

# Otty Lake Association

## Board Meeting Minutes

Sat Mar 11, 2017, 9:30 - 11:30 am

McMartin House

**Present:** Dave Bell, Kyla Haley, Krista Hearty McLean, Barb Hicks, Murray Hunt, Cathy Kari, Christine Kilburn (Secretary), Reid Kilburn (President), Ian McDonald, Gail Read, Wally Robins, Anne Scotton, Chuck Shenkman (13)

**Regrets:** Robert Cosh, Derek Smith, Michelle Soucy (3)

**Welcome** - Reid called the meeting to order at 9:30. A quorum was present.

**Agenda - Motion 2017-01-01** (Anne/Gail) Approve agenda as amended, with addition of the following items: 1) spraying of caterpillars, 2) communication report, 3) calendars, 4) satellite mapping of aquatic vegetation, 5) cookbook update, 6) BurgessWood letter re working together to protect the wetlands and 7) grant opportunity. **CARRIED**

**Minutes of Oct 29th Meeting - Motion 2017-01-02** (Wally/Ian) Approve minutes of Oct 29 2016 meeting as distributed. **CARRIED**

**E-mail motions since last meeting** - Christine read the motions moved via e-mail since the last meeting, in order to record them in our Board minutes.

**Motion re 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities:** that we proceed with the Legacy Cottage project and the planting of 150 maple trees as our 150<sup>th</sup> celebration project. **CARRIED**

**Motion re AGM** - that the 2017 AGM be held the afternoon of Sunday July 9<sup>th</sup> at the Perth Legion. **CARRIED**

**Financial Report** - Reid and the Board welcomed Dave back. Reid then gave a brief financial update, bank balance \$2,386.02 as of Jan 10<sup>th</sup>. **Motion 2017-01-03** (Dave/Anne) Accept report as presented. **CARRIED**

**Nominations Report** - In Robert's absence, Reid reviewed the report he had provided. There will be 2 vacancies as of July 9<sup>th</sup>, namely Krista's and Chuck's positions. Monika Savage has agreed to stand. If we don't have another candidate, OLA business can continue with 14 Board members, though the Constitution states "The affairs of the Association shall be managed by a Board composed of 15 directors". If anyone knows of someone willing to stand for nomination, please approach them. **Motion 2017-01-04** (Ian/Kyla) that the Nominations Report be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**

**2017 AGM** - Reid spoke about Dr Shelley Ball, whose brief bio had been distributed prior to the meeting, as a possible speaker for the AGM. Her fee would be \$150. She is happy to customize her presentation to our needs. She is holding July 9<sup>th</sup> open. The OLA has in the past paid AGM guest speakers. Gail and Wally were pleased to see her as a speaker. Advertising ahead of time could increase attendance. Attendees would like to hear about more than just OLA business. **Motion 2017-01-05 (Gail/Wally)** - approve Dr Shelley Ball as our AGM guest speaker. **CARRIED**

Gail and Ian will be on vacation for 6 weeks in May/June. Gail is preparing the the picture file, but will not be available to pull the presentation material together. Wally offered to speak to Chris Penney who might be willing to help in this area.

The AGM will be held on Sunday July 9<sup>th</sup> at the Perth Legion. The Board decided that displays will open at 1, the meeting will start at 2, with a goal to finish by 4.

**Wildlife Habitat** - Wally provided a summary of his report, which he had distributed to Board members the end of Jan, re the meeting of himself, Jennifer, Adrienne and Chris. There was no discussion about fish since they won't know til they conduct their monitoring of the 275 nests built over the last 4 years. His sense is that they will probably do very little re bass population this year, since there will probably be no need for more smallmouth nests unless there's been a degradation of nests built in shallow spots, e.g. 12 to 18 inches. This brainstorming session came up with 4 ideas - black rat (recently renamed grey rat) snake nesting boxes, tree protection along shorelines against beavers (wire mesh around base of tree, going up 6 to 7 feet), construction of osprey nesting platform (50 to 60 feet high), and habitat enhancement for pollinators, e.g. bees & butterflies (plant milkweed for monarch butterflies, wildflowers for bees - their population has decreased by 35 - 40%). The OLA could make plants for bees & butterflies and boxes for snakes available to landowners who are interested. Snake boxes could work better on a property that is quite natural. We would need a coordinator whose role would be to be a resource person for any landowner interested in the project and visit properties to ensure the specific criteria are evident on the property. Training would be provided by Jenn and Wally.

There was significant discussion about snake boxes and pollinators. If timing works, material could be picked up at the same time as the maples. The snake boxes would have to be built - perhaps 6 and then monitor. Benefits of black rat snake - harmless, greatest rodent (including chipmunks and squirrels) control species, spend as much time in trees as on ground, hunting. Kyla mentioned there had been proposed legislation related to black rat snakes which would have been restrictive to building on properties. It did not pass. Mowing along roadways currently destroys the milkweed. Could we investigate changing legislation to stop mowing? Probably not.

