

**Otty Lake Association  
Board Meeting Minutes**

Fri June 1 2018, 4:00 – 6:00 pm  
McMartin House

**Present:** Dave Bell, David Bromley, Robert Cosh, Kyla Haley, Barb Hicks, Murray Hunt, Cathy Kari, Christine Kilburn (Secretary), Reid Kilburn (President), Ian McDonald, Gail Read, Monika Siegmund Savage, Derek Smith, Michelle Soucy (14)

**Regrets:** Wally Robins, Anne Scotton (2)

**Welcome –** Reid welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked those in attendance for their willingness to test Fri afternoon for a Board meeting.

**Agenda –** Add report on Area Counsellors **Motion 2018-02-01** (Robert/Dave) Approve agenda as amended. **CARRIED**

**Approval of previous minutes – Motion 2018-02-02** (Monika/Kyla) that the minutes of the Mar 3 2018 Board meeting be approved as circulated. **CARRIED**

**Financial Reports –** Dave presented the 2018 Budget. **Motion 2018-02-03** (Dave/Christine) that the 2018 budget be approved as presented. **CARRIED** Dave reviewed the 2017 Income Statement. He was chastised by the reviewer for not having an invoice on file for a cheque he had written. Going forward he won't pay bills without an invoice. **Motion 2018-02-04** (Dave/Gail) that the 2017 Income Statement be approved as presented. **CARRIED** Dave finds it amazing that the OLA still charges \$20 for membership, compared to other lakes who don't do as much and charge \$35 or more.

**Nominations Report –** Robert's report had been previously distributed. He reported that, from his experience as well as that of others, residents are willing to help the OLA with projects but don't want to join the Board. **Motion 2018-02-05** (Robert/Ian) accept Robert's report as presented.

**Counsellors Report –** Gail reviewed the SIP contents. The Infographic is meeting with a lot of success. The business card is also being well received. We have 29 area counsellors. Diane Thurston is new. Deb Lezinski has agreed to stay on.

**ACTION:** Gail, Robert and Dave will meet to clean up the database, and probably cut back on another 25 packages. Dave will coordinate once memberships are received at the AGM.

Gail received comments after the Bear Education session that people would prefer presentations take place between the May long weekend and the Labour Day weekend, and on weekends. **Motion 2018-02-06** (Gail/Robert) accept Gail's report as presented. **CARRIED**

**Communications Report –** Barb sent out her report and has nothing to add. **Motion 2018-02-07** (Barb/Gail) approve Barb's report as distributed. **CARRIED**

**Land Use Report –** Reid updated everyone on the McPhee property. He and Derek visited their lot, with the owner, RVCA, the builder, the planner and D/NE. Reid submitted a report to

D/NE on behalf of the OLA, that we support the application with amendments. Reid also attended the township meeting, where additional amendments were added. The owners were willing to listen to all inputs. **Motion 2018-02-08** (Christine/Michelle) approve Reid's report as presented. **CARRIED**

**Lake Steward's Report** – Murray's report was distributed prior to the meeting. Murray briefly reviewed the RVCA Tay River Subwatershed Report. It is very good news. It replaces the 2012 report. RVCA redid water quality ratings from 2006 to 2017. We now have a fair to good rating vs the previous poor rating. In 2 periods, Otty Lake was just below the mark of 80, qualifying for a fair rating. The others were just above 80, so good. RVCA was willing to meet with Murray, Derek and Reid in June 2017, continue to discuss informally, then held another formal meeting in March 2018. There are 14 catchment areas covered in the report. Reports about each will be ready by August. Murray has reviewed the Water Quality section of that report. Derek pointed out that the difference in statistical methods is probably the main reason for the change from poor to good. Derek also mentioned that restricted areas of algae are appearing. He'll be putting out zebra mussel houses again. It is positive that we are seeing blooms in June vs April in the past. **Motion 2018-02-09** (Derek/Robert) that Murray's report be accepted as distributed. **CARRIED** Reid thanked Murray and Derek for their work over the last 5 years. Thanks to their efforts and persistence, RVCA were open to discussions re improving their process.

**Follow up to Survey meeting May 10<sup>th</sup>** – Reid introduced the discussion, summarizing topics discussed at our May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. He invited discussion.

