

## **OTTY LAKE ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

7 p.m. Thursday February 20, 2025

Zoom Meeting

### **Attendance**

Present: Barb Hicks (Zoom Host and Chair), David Murray, Kirsten Brouse, Nancy Lynn, Linda Cuthbertson (Secretary)

Zoom Host accidentally indicated 9:00 p.m. as the start time in the zoom link which caused some confusion. Anne Scotton joined the zoom meeting at 9:00 and although the meeting had adjourned was able to connect with Barb. Anne will update the board on plans for a Volunteer Appreciation Event via email or at our next Board meeting.

Regrets: Jen O'Donoghue, Keith Desjardin, Susan Murray, Cathy Kari

Guests: Rob Bell, Stephanie Popiel

### **Welcome**

Chair welcomed everyone and it was confirmed we had quorum.

### **Guest Presentation**

Rob Bell is president of the Mississippi Lake Association. Mississippi Lake, like Otty Lake, is in two townships. Both lakes have properties in Drummond North Elmsley Township (DNE). Currently Road Associations in Beckwith Township receive a Private Road Equity Payment (PREP) from the township which helps to offset the fees paid by property owners who maintain their respective private roads. Mississippi Lake Road Associations in DNE have a task force that would like the support of Otty Lake Road Associations in DNE to convince DNE Council to give PREP payments to those maintaining private roads in the township. Road maintenance ensures services such as fire, ambulance, propane and garbage are available to residents.

The OLA doesn't currently have information on the number of or organization of Road Associations in DNE on the lake. Board members from Road Associations in DNE expressed an interest in

pursuing this issue further. Rob agreed to forward the contact information for their task force lead and the website for PREP. Before Rob left the meeting he thanked the board for the opportunity to speak and raise this issue.

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Motion (2025-01-01)

Moved by Kirsten and seconded by David “ that the agenda with “Wildlife Habitat Project” added under “New Business “ be approved as distributed.

Carried

### **Approval of Board Minutes from October 24, 2024**

Motion (2025-01-02)

Moved by Kirsten and seconded by David “ that the minutes of the OLA Board Meeting October 24, 2024 be approved as distributed”.

Carried

### **Treasurer’s Report**

Due to the absence of our treasurer the board was unable to consider monetary requests or changes to the 2025 Proposed Budget presented at the October 24, 2024 OLA Board Meeting.

### **Project Updates**

Board discussed several items raised for consideration in David and Susan’s report.

Plant Sale

Motion (2025-01-03)

Moved by David and seconded by Kirsten “ that the Board approves a maximum expense of \$1000 for the plant sale with the understanding that RVCA will reimburse \$500”.

Carried

Water Sampling and Data Interpretation

A water sampling team consisting of David, Stephanie, Richard Hendry and Jay Hendry has been established for 2025.

Kirsten, David and Stephanie presented arguments for a three phase approach to deal with water sampling collection and data. The three phases are: organizing historical water sampling data, determining objectives for OLA's role in the monitoring and sampling program and summarizing the implications of the data. They determined OLA should consider hiring a qualified consultant and Kirsten approached a university student who has conducted research in an Integrative Biology Department and is completing a bachelor's degree in sciences. A detailed tentative consultant proposal with costing was presented to the Board for discussion. Kirsten agreed to contact the student and clarify some terms of the proposal that Board members questioned. The Board will consider approving the Consultant Proposal and expenses at our next meeting.

#### Water Levels

Water level is a very divisive issue but because water levels don't affect water quality the Board has decided not to focus on issues arising from varying water lake levels.

#### Recruitment

Linda announced that she will be retiring from the secretary role. Kirsten will draft a recruitment message for the newsletter, Facebook and email blasts.

#### Archival Records

David reported that in addition to years of sampling data there are boxes full of data from previous "Love Your Lake" surveys. There is historical information and pictures that might be of interest to current property owners.

#### **Bass Spawning Sanctuary (BSS) Representation**

The research data from the study would be useful and the Board agreed it would be helpful to have an OLA member as part of the team. Kit is currently part of the team but the Board would like to extend an invitation to others who might be interested in the study.

## **New Business**

### Love Your Lake Reports

Love Your Lake will be doing a mail-out of codes that property owners can use to access their private reports electronically. They can pay to receive a printed copy.

### Wildlife Habitat Project

Board agreed in principle to support a project that would enable property owners to build bird houses, bat boxes and/or duck boxes but need to confirm sources of funding and monies available before passing a motion.

### Lake Ambassadors

Nancy reported that they are working on preparing a handout for ambassadors and communication materials. The membership drive has to be accelerated due to the early date of the AGM.

Arrangements will be made to enable attendees at the AGM to get OLA memberships.

### Fish Habitat Enhancements

OLA and RVCA teamed up in 2016 to install 31 brush bundle fish habitat enhancement sites on the lake. Amanda Lange contacted Barb to indicate RVCA have teamed up with Watersheds Canada and would like to check and repair the sites and possibly create more sites in new areas. The first step would be to check the old sites in the spring and then do the enhancement site work in September of this year. Board supports this fish habitat enhancement work and Barb will inquire as to what role OLA will be expected to play.

### Water Bubblers

It was brought to the Board's attention that bubblers can create dangerous ice conditions for people using the lake for recreational uses in the winter.

## **Annual General Meeting**

The AGM will be Sunday June 1st at the Legion in Perth. Board members have assigned tasks.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m..

The following reports were submitted and distributed electronically before the meeting:

Agenda (Barb)

Minutes from October 24, 2024 OLA Board Meeting (Linda)

Communications and Love Your Lake Report (Barb)

Report on Membership, AGM, Spring Plant Sale, Home Building Project and Water Sampling (David & Susan)

Records Review (David & Susan)

Consultant Proposal (Kirsten)

**The next Board zoom meeting will be 7p.m. Thursday  
April 17, 2025.**