

**Minutes of the Otter Lake Ratepayers' Association (OLRA) Board Meeting  
Wednesday, October 25, 2023**

**Attendees:** Martin Chepesiuk, Brad Chittick, Rob Cribbie, Gerry Doyle, Brian Hindley, Nicole Mailloux, AJ Mueller, Kerry Mueller

**Regrets:** David Amy

**1. Welcome:** Kerry Mueller started the Zoom meeting at 6:31pm. Quorum was confirmed.

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

**3. Treasurer's Report:** AJ Mueller presented highlights of his written reports.

**October 21<sup>st</sup> 2023 Financial updates vs budget**

- As at October 21, 2023, Revenue was \$15,129.28 (VS budget of \$13,650.00), Expenses were \$8,568.08 (VS budget of \$14,994), for a projected Net Income of \$6,561.20.
- A shortfall is not projected, even though expected 2023 invoices for eDNA testing and Benthic Monitoring are not in yet. If invoices are not in by the end of 2023, then these expected costs will be accrued in 2023.
- It was asked who contributes to the Environmental Fund. Of particular note, David and Dianne Amy generously contributed \$1,000.00 to the Fund and several other members contributed smaller amounts.
- AJ reminded the Board of the September 28, 2023 \$10,000 GIC invested with TD Branch. Another GIC of \$10,251.51 with Scotiabank will come due on October 30, 2023.
- BBQ expenses are less than budgeted but this was because there was a lower turnout.
- We sold one less ad in 2023 than in 2022. Ads cost \$175.00 per year to insert a business size card in the newsletters and the website. The website has a link that provides details on how to put an ad in.

**Actions:** 1) AJ Mueller and Martin Chepesiuk will canvas the banks for the best GIC rates and re-invest the Scotiabank GIC. 2) Brian Hindley will follow up for the Benthic Monitoring and eDNA invoices expected, respectively, in October and December.

**2023 membership renewals to date:** As at October 21, 2023, we had 182 families (VS 183 in 2022) and 294 additional family members (VS 309 in 2022).

**Motion: To encourage more advertising.**

- Moved by Gerry Doyle
- Seconded by Brad Chittick
- **Motion carried**

**4. Stewardship Reports:** Brian Hindley provided a verbal update. Here are the highlights:

- The Benthic Report was received on September 26, 2023.

- The eDNA invasive plant sampling was completed by Brian Hindley and Nicole Mailloux at the boat ramp on Otter Lake near the narrows. This project is paid by FOCA. Results are expected next year.
- OLRA's eDNA sampling was completed by Brian Hindley and Nicole Mailloux in mid-September at 6 locations. Results are expected in December.
- Biannual dissolved Oxygen monitoring was completed by Brian Hindley and Nicole Mailloux in 6 back bays on Otter Lake and 1 back bay on Little Otter Lake. The purpose is to monitor the effects of stratification of Dissolved Oxygen in back bays in September where Oxygen levels are expected to be near 0 at the bottom. When Dissolved Oxygen is low, we can have a release of phosphorus which can be a concern.
- Monthly water sampling from May to October for the Lake Partner Program was completed by Brian Hindley and Nicole Mailloux. Results are expected next year.
- The Wave Study by Dr. Chris Houser/Abigail Carswell (grad student) is expected to be completed by the Master's student in late September. A final report is expected in the spring of 2024.
- Don Speller, owner of Tarandus, an environmental consulting company, donated a Van Dorn Water Sampler which allows sampling at different depths.
- There have not been any reports received yet from MNRF relating to their 2023 fish netting and tagging.
- There was a discussion on the relationship between warmer lake waters due to climate change, lower oxygen levels and algal blooms.

**5. Loon Report:** Kerry Mueller provided a written report. Two chicks survived out of three.

**6. OLRA 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Boat Parade:** Robert Cribbie provided a written report.

- One prize has not been claimed yet.
- A discussion took place relating to potential liability issues.
- A discussion took place relating to feedback from survey participants.

**Action:** The 2023 Boat Committee (Brad Chittick, Rob Cribbie, Gerry Doyle, Nicole Mailloux) will meet to make recommendations at the December Board meeting on:

- Whether or not to hold a 2024 Boat Parade
- Whether or not to hold it on July 1<sup>st</sup>
- Whether or not to hold it on another weekend when it can be combined with an OLRA BBQ event.
- Best practices for responding to any accident including effective communications.

**7. Seminar: Transitioning the Family Cottage by Greg Bruns (RBC) update-** Kerry Mueller indicated that there was positive feedback on this in person seminar. Greg will be doing the seminar virtually again and sharing the link with OLRA.

