



Otty Lake Association

Board Meeting Minutes

Sat Mar 5, 2016, 9:30 - 11:30 am

McMartin House

Present: Dave Bell, Kyla Haley, Barb Hicks, Murray Hunt, Cathy Kari, Christine Kilburn (Secretary), Reid Kilburn (President), Roger Nuttall, Wally Robins (9)

Regrets: Robert Cosh, Krista Hearty McLean, Ian McDonald, Gail Read, Anne Scotton, Chuck Shenkman, Derek Smith

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

Agenda - Motion 2016-01-01 (Wally/Dave) Approve agenda as amended, to include archival material, as well as a quick update from Derek. **CARRIED**

Minutes of Nov 7th Meeting - Motion 2016-01-02 (Barb/Roger) Approve minutes as distributed. **CARRIED**

Correspondence - Christine read the note received from Tom Spence of BurgessWood. With the assistance of Wally, she sent a response to them, providing an education as to the various reasons why leaving the fallen tree in the water is beneficial to Nature. Kudos to the BurgessWood folks for putting Nature first. Gail is thinking of using this as a discussion point with the Counsellors. Wally will send Barb a note to for the website, educating our residents on the benefits of leaving trees where they have fallen in the water. This is timely after the recent ice storm.

E-mail Motion - To properly record an e-mail motion in OLA Board minutes, Christine read out the 1 motion passed since our last meeting:

- **Motion 2016-01-03** (Cathy/Barb) that the anniversary committee be authorized to proceed with the production of a combination cookbook and history book celebrating the 200th anniversary of the naming of Otty Lake and the 40th anniversary of the Otty Lake Association, with the initial printing costs to be funded with a redeemable GIC held by the OLA, and that the committee and Board establish a checkpoint date on March 5 to assess progress. **CARRIED**

Nominations - in the absence of Robert, Reid summarized the status of Board members. Roger will be stepping down at the end of his term in July. Reid thanked Roger for his many years of dedicated service to the OLA. Wally asked Roger if he would be available as a resource to share his wealth of information. Roger is happy to do so. Dave read the bio of Michelle Soucy, an interested individual who moved to Maple Glen 2 years ago. In

addition to helping out with Pitch In, she has expressed interest in the bat boxes. Her husband has a workshop, and she is volunteering his help. Reid thanked Robert for his interim report and the Board looks forward to the final nominations report.

Motion 2016-01-04 (Cathy/Wally) - Accept Robert's Nomination Report as presented. **CARRIED**

AGM Update - Dave provided an update. He, Gail, Tiger and Robert are the Tech Committee for the AGM. They've been practicing, and even had a practice at the Legion. The Legion's sound system has been improved since then. The Tech Committee has 2 computers they'll be using. They plan to switch between them so there is minimal lag. Everyone will be asked to submit their presentations in a specific format, and by a specified date. There'll be a trial run on June 15th, and all Board members are welcome. They hope to have some of the presentations by June 15th. Presenters will have a laser pointer. If they have a change to indicate, they can point it out at that time. The Tech Committee hopes to have a 3rd computer as back up.

Motion 2016-01-05 (Kyla/Roger) Accept Dave's AGM report as presented. **CARRIED**

Finance - Dave asked if there were any questions on his 2015 Financial Statement and 2016 Budget, as distributed. Barb asked where the \$130/issue paid to Peter Dillon-Parker to do the layout are included. Dave says they are on the Newsletter printing line. Dave has set up his financial report to align with the CRA's annual filing requirements. For example, the Rent Costs line includes McMartin House rental as well as AGM Hall rental, rather than including this last item under AGM.

