

DRAG AND SPRUCE LAKES PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY June 29, 2014

- 1. Welcome and Introduction- Pres. Barb Bohlin**
- 2. News and Updates from the Municipality and County- Reeve, Murray Fearrey and Counsellor Dennis Casey**

Dennis Casey-Chair, Environmental and Green Energy Committee; the municipality came out with a video, "Trash Talk", as part of publicization of local environmental issues and programs. New videos are coming out on sustainability, and some other issues. Dennis also noted that there are new local exercise and activity clubs with information about them on the municipal website.

The province has downloaded the costs of some programs on the town, telling town to inventory all assets consuming energy. The town did it last year, setting a baseline, and we now have to show what we are doing to conserve energy. The town has also been mandated to do an asset management plan, and set a 10 year plan. We looked at roads, bridges and sewers with a focus on budgeting for repair and, where necessary, replacement in that period.

Murray Fearrey-Reeve, discussed two issues. The first is OPP costs. We have had great support from cottage associations. We are currently planning our strategy prior to meeting with the Minister to see if we can bring about change in the proposed policy. Murray noted the unfairness of assessing properties for services to people, particularly for cottagers, who are not here for much of the year. The increases will have a major impact on taxes and town finances and hamper our effectiveness in other areas.

The other issue with the provincial budget was a reduction in transfer payments to the County government, which means some costs will have to be met out of property tax sources.

Murray also told us that the local health unit no longer does septic inspections. Our local staff are being trained to do this. The town is getting property records

together to focus on older properties where septic systems were installed before stricter regulations regulated installations.

There is a move afoot to have one government for the county, abolishing local municipal governments. This will probably be a mess, based on what has happened elsewhere when this kind of consolidation has been ordered. Costs generally rise, as do taxes. Few or no savings will result. The biggest issue we will have is on planning—so local rules, tailored to local community needs, will be overruled in a county wide government.

Murray noted that in the coming municipal elections, increased recreational facilities are proposed. These are likely to be expensive, and will have an impact on local taxes.

3. Secretary's Report – Recording Secretary, Larry Olivo

Moved, Larry Olivo, seconded, Karl Gonnesen, 2nd Vice President, that the minutes of the annual meeting minutes for 2013, be accepted.

Approved unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report-Treasurer, Erin Neimann

The expense statement is set out in the Directory. We ended 2013 with a balance of \$10,166 in our Operating Fund and \$13,817 in our Lake Stewardship Fund. Total Revenue in the Operating Fund was about \$12,000 in 2013, with Membership Fees coming in at \$6,600 for the year. Expenses for 2013 came in at about \$8,600, with our largest expenses being the directory at about \$2,900, insurance at about \$1,500, and events at about \$1,200. The Net Operating Surplus for the year was about \$3,400. In the Stewardship Fund, Revenue was about \$1,400 and Expenses were about \$700, leaving a surplus of about \$700 for the year. The \$30 membership fee funds the Lake Stewardship Fund at \$5 per member, with the remaining \$25 going into the Operating Fund.

We currently have about \$24,600 in cash and investments. The investment, at about \$12,100, is a redeemable GIC at Bank of Montreal, earning interest of 1.25% annually.

We have been making donations of \$400 a year locally. We are thinking about increasing it to \$500. General discussion of this issue.

Moved Gary Oliver, seconded, Gord O'Halloran, that our annual charitable donation be raised from \$400 to \$500.

Approved unanimously

5. Announcement of our Charitable Donations-Donna McCallum

The Executive decision is to make our annual donation to Food for Kids, servicing the 3 Haliburton schools. The annual cost of this program is \$70,000, and our contribution will help to maintain and continue this operation.

Donna notes she is always looking for local photos for the Directory and website, so please do send your photos in.

6. News from Area Director Coordinator- 1st VP, Gary Oliver

Gary recognized and thanked the Area Directors of the work they have been and are doing.

Gary stated that we are making changes this year. We are doing a mass email to send a message for volunteers. We need to think how to efficiently contact people and get people to participate in the association and events. This is most likely to be by email, and for this, updating and keeping our mailing lists accurate is essential.

We keep asking for volunteers to increase participation in order to spread the work of the association more evenly. This is an issue that is crucial to keeping the organization and its various activities up and running. The key is effective communication with members, and that is the direction we are heading in. Expect to receive more frequent emails with information of relevance to the members.

7. Webmaster's Report- Webmaster Martin Rist

Martin pulled up the website www.dragandsprucelakes.ca

You can now pay annual dues on line. We had 80 paid this way last year, though payment by cheque is still ok.

Members will receive an email alerting them to any changes on website with information updates of relevance to members. There are also links on the site to other sites of relevance to members. Photos if sent in are posted.

8. Summer Events Update- Barb Bohlin

We are still looking for an Events Coordinator. Barb is doing this now in addition to her other work, and will help train a volunteer. But we do need to get someone to take over.

Sailing race is today at 1:30.

The annual Corn roast requires a new coordinator to replace the late Gary Gough. There was discussion about adding corn as an item to Fun Day, and holding the corn roast if a new coordinator could be found.