**8. OLRA BBQ:** Kerry Mueller provided a written update on the 2023 BBQ.

- Rob Cribbie and Kerry Mueller met with Susan Shackleton from Tappattoo.
- Numbers were down.
- Food was adequate.

- Feedback from survey participants was not as positive as it could be.

**New Business:**

**1. Public Parking at the Marina update:** Kerry Mueller provided a written update.

- Seguin staff put bags over the new No Parking signs and people have been parking there.
- In the winter, Seguin will need a place to turn their snow plow around, so it's not clear what will happen then.

**2. Use of Access Point on the Long Arm update:** Kerry Mueller provided a written update of what was recorded in the October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Seguin Council Meeting Minutes:’.

“Councillor Buszynski provided a verbal update to Council on concerns related to the use of the Long Arm Access Point on Otter Lake by contractors as a staging area for works and enforcement of the Township of Seguin’s Parks By-law. Council directed staff, during the staff review of the Parks By-law to include consideration of the difference of parks versus access points and staging areas for contractors.”

**3. Update OLRA Bylaws per ONCA (Ontario’s Not-For-Profit Corporations Act) – Committee Update:** Kerry Mueller provided a written update.

- The updated OLRA by-laws as voted on at the 2023 OLRA AGM have been posted to the OLRA website under Our Association. They need to be registered with the Ontario government.

**Action:** Kerry Mueller will discuss with David Amy registration requirements and they will register the by-law by the required deadline.

**4. Lake Stewardship Initiatives for 2024:**

**Action:** Brian Hindley will bring back suggestions for discussion and approval at the February, 2024 Board meeting.

**5. Survey of OLRA Membership for Ideas and Feedback- Next Steps:** Rob Cribbie provided a written report.

- A document should be created to share with all interested parties.
- Relevant survey results should be shared with Tappattoo and the Otter Lake Marina.
- A high-level discussion took place on results.

**Actions:** 1) Rob Cribbie will send the list of participants who wanted to become members to AJ Mueller, for him to follow up with them. 2) Rob Cribbie will follow up with participants who wanted to volunteer to find out more e.g. what? When? Etc. 3) Brad Chittick, Rob Cribbie, Gerry Doyle, Nicole Mailloux, Kerry Mueller will go through the results and come back with ideas and provide an update for the next newsletter.

**6. OLRA 2024 BBQ planning- Discussion:**

- A traditional BBQ meal is possible at Tappattoo, but it would need to be indoors.

**Actions:** 1) Kerry Mueller will email Tappattoo to get prices. 2) All Board Directors to come with ideas at the December Board meeting, for holding an engaging 2024 OLRA BBQ event at Tappattoo, or at the Foley Community Centre.

**7. Emergency Assisting Role of Board Members:** Nicole Mailloux provided a written suggestion proposing the 2023 Boat Committee develop a “policy” that would briefly outline, for example:

- the role of a Board member when a health/safety issue occurs at an event s/he is at e.g., boat parade, BBQ, etc.
- communications plan
- confidentiality
- waiver document requirements e.g., uses, gathering, storage

**Action:** This will be discussed by the 2023 Boat Committee and recommendations will be made at the December Board meeting.

**8. OLRA Annual Photo Contest Update:** Kerry Mueller provided a written update.

**9. Nominating OLRA for recognition awards: Doug Cross Stewardship Recognition Program and FOCA Achievement Award.** It was decided not to pursue given time constraints.

**10. Newsletter Advertising:** Already discussed under Treasurer’s Report, above.

**11. Fall 2023 Newsletter Planning:** This item has been postponed due to time constraints.

**12. Other New Business:** There was no other new business.

**13. Adjournment:** Kerry Mueller called the meeting to a close at 9: 30 pm.

#### **ADDENDUM A**

##### **Email Business and Resolutions from August 23, 2023 to November 3, 2023**

**Motion: To approve the minutes of the August 23, 2023 meeting.**

- Moved by Kerry Mueller by email on August 24, 2023
- Seconded by Brian Hindley by email on August 24, 2023
- **Motion carried** by email on August 27, 2023

**Motion: The OLRA Board supports the concerns raised in Brian Hindley’s October 19, 2023 email to Seguin being raised again at Monday’s special council meeting regarding the draft Seguin Strategic Plan 2023.**

“ **From:** Brian Hindley <[bhindley@sympatico.ca](mailto:bhindley@sympatico.ca)>

**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2023 11:21 AM

To: info <[info@seguin.ca](mailto:info@seguin.ca)>

Cc: [mario.buszynski@gmail.com](mailto:mario.buszynski@gmail.com); [nmailloux@sympatico.ca](mailto:nmailloux@sympatico.ca)

Subject: Re: Seguin Township Strategic Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2023 Strategic Plan.