Motion 2016-01-06 (Dave/Cathy) Accept the finance reports as presented. **CARRIED**

Grant Update - Reid identified there are 3 items under this heading:

- The TD Friends of the Environment Fund Grant application was submitted by Jenn Lamoureux (RVCA). It is for \$4,050 split 50/50 between the OLA and RVCA staff. If it is approved, Jenn will use her half to help fund the RVCA team, for their work on the habitat monitoring program, habitat construction day, etc.
- MNRF, in partnership with BEAN, is offering microgrants of up to \$500. Thanks to Andrea Klymko for letting us know. She is now the partner program administrator for MNRF in Kingston. Last Nov Derek had proposed various programs, including an education program. He and Murray will discuss applying.
- At last Nov's Board meeting, we reviewed the onerous task of having the OLA recognized as a charitable organization, allowing us to issue charitable donation receipts. It was decided not to pursue this approach. As an alternative, Reid has been talking about options with Barbara King of Watersheds Canada. After much discussion with their lawyers and accountants, it was determined that flowing money through their books was not an acceptable approach. There is the possibility of having an OLA project which aligns with the mandate and objectives of Watersheds Canada become a joint project. If we need their help, it's available. If

not, they have an audit trail for the donation. We now have a framework, with conditions. Tiger Tanner made a generous donation last year, but we were unable to give him a tax receipt. There is now an opportunity for us to issue tax receipts. Barb asked if someone wanted to make a donation to the Fish Habitat project, can RVCA issue a tax receipt? Reid pointed out that Jenn has an internal process she has to go through, where she presents proposals, and they do or don't make the cut. Their Foundation's criteria seems to be more stringent, probably due to volume, than those proposed by Watersheds Canada. Barbara has a little more flexibility in that they are just creating the process. If someone approaches us with a large donation with conditions, the Board would have to approve the project before we enter into any other discussions with either partner.

Motion 2016-01-07 (Reid/Barb) that the report be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**

Phase 4 of the Habitat Enhancement Project - Wally identified how fantastic it is that we're moving into the 4th year of this project. He met with Jenn and Adrienne in January to discuss the focus for this year. The plan is to move away from nest sites for smallmouth bass, because 250 new nests have been constructed in the last 3 years. There are other natural nests they use as well. Based on Wally's analysis, 250 would be the maximum nesting sites required by Otty Lake's smallmouth bass population. (Otty Lake covers 1,500 acres. Adult smallmouth bass population is 2 to 3/acre, therefore max of 3,000 adult fish based on research done in natural lakes where there has been no development, etc. On a developed lake like Otty, our max would probably be 1,500, i.e. 750 pairs. Only 1 in 3 males spawns per year. The male who spawns is predetermined by mother Nature the year before. This brings us down to 250. If one of the males happens to die before spawn, he is not replaced.)

Wally, Jenn and Adrienne are proposing to continue monitoring smallmouth bass, and do something for largemouth bass. It's trickier to predict their nesting sites since they are not as loyal to a site as smallmouth. They will use the same general area but are more nomadic. Wally and team would like to isolate 2 or 3 spawning coves or bays, on the north end of the lake - protected from spring cold winds. They are thinking of 24 - 30 nest sites. There would be less rock to buy and move, and therefore the cost will be lower. They are also keen on installing more semi submerged, anchored brush piles, at the back end of shallow, "icky" bays where no one would swim or boat. These are habitat answers for all kinds of creatures, like herons, mink, muskrat, etc. Jenn and Wally have identified 40 to 50 areas on the lake for brush piles. Dave has collected enough wood to meet needs. Bird/bat boxes went well last year. Due to awareness, demand could be higher this year. Thurs Sep 8th is the preliminary date set for building largemouth bass habitat, and dropping brush piles. If windy, it would be difficult to transport the brush piles. Size of nesting sites is about the same as for smallmouth. Largemouth like sunken wood relatively close to the nest. When ice is out, Wally, Jenn and Adrienne will be on Otty looking for best locations for largemouth bass nests. Adrienne is doing comparison

shopping for rock. Wally's neighbour is eager to get involved with his boat again. If the grant is not approved, Wally thinks he can get donations.

Kyla offered their supply of rough sawn cedar, e.g. for bird boxes. Material used for bird boxes was rough sawn pine. We still have enough material for 10 swallow boxes, or 5 bat boxes. Dave asked for a list of materials needed, since he may have a good source.