Monika raised the topic of **generic e-mail addresses on the website**. **Motion 2018-02-10** (Christine/Gail) remove phone #, e-mail address, street address from Board & Counsellor lists on the website, with a note advising people to send a note to [ola@ottylakeassociation.ca](mailto:ola@ottylakeassociation.ca) to get in touch with one of the Board members. **CARRIED**

**ACTION: Christine and Gail will provide Barb with updated, abbreviated lists and Barb will put up on website.**

Robert reminded us of his suggestion to conduct a **survey asking residents to express their interests**. Reid suggested that the Board first needs to set our direction for the future. We have one of the best **water sampling** data sets in Eastern Ontario, so don't need to do more sampling. Derek referred back to his comment on May 10 of continuing to work with our experts, e.g. Dorset, universities to be aware of solutions as they are found, e.g. zebra mussels – if someone finds a solution to get rid of them, we'll know immediately.

**ACTION: Derek will continue to monitor research in areas which can assist with issues on Otty Lake.**

Kyla pointed out that people aren't aware of the amount of work that is being done in sampling our water. Maybe it's a matter of communicating what we do.

Derek felt that we should send a broadcast e-mail advising everyone of the RVCA Tay River Subwatershed Report.

**ACTION: Murray will prepare a message regarding the Report, for Barb to broadcast to our residents.**

Derek also commented on people who have lawns down to the shore, or use fertilizers – with all the education we're doing, how do we get these people to change their behaviour? We have to get the buy-in from our residents to help with the health of our lake. Murray suggests it comes down to communication, convincing Otty Lake residents they can help. Shoreline

planting is not so much about doing the planting, but the education of the importance of the riparian strip.

Reid summarized the discussion by stating that there is a common theme, namely **communication**. Do we need a new strategy? We need to build that sense of community.

- We should explain why certain projects have stopped.
- Leverage existing tools better.
- Strategy around social media, linking to website information, project would look at Otty Lake website, Counsellor system, other communication tools – how do we want to get messages out more effectively.
- Put up educational blurb at each super mailbox. “Visit the OLA Facebook page”.
- Have a “The most beautiful shoreline” competition.
- Infographic is packaged differently – visuals have a bigger impact.
- Change means different things at the Board and Community levels. Community – e.g. create a check list, the things you can do to help your lake. Make it into a Bingo game. If you complete a line in a year, you get a prize.

**ACTION** – A sub-committee was formed to look at various communication vehicles. Michelle, Monika, David, Murray volunteered. Initial report would be appreciated for the fall meeting.

**ACTION:** Summary of Survey Results – Wally has agreed to work on a draft, which will eventually be posted on the website.

**AGM** – Reid reviewed the agenda. The OLA’s presentation will consist of history, achievements, next steps.

The townships have been invited to attend. D/NE is sending a counsellor, Ray Scissons. TVT has not responded.

**ACTION:** Reid will get in touch with the Township representatives advising them that we will provide them with questions prior to AGM.

**ACTION:** Board members should submit questions to Reid to pass on to the Townships by June 30.

Presentation for AGM – Murray has provided comments. Barb will send us her comments.

**ACTION:** Board members should send Reid & Christine comments on the AGM Presentation by end of weekend.

**ACTION:** Board members should send photos to Gail for the AGM.

**Lake Networking Group Septic Workshop update** – Reid provided a summary – 80 in attendance. Otty is the only lake with mandatory septic reinspections required by 2 townships. TVT does have programs on 9 of its lakes. D/NE has a mandatory reinspection program on only one lake, Otty. A lot of work/lobbying in the past has created the political will to support the OLA objective of mandatory septic inspections for all shoreline properties. Presentations will be distributed, as well as link to FOCA video.

**ACTION:** Reid and Barb will get presentations and link out to the membership.

**Tick & Lyme Disease e-mail** – Reid referred to the e-mail we sent out to everyone with links to information. A member criticized us for not providing a balanced view. We only received one complaint. It is not the OLA’s responsibility to provide a medical opinion. We do not have the bandwidth to research all information which is considered important to advise residents.

**ACTION:** Barb will prepare a draft for approval, which we will then send out in the next Newsletter, and post on our website.

**Next Meeting** – Meet & Greet – at Haley’s Fri July 27<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm

Gail thanked the OLA Board for the opportunity to work with everyone, and take part in many projects

**Adjourn – Motion 2018-02-11** (Dave/Gail) Adjourn the meeting at 6 pm.