1. This Plan is intended to set the direction for the development of the new Official Plan, which began in 2019 as Seguin 's response to the municipal requirement to review and update Official Plans every 5 years. A previous Strategic Plan was prepared in 2019 in preparation for that review and a draft OP was prepared . Seguin now is conducting a 10-year review of its Official Plan, which is required under provincial legislation, for municipalities preparing a new Official Plan. This represents a substantial delay in a much-needed overhaul of the OP at a time when the township has seen unprecedented growth/development pressure, threats to its natural environment including the climate crisis, pressure for amalgamation, need to reconcile/partner with First Nations and continued lack of funding and legislative support from upper levels of government for key areas such as Environment, Health and Infrastructure. Instead of wasting time on a new strategic plan, Seguin should have built on the 2019 Plan which was much stronger on these issues and used clear and succinct language. In short, Seguin has spent too much time planning with no action in the past 5 years.
2. In her preamble to the 2019 Strategic Plan, the mayor stated the following: "With an over-arching responsibility to ensure that we leave Seguin and our planet in better shape than we found it, Seguin Council has developed its 2019 - 2022 Strategic Plan with an environmental imperative to preserve, protect and enhance our environment – the natural environment, the social and cultural environment and our economic environment.....We shall strive to be an environmental leader in everything we do". This imperative of placing the environment first was fundamental to the previous strategic plan. This imperative has been replaced by "watering down" the importance of the environment in the current strategic plan to simply "balancing" environmental leadership with the other priorities of the township. In practical terms, the word "balance" always means that the environment loses - this has been shown many times over in the province, the recent Greenbelt fiasco being the most recent example. The Strategic Plan must place the natural environment first if we are to sustain our environment and pass it down intact to future generations.
3. The new Strategic Plan completely ignores the vital importance of protecting our natural environment (air, land, water, native species/habitats) if we are to maintain Seguin's quality of life standards and pass on this environmental legacy to future generations. The plan needs to recognize that the township is dominated by the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve, an internationally recognized natural feature that is unprotected by any Canadian legislation. Seguin needs to "step up its game" on the environmental stage in the face of ever weakening legislative support from both provincial and federal governments and ensure that the protection/restoration of the form, function and linkages that sustain the biosphere is not compromised by human activities in the township. Seguin needs to be an environmental leader more now than ever before. For

example, the Plan should state that Seguin will implement the highest standards to protect species at risk/endangered species and their habitats, independently of what the upper tier governments of the day propose. The protection of our water quality/quantity, air quality and native landscapes/habitats needs to be more strongly stated in the Plan.

4. It is no longer simply "climate change" but a "climate crisis". Governments of the day are beginning to focus more on "climate adaptation" - simply changing policies and programs accepting that climate change is inevitable, rather than on "climate mitigation" - making the impacts of climate change less severe by preventing or reducing the emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Seguin needs to ensure that more emphasis is placed on the latter, rather than giving up and simply implementing the former.

Seguin needs to get its act together on placing environment first in its strategic plan and new official plan before our environment becomes just like every other environment in Ontario municipalities. Please show residents here that we are better than that. Finally, please get this planning done and put into action as soon as possible."

- Moved by Kerry Mueller by email on October 21, 2023
- Seconded by Brian Hindley by email on October 21, 2023
- **Motion carried** by email on October 23, 2023

#### Acronyms

- AGM: Annual General Meeting
- ATV: All-Terrain Vehicle
- Cl: Chloride (salt)
- dB: decibel
- DC: Decibel Coalition
- DFO: Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- DO: Dissolved Oxygen
- EP: Environmental Protection
- FOCA: Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association
- FOI: Freedom of Information
- GBB: Georgian Bay Biosphere
- LPP: Lake Protection Program
- MECP: Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
- MMAH: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)
- MNRF: Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- MZO: Ministerial Zoning Order
- OLRA: Otter Lake Ratepayers' Association
- OLT: Ontario Land Tribunal
- ONCA: Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act
- OP: Seguin Township Official Plan
- OPP: Ontario Provincial Police

- PCOC: Pleasure Craft Operator Card
- PFD: Personal Floatation Device
- PPS: Provincial Policy Statement
- PWC: Power Water Craft
- SAR: Species at Risk
- SQL: Safe Quiet Lakes
- SRA: Shoreline Allowance
- STA: Short Term Accommodation
- STR: Short Term Rental
- TC: Transport Canada
- WDALB: Where Does a Lake Begin

Approved