Motion 2016-01-08 (Wally/Roger) Accept Wally's report as presented. **CARRIED**

Cookbook Update - was provided by Cathy. David Bromley is doing layout and pricing. He works at Algonquin, and may get printing at a reasonable price. Only about 50 recipes have been submitted, 150 are needed. Enough anecdotes, photos and history have been received. Gail had put a note in to Counsellors asking them to gather recipes, nothing yet. Reid will send a note to Counsellors (Gail is okay with this) and Board asking for recipes. Barb and Karen are calling individuals asking them for recipes. Current or old stories would be great. **Motion 2016-01-09** (Cathy/Kyla) accept report as presented. **CARRIED**

Shoreline Planting - In Gail's absence, Christine summarized Gail's report. The total cost of bareroot trees, shrubs and flowers will be \$855.28. If all sell at the prices indicated, the cost to the OLA will be \$47.28. Kyla suggested that we might expect high sales since EcoPerth has nothing available this year. Tay Valley Township will be planting sizeable trees in 2016, but they are not available to private landowners.

Picnic - In Gail's absence, Christine summarized the information Gail had prepared. The picnic will be held at the Maple Glen Waterfront on Sat July 23, from 10:30 to 1:30. Entertainment will be provided by Hugh Metcalfe of the Ontario Hawking Club. Gail has also arranged for face painting, at a significantly reduced cost of \$100-\$125, vs the usual \$250. We will ask for a \$2 donation toward the face painting from each participant. Also, a donation of \$3/person will be requested for each person attending the picnic. Food costs have increased significantly, so this will help to offset that cost. Gail is asking for baking donations, as well as volunteers to assist in various areas.

Counsellors' Update - In Gail's absence, Christine summarized the information Gail had prepared. The next Counsellors' meeting will take place on May 13th at Gail and Ian's. At the meeting, the SIP's will be distributed.

- Gail is developing a Q&A package for Counsellors, where she will also include any new messages from the Board, to be shared with landowners.
- Gail asked that an annual budget of \$40 be approved towards honourarium gifts for presenters at the 2 annual meetings. This is petty cash so no motion is required.

Motion 2016-01-10 (Christine/Dave) - accept Gail's reports as presented. **CARRIED**

Paddle Power Update - In Ian's absence, Christine presented his report. This year's Paddle Power will take place on Sun Aug 7th, roughly off Code's Island and just northeast

of the channel islands. It was suggested that, on posters, the paddling location and parking availability should be indicated.

Motion 2016-01-11 (Christine/Wally) accept Ian's report. **CARRIED**

Landowners' Support Tool - Wally's group was mandated to come with a conceptual model to consider possible content and formats for this tool. The tool would provide a property owner with information/advice/helpful hints and tips for any property development or minor variance. The proposal is not all-inclusive. If the Board wants to pursue this, we need a group to take the concept into design stage. It is not meant to replace the Shoreline Handbook, which is an absolutely phenomenal resource not utilized as much as it should be. This would supplement the Shoreline Handbook. This Tool has a more specific focus for a landowner considering doing work on their shoreline. There is bureaucracy involved, forms to be filled, consideration to be ecologically sound and responsible. If we can create a sense of partnership between the OLA and people who want to enhance their property, that'd be a great goal. There are still pockets of people on the lake who are not in favour of the OLA and feel they can't do anything on their property without the OLA getting involved. In terms of format, the team thought it should be on the website, and a hard product should be hand delivered to the property owner who is thinking of making a change. It should be provided to owners in the preliminary stages of considering making changes. A package like this would be handy for new owners, who usually think of making changes. When townships are approached for permits, they could make the package available. Real estate agents would also be a good source for future owners. The key place for this information is on the website. People thinking of moving into an area go to the website. They can also see what would be needed if they want to develop. It could also give a timeline of how long making a change could take.

Reid reminded the Board that this proposal was the result of the discussion at our last meeting about the former Land Use Committee. This could open up the door for better dialogue in the future, when applying for variances, permits, etc. We don't have a functioning Land Use Committee now. Historically, sometimes it was well received, sometimes not. It was challenging for those who held this position. If we position the OLA as a team member with the landowner, we may be able to do more for the lake. We could include photos of work which was environmentally friendly. Karen Hunt and David Reesor have a great deal of experience in this area and might know of historical situations where the construction was a success story. Ask those landowners if we can use them as an example. Position the OLA as pro environmentally responsible development, how we want to help (could help a Land Use Committee in the future).

Christine volunteered to work on the development of this tool. Barb is willing to help with the website. An update will be provided for June meeting. Would other Board members or Counsellors be interested in getting involved? Christine will put together a summary of the next steps to send to the Board and Counsellors (after corresponding with Gail), and request volunteers. Perhaps include this as a topic at the AGM.