Education about black rat snakes at the AGM and in the Newsletter could increase awareness, so people would not run them over. (the snakes like to sun themselves on roads) Can we put up signs to "Brake for Snakes" or "Give the Snakes a break", as we have for turtles? Associations provide signs for turtles. Similar for snakes?

In the same vein, Reid spoke about communication he received from BurgessWood (BW) stating they have similar goals to OLA, i.e. working toward greater sustainability of the whole Otty Lake watershed. Currently they are concerned with the reduction of ponds and wetlands around BW. The writer approached MNRF, who suggested seeking partnerships, e.g. Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC). Would the OLA be interested in partnering with DUC, or at the least, offer moral support and encouragement to BW re working towards wetland restoration?

Wally has experience dealing with DUC, all good. The organization has been around since the 1930's. It was initiated by waterfowl hunters, due to drastic decline in ducks and geese, caused by uncontrolled market hunting, and massive drought which wiped out prime nesting habitat. DUC has a superb reputation. They have very qualified staff and have done marvelous work in wetlands. They are deeply committed to the same goals as OLA. Anne suggested caution before the OLA aligns with DUC since there have been anti DUC sentiment in the past. We don't want to be seen as promoting hunting for its sake.

Ian pointed out that there are 4 ponds in BW and they are disappearing due to beavers, and also due to recent droughts.

Reid recalls that the wetlands are not provincially recognized per the TVT Official Plan. Gail - wetlands are Nature's lungs and they need to be preserved.

Murray - water quality in McLaren Lake is degraded, due to a number of reasons.

Reid - The Otty Lake Management Plan refers heavily to wetlands and their importance.

The letter from BW is an opportunity to build community. It's unclear if it's coming from an individual or their Board. Reid would like to pursue their communication in an effort to partner with them and DUC. The Board agreed that he should get back to them to say we'd like to explore working together.

Have support at the Board for butterfly and bee habitat, as well as interest in black rat snakes. Put a limit of 6 around the lake and has to be the right habitat, e.g. large enough not to encumber buildings.

**Motion 2017-01-06** (Ian/Gail) that Reid reply to BW to say we'd like to explore working together, and that our wildlife habitat project include a maximum of 6 black rat snake nests on appropriate properties and providing seeds for pollinators to interested residents. **CARRIED**

**Shoreline Planting** - Gail - the planting of 150 maple trees will not be as close to shoreline as past plantings. If RVCA organizes planting and deliver, the cost to the OLA would be \$650 more than if we go with bare root again. The Board agreed to go with bare root again. The Kilburns will host the potting and take care of the plants, with help from Cathy and Dave re the watering. RVCA provides pots. Based on Gail's and Ian's experience last year, using corn crib while caring for the trees will eliminate browsing. The corn crib can then be cut up and sold with trees.

Put a limit on the number each resident can have, e.g. 2. That way we get them out around the lake.

Reid mentioned that Karen had just sent out information about micro grants available for activities between May 1 and June 30. Native planting applies. Reid volunteered to fill out the grant application. We should still charge for trees as a revenue generator and to promote accountability by the planters. Krista, Kyla and Barb volunteered to help with preparing caging material. Kyla and Dave can help with potting day. **Motion 2017-01-07** (Gail/Anne) accept Gail's report and its recommendation, namely for a cost of \$103.23 purchase 70 bareroot sugar maples, 40 bareroot red maples and 40 bareroot silver maples. Purchase soil for approximately \$30, and chicken wire or 2x4 corn crib based on residents' orders. Charge \$9 per tree with corn crib protection and tent pegs, or \$3 per tree for chicken wire and tent pegs. **CARRIED**

**Calendars** - Gail has been working with Images InterAlia. The prices are lower than last time. 16 month calendar would be Jan 2018 to Apr 2019. Advantages are that people can carry appointments into next year, and with more months, there's opportunity to recognize the photos of more people. Gail's report outlined costs of various options. We need a writing committee - Kyla, Murray and Cathy volunteered to help. **Motion 2017-01-08** (Krista/Wally) Order 250 16-month calendars charging \$10 for 1, \$15 for 2, \$20 for 3 and carry that cost forward if people order more. **CARRIED**

**Land Use** - Reid reminded all that we've talked about this topic at the last 2 meetings. A proposed document went out to everyone prior to this meeting. Christine summarized possible next steps - update the document with comments received from Karen and Murray/send to townships/send to 2 residents who have recently had minor variances or renovations/determine which part of the document to include in SIP's/work with Barb re displaying on the website/update Shoreline Handbook contacts section. **Motion 2017-01-09** (Anne/Wally) accept document and proposed next steps. **CARRIED**

Reid pointed out that we still do not have a Land Use Committee. This document will help provide guidelines, and hopefully help residents avoid costs if they do not follow guidelines and by-laws. The Board should reflect on the need for such a committee. Krista found the OLA committee's involvement helpful in 2012 when they were building. Murray - in the past, there have been 3 members in the Committee. There are benefits to having more than one individual visiting sites, e.g. one person talks to property owner, others can pick up on items one person alone would miss.

