 to the Belvedere Heights Long Term Care facility was in excess of what should have been its proportional contribution. This matter needs to be reviewed;
- this summer there will be a Farmer's Market at the docks in Parry Sound selling local produce;
- a second entrance from the south into Parry Sound is being reviewed;
- consideration is being given to off-road parking facilities for snowmobile trailers;
- more enhanced water quality testing is being considered;
- Members are encouraged to contact Norm Miller-MPP to object to Bill 108.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT/LAKE WATER TESTING

Brad Chittick explained the water testing process to the Members. The test results for phosphorus in Big Otter Lake are consistent with the test results in 2010. If the results are less than a reading of 20 ug/l phosphorous, the lake is healthy and less likely to produce detrimental algae blooms. The results have been between a low of 4.0 and a high of 8.1. On Little Otter Lake, the low reading was 6.7 in June and the high reading was 8.0 in September.

The clarity levels are acceptable in both lakes and the readings have been consistent over the last 10 to 15 years.

David Bywater, the State of the Bay Program Coordinator for Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve, gave an excellent presentation on Benthos Testing and Monitoring. He explained that such testing is an effective and inexpensive way to check the health of the lake. Small organisms which lack internal bone structure (invertebrates) and which live on or near the bottom of the lake are sampled. Such organisms are food sources for fish and reptiles. Such organisms possess known tolerance ranges to organic and inorganic pollution. By monitoring the health of such organisms over a three year period or more, it is possible to assess changes in the health of the lake and, if necessary, initiate appropriate steps to remediate. Such testing also allows comparing the health of various lakes within the area. OLRA has contracted with the GBBR to do Benthos Monitoring in 2019 at two sites on Big

Otter and one on Little Otter. The testing will be conducted between July 6 to July 8.

LOON REPORT

Kerry Mueller advised that there are eight loons on the lake this spring.

PHRAGMITES

Kerry Mueller informed the Members that a patch of the highly invasive species, phragmites, located on Bradshaw Road was cut and burned at the sandpit behind the Christy Landfill Site in Orrville which is Seguin's designated disposal site for Phragmites.

BARBECUE

The OLRA barbecue will be held at Grand Tappattoo Resort on July 27. The barbecue will be advertised on the OLRA website and the ticket cost this year will be \$20. Local artisans will be in attendance to present their arts and crafts.

PHOTO CONTEST

Sharon and Doug Link advised the Members that to be eligible for the photo contest, all submissions must be received no later than July 20 since our BBQ date is July 27th this year. Instructions for the contest are on the OLRA website.

NEW BUSINESS

STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW

Gerry McDole advised the Members that public input is invited for the Seguin Strategic Plan Review. As indicated above, input may be given via Seguin Township's website. Hard copy letters may also be submitted.

CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUE

Gerry McDole presented a summary of municipalities that are leaders in addressing climate change issues. Such municipalities include Sudbury, Guelph, Oxford County and the counties within the Waterloo – London corridor.

The issue of environment and climate change was also discussed, including climate changes we can expect to come in the future and actions the Members can take as individuals to promote a culture of sustainability. An Environics poll taken in April

2019 indicated that second most important problem facing Canadians today is environment/climate change.

FIRE PUMPS

AJ Mueller advised the Members that the fire pump located at the Marina was old, required service and raised a concern amongst the Board members as to the potential liability that may arise should the pump not be functional or be improperly used in the event of a fire. It was suggested that Members should consider purchasing their own fire pumps. AJ brought a sample pump sold by One Stop Fire along with literature about the pump and a special 5% package discount offer for Members of OLRA who may be interested in purchasing a pump.

MEETING OF SEGUIN LAKE ASSOCIATIONS

Kerry Mueller told the Members that a meeting of the Seguin Lake Associations has been scheduled for June 9, 2019 to discuss issues common to all lake associations. Some of the items to be included in the agenda for that meeting include benthos monitoring, climate change action plans, input opportunities for Seguin's Strategic Plan and Official Plan and fireworks bans during fire ban periods.

INCREASE TO BOARD SPENDING LIMIT

A motion was proposed by Brad Chittick to increase the spending limit per project from \$2500 to \$3005. Brad explained the problems associated with current limit. After some discussion by the Members and a concern that such an increase could require a change to the letters patent or bylaws of the Corporation, the motion was withdrawn.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

AJ Mueller was presented to the Members as a nominee for the position of director of the corporation. Denise Exler and John Roberts were also nominated as candidates to serve as directors of the corporation. They were not in attendance at the meeting but sent their regrets to the Members in attendance at the meeting. They had provided their self-introductions which were read to the Members. There were no further nominations by the Members to fill any vacancies on the Board. The nominations were closed. The Members then elected AJ Mueller, Denise Exler and John Roberts as directors of the corporation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Kerry thanked the Members for attending the meeting and the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am.