Motion 2016-01-12 (Wally/Dave) accept report as presented. **CARRIED**

Maple Glen – Dave updated us on the work he's doing with Maple Glen re expanding docks. They are adding 8 more slips to the existing 40. He is in touch with the Ministry of Oceans & Fisheries, MNRF, TVT and RVCA. Dave is meeting lovely people who are providing him with excellent contacts. Oceans & Fisheries are in Smiths Falls - no permit required. MNRF is in Kemptville, but aren't getting back to Dave. Murray brought up the Muskokas court case, which has gone to the Supreme Court. They ruled that MNRF has jurisdiction over any structure greater than 15 sq m over water. The structure has to touch the bottom.

Motion 2016-01-13 (Dave/Barb) accept report as presented. **CARRIED**

Communication & SIP – Barb provided an update on the request included in the last Newsletter re folks who receive hard copies (63) but are not members. We've received 10 e-mail addresses, and no memberships from these individuals. It was agreed that no hard copies of the next Newsletter would be sent to non-members. A message the Counsellors could pass on is that the Newsletter is available on the website.

The Spring Information Package (SIP) will, as in the past, include OLA information, e.g. picnic/AGM/Paddle Power/President's Message. We should consider doing this with less paper, e.g. not one piece of paper for each event. It's been a while since we included an Emergency contact list, so that could be included. Are there any updates to the Shoreline Handbook? We could mention how to get rid of items around the home, e.g. tires. Dave will see about getting 500 Fire Safety information pamphlets.

Motion 2016-01-14 (Barb/Cathy) accept Communications report as presented. **CARRIED**

TVT Updated Official Plan – Reid indicated that there are 3 provincial changes which must be included.

- Provincially Significant Wetlands become Environmental Protection Areas
- Flood Plain - now Flood Plain Zone
- Aggregate Reserves - now Aggregate Reserves Zone

A public meeting will take place on March 15th at 6 pm

Barb asked about wetlands around Otty. DNE has wetland identification areas around Otty. Maple Glen has an area, and there's one around Jebb's Creek. RVCA would know of any identified wetlands.

Motion 2016-01-15 (Reid/Wally) that this report be received for information. **CARRIED**

Other Business – Reid had a few items to discuss.

- **Archives** – Murray and Karen have OLA archival information, and Dave has financial history. What is the OLA's position on retaining material? Murray thinks we should keep the water quality data, which he has summarized on a spreadsheet going back to 1971. Dave says that, though the CRA says we must retain records for 7 years, he would have to get permission to destroy anything older. For now, we'll keep the

records where they are and not destroy any. It can be discussed again when storage becomes an issue.

- **Derek's report** - Reid provided Derek's update. He will continue to work on the State of the Lake report with the help of others, e.g. Murray and Wally. He'll work with Murray on Lake Stewardship activities. He's keen to possibly expand lake-oriented programs, e.g. seminar programs, tree and forest management, etc via grant programs, or private contributions.
- **Ian's LAP report** - Ian has summarized all the activities/projects in a dashboard format, which was distributed prior to the meeting. He'd be happy to receive comments. He does not want this to become a bureaucratic process which slows down projects but rather to have a simple but clear understanding of all our activities to assist the Board in planning and project management. One minor change was raised for Ian's last item - it should be surface water, not ground water sampling. Barb thought the LAP process was originally intended for only new projects, not ongoing projects. Christine felt that providing a report for all projects, e.g. AGM, is good information of work done each year, to help in the planning of the next year's activities. Another benefit is that, as Dave pointed out earlier, his financial reports are designed to meet the CRA's reporting requirements. Ian's summary displays costs by project. Reid said that, as a new president, he found it helpful and a good summary of what is being done. It's interesting to see the work done by the OLA summarized in this manner. Is the Board comfortable in displaying projects/activities in this way, or was this process conceived to help the Board approve any new work? Is it a good summary for the Board to make decisions? This discussion was deferred to the next Board meeting, when Robert and Ian can clarify the original objective of LAP, and Ian can discuss the evolution of LAP as a complementary financial and management tool.

Next Meeting - Sat June 11th 2016

Adjournment - (Cathy) The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.