

Minutes of the Otter Lake Ratepayers' Association (OLRA) Board Meeting Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Attendees: Denise Exler, Brian Hindley, Nicole Mailloux, AJ Mueller, Kerry Mueller, David Amy (joined the meeting at 7:09 pm), Martin Chepesiuk (joined the meeting at 7:20 pm), Brad Chittick (joined the meeting at 7:20 pm),

Regrets: John Roberts

1. Welcome and Open Meeting: The Zoom meeting was started by Kerry Mueller at 6:31 pm. Quorum was confirmed.

2. Declaration of any Pecuniary Interests: None were declared.

3. Approval of July 13, 2021 Board Minutes: It was decided to reissue the minutes with an Addendum to reflect motions taken after the July 13th meeting but before the October 20, 2021.

Action: Nicole Mailloux will reissue the July 13, 2021 minutes as noted.

4. a) Treasurer's Report. September 30, 2021 Financial Statements VS 2021 Budget: AJ Mueller reviewed the Balance Sheet and Income Statement written report as at September 30, 2021 in detail. Total Assets are \$76,755.04, with a Reserve Fund Balance of \$40,481.78 and an Environment Fund Balance of \$15,478.18.

Operations as at September 30, 2021 vs Budget for the year 2021 ending December 31, 2021 were also reviewed in detail, with Total Revenues of \$12,435.95 vs annual Budget of \$12,450.00, Total Expenses of \$7,427.16 vs annual Budget of \$11,425.00 and Net Income of \$4,918.79 vs annual Budget of \$1,025.00. Membership Revenue actual was \$6,870.00 (Vs the budgeted \$6,275.00), Reserve Fund Revenue actual was \$1,068.04 (Vs the budgeted \$900.00), Environment Fund actual was \$1,433.00 (Vs the budgeted \$1,250.00). BBQ ticket sales revenue of \$1,750.00 and related expenses budgeted at \$2,100.00 for a BBQ budgeted deficit of \$350.00 will not be incurred. The Boat Parade and Website expenses were below what was budgeted, while Insurance expenses were higher than budgeted. It should be noted that expenses for the year relating to Benthic Monitoring, Accounting and the Photo Contest, estimated to add approximately another \$1,500 in expenses, have not been incurred yet.

Denise Exler noted that when the one-time costs of the trophy, OLRA banner and megaphone (which can be used for future and other events) were deducted from the Boat Parade Actuals, the "true cost" of the Boat Parade was \$353.74 (Vs the Budget of \$1,100.00 which included such one-time expenses too).

b) Membership renewals/new members: AJ Mueller noted that to date there are 11 more member families and 56 more individual family members in 2021 than for the year in 2020.

5. Stewardship Report: Kerry Mueller referred to Brad Chittick's written report and the Otter Lake Environment Report 2021 Update prepared by Georgian Bay Biosphere MNIDOO GAMII.

Not everyone had the chance to review the reports. Nicole Mailloux mentioned that there were no red flags in the report, but suggested that the monitoring recommendation under “Lake Trout Habitat” of lake trout shoal spawning activity could be easily done by a volunteer. Brian Hindley volunteered to conduct lake trout shoal monitoring this fall when water temperatures are around 10 degrees Celsius, when lake trout are expected to be spawning.

Kerry Mueller mentioned that Brad Chittick is looking for a successor in his role as Lake Steward. Brian Hindley volunteered to be his successor.

Actions: 1) Brian Hindley will coordinate with Kerry Mueller relating to when and where to conduct lake trout shoal monitoring. 2) Brian Hindley and Brad Chittick will coordinate the smooth transition of the role of Lake Steward.

6. Lake Levels 2021: Kerry Mueller indicated that Martin Chepesiuk will cover this agenda item later. When Martin Chepesiuk joined the meeting at 7:20 pm, he noted that water levels have been high because of higher rainfalls in 2021.

New Business:

1. OLRA Photo Contest update for 2021. Denise Exler presented a written report. Voting ends on October 24th. AJ mentioned that one 2020 \$15 prize cheque had not yet been cashed.

Actions: 1) An email reminder to vote will go to all members by October 22, 2021. 2) AJ Mueller and Denise Exler will follow up on the 2020 \$15 uncashed cheque.

2. OLRA 1st Boat Parade debrief. Denise Exler presented a written report. (*David Amy joined the meeting at 7:09 pm*). She presented a number of learnings in her report to be considered next year, including proposing that the 2022 parade be held on Saturday, July 2nd with a rain date of Sunday, July 3rd. Denise also mentioned that a participant had suggested swag bags.

Action: Swag bags will be discussed at the February, 2022 Board meeting.

Motion: To hold the 2022 Boat Parade on Saturday, July 2nd, 2022, with a rain date of Sunday, July 3rd, 2022.

- Moved by Denise Exler
- Seconded by David Amy
- **Motion carried**

3. 2022 and 2023 OLRA BBQ: Denise Exler talked to Susan Shackleton (Sterling Hotel’s Sales/Marketing representative located in Toronto), who confirmed BBQ plans for August 6, 2022 and August 12, 2023. (Tappattoo is now owned by Sterling Hotels). (*Martin Chepesiuk joined the meeting at 7:20 pm*). Tappattoo is now an OLRA member and has submitted a brief

article for the Fall Newsletter explaining that the resort is now open for business to Otter Lake residents under new ownership.

4. 2021 Fall Newsletter update: Kerry Mueller provided a written report. The target date is the last weekend in October after photo contest results are known.

5. Removing Logs from the Narrows as per OK by MNR: *(Brad Chittick joined the meeting at 7:25 pm)*. Brad presented a written report. He did not contact Rob Cribbie or Tony Busyznski, nor did they reach out to him. It was suggested that removing logs would not improve navigability.