Anne has seen, over the years, different reactions to the work of the committee members. Not having a committee and sending each filing out to all Board members for input is also helpful, since different individuals may have knowledge about their area. The OLA doesn't want the reputation of being police. So maybe we need one person as the monitor, who determines which ones need to go out to everyone on the Board. It also raises knowledge for everyone.

Currently Reid receives notices from both townships. Our document is generic, neutral. We're not providing a contact in the OLA if residents have questions.

When we send this out to our residents, ask if they've been to our website to see what we are saying. Do they have any comments?

Cathy would be willing to be part of a committee, but would like some training.

**Roles of Board Members** – Christine briefly discussed her summary. She identified a few changes, and offered to add all the folks who volunteered today. Krista and Chuck agreed to help at the AGM again this year.

**Caterpillar Spraying** – Reid provided a summary of communications he's received from the Oliver's and Hendry's. There is a potential severe outbreak of caterpillars this spring. Maple syrup producers are concerned, and recommend spraying in the maple bush area. David and Tressa Oliver looked at the information, examined the caterpillars in trees which had toppled over. They then examined canopy of their forest and became very concerned. He asked his neighbours if they'd be okay if he sprayed. His 3.5 acres, neighbours' 6.5 acres would be sprayed. *Bacillus Thuringiensis* (BT) bacteria would be used, was also used in the 1980's against gypsy moths. OLA supported the spraying then. David did interview on Lake 88. One call was received re impact on bees and David explained that bees, monarch butterfly caterpillars are not affected. No one from around the lake has sent in any comments. People on Lakewood Lane are in favour of the spraying by helicopter. Anne supported the spraying in the 1980's, and feels the OLA should support now as well. Oliver's have been open and transparent. Some trees are killed by the caterpillars. That is how the syrup producers are impacted, i.e. loss of production and the work in moving pipelines.

Kyla - natural selection i.e. the caterpillars help with that by passing through every 7 years in northern Ontario. Leaves would be dead in summer, but there would be regrowth.

Reid will send out website to Board members for further education.

What's acceptable loss when it's your livelihood? Does the BT get into the maple syrup? BT is not a chemical, but a naturally occurring bacteria which is harmless to any organism other than tent caterpillars. It is organically approved and the infected caterpillars may be eaten by birds and other wildlife with no harm. Helicopter will be guided by a navigation system which stops and starts the spraying automatically based on the coordinates entered into the onboard computer.

The Board requests that Reid send a note to the Oliver's, thanking them for their openness and transparency.

**Satellite mapping of aquatic vegetation** – Murray provided a summary of the presentation organized by RVCA and given on Mon Mar 6<sup>th</sup>. He, Karen, Gail and Ian attended. It was given by Dr Daniel Spitzer. He's trying to determine if it would be feasible to use satellites to determine characteristics of water bodies. He used his lake, Wolf Lake (Westport area), as a model. He's identified characteristics of amount of aquatic vegetation, amount of particulate material (e.g. silt washed in from streams, distributed by wind), ice surface in Jan and breakup. He could see temperature variations in ice surface. Also reflectants of the lake e.g. did the lake have biomass in it. He has to calibrate this satellite imagery data and interpret what this means. He would need info

about the characteristics of the lake at a given time, e.g. using some of the information we collect on Otty, like secchi readings (clarity at depths, particulates), University studies of our lake to determine biomass. His work is in its infancy. He's making a pitch to the Conservation Authorities (RVCA, MVCA, Cataraqui). He might like this to be picked up by a CA. He'd like to compare his satellite info with data collected from lakes. Murray has asked RVCA what they think their next steps may be with this. He suggests we follow the developments to determine if this is a tool we could use. Board agrees with this proposal. Anne - we would support RVCA if needed.

Dr Spitzer is going to need a lot of ground data to develop algorithms. Gail - he would like weekly data. There are going to be 3 satellites up soon.

**Cookbook Update** - Reid gave the final report, letting the Board know that 75 of 80 reprinted cookbooks were sold, saving 5 as gifts for AGM.

**Communications Report** - Barb got communication from another lake saying they really liked our website and would like to know who we used. Gail thanked Barb for all her work in the area of communication. The Board chimed in with their agreement.

**OLA Memberships** - Reid pointed out that Karen annually pays for membership in A2A (Algonquin to Adirondacks) on behalf of the OLA. A2A is a biosphere organization, proposed hiking trail from one to the other, significant growing awareness of what their purpose is. **Motion 2017-01-10 (Gail/Dave)** - Pay for a membership in A2A. **CARRIED**

**Lake Management Plan** - Reid reminded the Board that the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lake Management Plan will be in March 2018. For the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary the OLA did another survey to confirm if priorities of residents were still the same. The Board should start thinking about what we want to do for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Are we on track? Wally suggested we do a report card, our assessment, then do a survey or focus groups with Otty Lake community. What are their priorities going forward? Wally, Barb and Anne volunteered to work on this. Reid asked them to bring a proposal back to our fall meeting. We should aim to have something for the 2018 AGM.

**Next Meeting** - June 3<sup>rd</sup> at McMartin House

**Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 11:51 am.