Novelty Swim- Joe Parkinson will do it this year but we need a volunteer to run it in the future.

Fun Day is on for the long weekend in August, on Sunday the 2nd at 2 pm. The alternate Rain Day is Monday, August 3rd at 11 AM.

9. Elections-Barb Bohlin

Only post this year, is webmaster. Martin Rist has agreed to do it again, and as no one else is clamoring to take over, Martin will continue as webmaster

Next year there will be a number of positions open. Members are encouraged to think about getting involved.

10. CEWF and Water Level- Martin Rist

The lake is a managed facility run by a Federal department with decreasing funding. Martin noted that the lake levels from Parks Canada data are on our website and can be checked. Martin took us through how to read the chart, noting current measurements against historic highs and lows. He noted how the lake drains in the summer to keep Trent Severn canal stable. This year, they drained the lakes more than usual because of the impact of flooding last year. But with this rapidly appearing to be a normal year, they had to raise the levels quickly, and did so. So, at the moment, we are now on the average, but the drop over the summer will be depend on how wet or dry a summer we have. Usually, the annual fluctuation is about 3 feet. We are still, via the CEWF [www.cewf.ca], aiming to have a more equitable balance between us on the feeder lakes, and the Trent canal. We are asking for a stop to the one foot drop that takes place in Sept to Oct 15, as it is unnecessary as the water starts to rise in mid-October. This would make it easier to use the feeder lakes, such as Drag and Spruce, later in the summer.

With upcoming municipal elections, Martin urged us to pay attention to positions on water balance among those running municipally. CEWF will ask candidates to state their position on this issue, and publicize their responses.

Bert Bicknell noted that feds were not setting funds aside for repairs on the system, particularly with locks and dams.

Martin noted that there have been several very good studies, but nothing has been done, with the continuation of profound underfunding of infrastructure. One big issue is dam safety; the feds have studied but not released information on dam safety. The

Drag dam is rated as in poor condition, though Martin noted it is not necessarily about to collapse. We have to push the feds to appropriate funds

Emmerson damn rebuilding. This damn is privately owned. It is not essential to water storage, and its impact is more cosmetic than anything else with respect of water from the Drag River, flowing into Head Lake.

11. Lake Steward's News-Bert Bicknell

Lake data based on fish diaries reported to the MNR about the fish population is crucial to maintaining a healthy fish population. We need 6 persons who regularly fish to volunteer to keep fish diaries. Those interested should contact Bert Bicknell. This will tell us about the size and quality of fish population. Bert noted that the ministry no longer has the funding to do its own sampling, so volunteers keeping fish diaries are essential to maintaining information about fish stocks and population.

There is some sign, though anecdotal, that the Rock Bass population may be diminishing.

The CHA (Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Association - waterfront associations, The Lakeland Alliance and Love Your Lakes) is doing a lot to emphasize septic tank maintenance and shoreline reservation, both of which are key to water quality. And that is where we are putting our emphasis.

The members viewed two DVD on shoreline preservation and maintenance. These can be viewed on the CHA website, www.cohpoa.org. Martin Rist will try to put these on our website.

Loon couples nesting-mid lake and East Bay, please be careful around them.

12. Shoreline Classification and Restoration Project –Barb Bohlin and Bert Bicknell.

We will be participating in the Shoreline Classification and Restoration Pproject, probably in mid to late August.

Our association is part of this cottage country project. Members will get a letter describing the process. Participation is anonymous, and owners can opt out. Graduate students from Trent University's environmental study program will go via boat to videotape the shoreline of every property on Drag and Spruce Lake. Data will be entered on software for analysis. Eventually owners will get a second letter to take them to website with a password to get individual survey results and give suggestions for improvements for the shoreline of each property. The feedback data is

confidential to the property owner. The Lake Association gets a general report giving a summary of the date. The program has been running for a couple of years. The cost of equipment is covered by the CHA. Fuel costs, estimated at \$1000 and part of the labour costs are paid by the DSLPOA, and printing and mailing will come from our Lake Steward Fund. The total for us will be \$3200. This is about \$5.87 per lot. We need volunteers: 2 pontoon boats per day, with drivers and helpers. Involvement is 9-5 per day. We also need billets for the two student workers. The project is scheduled from Aug 12-22, but this date may be delayed a bit, depending on the progress on the earlier scheduled lakes.

At the same time we will continue to run water sample tests, using Secchi disks and testing for phosphorus, as we have done for several decades.

Currently there is no mandated septic inspection, although the institution of mandatory testing is being pushed by the CHA; but it is expensive, so municipalities are not anxious to enter this field. There are licenced septic inspectors among them Mike Rahme [Home Pro Inspection Services, Mountain St, ,Haliburton, 1-800-832 0519] who will inspect and report during a pump out. Pump out and inspection need to be done at the same time.

Any questions on the shoreline project are referred to Bert and Barb; there is also information on our website at www.dragandsprucelakes.ca

13. Early Bird Draw

[drumroll] –The winners are:

John Alton

Jean Balkwell

Maurice Pilon

14. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Larry Olivo

Recording Secretary.