Action: Brad Chittick will reach out to Tony Busyznski and Marg Busyznski and this matter will be decided on at the February Board meeting.

6. Boating a) SQL survey results and annual stakeholders meeting: Kerry Mueller presented a written report. She indicated that over 90% said we should preserve the natural state of lakes, and 89% said that power boat operators have more of the responsibility to do this. The % of people who paddle has gone up (kayaks, canoes, paddleboards) and more people rated paddling as very important. The proportion of people who use power boats has not changed, remaining at more than 90%.

b) Decibel Coalition progress: Kerry Mueller presented a written report. The next step for DC is to present to Transport Canada at the Canadian Marine Advisory Council on November 24th, 2021 when recreational boating issues will be reviewed.

c) Response to posting “No Wake” signs from SQL. Kerry Mueller indicated that their sign seems to be working, while Nicole Mailloux indicated that her sign does not appear to have made a material impact.

7. Where Does a Lake Begin and Private Property End (WDALB) update: Kerry Mueller indicated that there has been no response yet from Seguin Township, and that Transport Canada has received an application for approval of the causeway. The applicant will need to advertise in the local newspaper, at which point the public has 30 days to comment regarding the causeway’s impact on navigation. Transport Canada will notify Kerry when this period begins. The advertisement directs interested parties to Transport Canada’s online registry where the application and drawings will can be found. Parties can comment on the online registry. It can be found here: [Common Project Search - Canada.ca](#). Brian Hindley indicated that MOECP indicated that after reviewing this file, with members of the Species at Risk Branch, they have concluded not to proceed with an enforcement action, and the file is closed. Brian Hindley has asked MOECP for an explanation.

8. Official Plan Review Update: Kerry Mueller indicated that a public meeting for comment on the draft OP is expected, and the OP will then be submitted to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

9. eDNA Sampling to Determine Biodiversity: Kerry Mueller informed the Board that Cameron von Bratt can do eDNA sampling. Briefly eDNA is DNA shed by all living organisms into the environment. eDNA in freshwater lakes can be analyzed to identify biodiversity. Cameron is working on obtaining funding to do eDNA sampling of the Great Lakes, and may be interested in doing sampling of Otter Lake since it is in the biodiverse Georgian Bay Biosphere.

Action: Kerry Mueller will ask Cameron to provide a presentation to the Board in the last week of November.

10. 60-year anniversary of OLRA: Kerry Mueller noted that OLRA turned 60 years on Sept 1, 2021. Various ideas were discussed to celebrate this. It was decided that the next OLRA newsletter would ask members to send in pictures, etc. from the last 60 years and from these it would be decided if a book, slide show, etc. could be put together for next year. Denise Exler, AJ Mueller, Martin Chepesiuk and Nicole Mailloux volunteered to work on this project.

Action: The next newsletter will ask members to send in Otter Lake pictures, etc. from the last 60 years. Anyone sending in a picture, etc. must ensure that people in the picture, etc. have provided their consent to use the picture in a book, slide show, etc. Sending in the picture will be interpreted as consent being given by everyone in a picture.

11. Regatta Proposal: Brad Chittick updated the Board on a potential proposal which could require OLRA's involvement and funding. He will get more details to present to the Board.

12. Indigenous Acknowledgement Discussion: Martin Chepesiuk proposed that OLRA include a land acknowledgment at the beginning of OLRA public meetings, on our website and other communications, and suggested a written draft acknowledgement for discussion. A fulsome discussion followed, with various opinions. No consensus was reached.

Action: Brad Chittick will reach out to a Chief he works with on another Board to get his input.

13. First Aid: Denise Exler suggested to the Board that if she hosted a defibrillator/CPR information session on her docks sometime next year, would OLRA be interested in promoting it to the membership. It was concluded that OLRA would not participate/publicize this event as too many people may show up.

Adjournment: Kerry Mueller called the meeting to a close at 8:56 pm.

ADDENDUM A

Email Motions from October 21, 2021 to October 27, 2021

Here are the finalized motions approved by the OLRA Board since the October 20, 2021 OLRA Board Meeting:

Motion: The OLRA Board will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the September 1st, 1962 forming of the Otter Lake Cottagers' Association which later became the Otter Lake Ratepayers' Association.

- Moved by Kerry Mueller by email on October 21, 2021
- Seconded by Nicole Mailloux by email on October 21, 2021
- **Motion carried** by email on October 22, 2021

Motion: Approve the minutes of the July 13, 2021 board meeting, as amended on October 25, 2021.

- Moved by Nicole Mailloux by email on October 25, 2021
- Seconded by Brian Hindley by email on October 25, 2021
- **Motion carried** by email on October 26, 2021

Motion: Approve the minutes of the July 13, 2021 in camera board meeting, as amended on October 25, 2021.

- Moved by Nicole Mailloux by email on October 25, 2021
- Seconded by Brian Hindley by email on October 25, 2021
- **Motion carried** by email on October 26, 2021

Acronyms

- AGM: Annual General Meeting
- ATV: All-Terrain Vehicle
- dB: decibel
- DC: Decibel Coalition
- DFO: Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- EP: Environmental Protection
- FOCA: Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association
- FOI: Freedom of Information
- GBB: Georgian Bay Biosphere
- LPP: Lake Protection Program
- MNRF: Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- MECP: Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
- OLRA: Otter Lake Ratepayers' Association
- OP: Seguin Township Official Plan
- OPP: Ontario Provincial Police
- PCOC: Pleasure Craft Operator Card
- PFD: Personal Floatation Device
- PWC: Power Water Craft
- SAR: Species at Risk

- SQL: Safe Quiet Lakes
- SRA: Shoreline Allowance
- STCR: Short Term Cottage Rentals

Approved