

**Minutes of the Otter Lake Ratepayers' Association (OLRA) Board Meeting
Tuesday, December 5, 2023**

Attendees: David Amy, Martin Chepesiuk, Brad Chittick, Rob Cribbie, Brian Hindley, Nicole Mailloux, AJ Mueller, Kerry Mueller

Regrets: Gerry Doyle

1. Welcome: Kerry Mueller started the Zoom meeting at 7:01pm. Quorum was confirmed.

2. 2024 Social Events Discussion:

- Consensus on whether or not to hold a Boat Parade in 2024 was not reached by the Boat Committee.
- A discussion took place relating to potential event liability issues, and options and difficulties in mitigating risks. Special events liability insurance options and costs were presented and could range widely depending on if covering a single event or multiple events. The best practice is to have boat parade waivers signed, witnessed and returned ahead of the parade, and not signed off/witnessed when registering, as there is little opportunity to read the waiver at the boat parade registration. In the past, some participants joined in the parade without registering. Having OPP presence is an option, but liability would not be transferred to the OPP, and it was felt this would not be seen positively.
- A discussion took place regarding the survey results in general and on past BBQs and boat parades (e.g., lots of people participated in the boat parade as boaters or spectators, but interest in the parade was reported to be modest). This led to a discussion on whether or not to try out different types of social events in 2024 to address survey input.
- Options at Tappattoo to hold a real outside family BBQ were discussed and are not possible.
- Options to hold a real outside family BBQ at the Foley Community Centre are more realistic.
- Options on various dates were explored.
- Activities for a BBQ were also explored (for children, dunk tank for politicians to raise money for the pool, etc.)
- The survey indicated that some participants would like to volunteer.

Motion: Based on the results of the survey, OLRA decided to switch its 2024 social events to a family event and BBQ at the Foley Community Centre, inside and outside.

- Moved by Brad Chittick
- Seconded by Martin Chepesiuk
- **Motion carried**

Actions: 1) Martin Chepesiuk will contact the Foley Community Centre to book August 10th, 2023). The 2024 Family Event and BBQ Committee (Martin Chepesiuk, Rob Cribbie, Brian Hindley, Nicole Mailloux, AJ Mueller, Kerry Mueller and maybe Gerry Doyle who was absent) will meet to finalize plans for the 2024 Social Event, and reach out to potential volunteers.

New Business:

1. Safe Quiet Lakes' 11th Annual Stakeholder Meeting: Nicole Mailloux provided a written update on the Safe Quiet Lakes' zoom meeting she attended on Nov. 22, 2023. Highlights included:

Dr. Chris Hower (researcher on waves, etc.) :

- Otter Lake: The longer the shoreline, the smaller the impact of boat wakes. Bays, the long arm and closed environments, had higher than expected impacts on shorelines, as boats, etc. go round and round. In narrows, the impacts were not as high as expected as boats go through once.
- Waves cause erosion and sediment suspension.
- Nicole Mailloux's own observation is that her cottage's sandy shoreline has been eroded over the past 36 years to the point that she had to naturalize the shoreline with rocks to prevent further erosion. The shoreline was also transformed into a small wetland, likely due to sediment suspension.

Stephen Sprague - Float Homes:

- B.C. was able to classify a floating home as "not a vessel". It has a special Transport Canada rule that appears to not apply anywhere else in Canada. As a home, they must be attached to shore, sewers, etc.
- Transport Canada has recognized similar structures in B.C. as homes, and the "Float Homes Not Vessels" organization wants what BC has, that is classify "float homes" as "not vessels". They are lobbying for the same designation in Ontario, and are asking stakeholders to participate in [a public consultation process](#) currently underway by Transport Canada. The deadline for comments is Dec. 11.

2. Adjournment: Kerry Mueller called the meeting to a close at 8: 30 pm.

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)
- MNR: 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