

**Drag and Spruce Lakes Property Owners' Association**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting – Sunday, June**  
**28<sup>th</sup>,2015**

**Haliburton Curling Club – 9:30 AM**

1. Welcome and Introduction – Barb Bohlin, President.

Barb called the meeting to order at 9:48 am

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

The Minutes of the 2014 Annual General meeting are set out on p. 6 and 7 of the 2015 DSLPOA Directory.

Moved, Larry Olivo, seconded, Bert Bicknell, that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 2014 be accepted.

Passed unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report – Erin Neiman, Treasurer

Erin reviewed the 2014 Financial Statement, which is set out on p.8 and 9 of the 2015 DSLPOA Directory. Overall Revenue was \$11,874, with expenses at \$8,417, with a net operating surplus for the year of \$3,457. The total operating fund reserve is \$13,623. Erin noted that \$5.00 of the \$30.00 annual dues goes to the Lake Stewardship Fund. Because of our participation in the COHPOA shoreline restoration project, The Lake Steward Fund expenses were higher than usual resulting in a net deficit for the year of \$1044, which reduced the overall Lake Stewardship Operating Fund surplus to \$12,773 for 2014. It is noted that the surpluses in both the Operating and Lake Stewardship funds are available for unanticipated developments and expenses.

Erin then took questions. One member asked what kind of projects are contemplated for the general Operating Fund. Erin noted this was a reserve for unanticipated developments, and in particular the maintenance of lake water quality.

Dave LeFerle moved, and Rob Wormald seconded, that the Treasurer's report be approved

The report was approved unanimously

#### 4. News and Updates from the Municipality and County – Reeve and County Warden, Murray Fearrey and Councillor Derek Knowles, Ward 2;

Councillor Knowles had 2 issues which he wished to raise with the members.

The first had to do with waste disposal. In 2014 we shipped 650 big containers of recyclables plus the equivalent of 160 loads of demolition and construction waste, plus tires fridges, batteries etc. But household garbage is still filling the site up, so that at the main dump there are 5 to 8 years of use left. Consequently, we need to control what goes in, so he is requesting that we carefully sort our waste. He also noted that the municipality has a new policy whereby you may be asked to open your trunk to see what is there as a way of insuring that household waste is being properly recycled.

There will be a hazardous waste day on August 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Haliburton Dump.

If anyone is renting their cottage, he noted that the municipality has cottage kits with a temporary landfill pass, bags and recycling instructions available for \$3.

With respect to roads in our area, the current work plan is for some culvert work in the vicinity of Fred Jones Rd, and some patching elsewhere, but no other major projects for this year.

There has been some discussion of some hard-surface roads being allowed to revert back to gravel. He noted that we have 213 km of asphalt gravel roads supposed to last 8-10 years except that they don't, and are expensive to patch to

maintain. So the municipality will turn some of these back to gravel, but keep some hard-surface where we can. The roads that revert to gravel will be pulverized and maintained by grader. Grading will be done spring and fall, as is usually the case for gravel roads. Indian Pt. Road will stay hard surface. Derek noted that it costs \$30,000 for one kilometer of resurfaced road, and there is simply not enough in the budget to maintain all of the resurfaced roads.

Derek noted that there was a proposal before council to supply the municipality with liquefied natural gas. This is in the very early discussion stages, as to whether the project is feasible or not, and it will be years before anything comes of this. But he doubts anyone would benefit except in the village core, as the infrastructure expenses in less densely populated areas would be too high to be financially feasible.

Some questions followed, including whether there would be a re-evaluation of the roads being turned to gravel, based on traffic. Derek indicated that 2016 will be the year for restarting gravelling –although some already have undergone the process; Carroll Rd went back to gravel last Fall. Some there seem to like it. The municipality now has 2 graders going on a regular basis, so maintaining gravel roads can be handled.

Derek was also asked if there was a game plan for the landfill site 5-8 years from now, when it was anticipated to be full. He noted that some things are under consideration, but doesn't think another site in the area is viable at this time. Other alternatives are being considered but they are expensive.

Asked about the disposal of recyclable material—where is it sent and is it producing revenue, Derek noted that cardboard recycling generates income, but the other recyclables are more of a problem as there is the cost of transportation and disposal.

It was suggested that the municipality could put recycling information on a billboard at the entrance to the landfill site; Derek noted that the municipality was working on plan to reorganize entry to dump to make it more user friendly.

---

Murray Fearrey spoke next on two issues. The first is septic re-inspection. Lake associations are asking about this, and the municipality took this over from the local Health Unit. The records on inspections are not entirely clear. All the records of inspection attach to each property in the name of the owner at the time the septic licence was issued, so where the property subsequently sold, it is difficult to determine when a septic system was installed, and therefore, when it should be inspected. So this needs some records re-organization.

A bigger and related issue is that we have lost two septic disposal sites, a situation that is similar to that of other municipalities. We cannot simply dump septic waste into an existing sewer and it has to go on a land site, away from lakes and watercourses. So we have to find a new site; we are currently using long trenches and searching for other effective disposal sites.

In the meantime the best thing members can do is focus on shoreline restoration to keep phosphorous out of lakes, to give us time to do inspections with a view to owners doing necessary work to maintain systems. Because this can be expensive, we need to establish a capital loan fund to finance upgrades for those who can't do upgrades at their own expense, with a program for gradual repayment to the fund.

The second issue is taxation. There was an increase this year on the property tax of 2.14 % (about \$12 on each \$100,000 of assessed property value). The reason for this is that we had a bad year because of 2014 flooding, which resulted in expensive road repairs across the county. However, educational expenses are a bit lower, as a result of some provincial financial assistance. But we are also going into 2<sup>nd</sup> year of OPP costs being put on the municipal tax base, and with OPP contract talks coming up, we are not sure where that will go.

Murray quoted from a report that stated that if nothing changes, it is anticipated that property taxes will rise at a fairly steep rate projected over the next 10 years as the municipality has to pay for things we do not control: MPAC, police, for example. So money has to come out of what might otherwise be budgeted for infrastructure, and that begins to show in the state of things like roads and bridges. While the province says it will give municipalities more power to tax that

will just increase property taxes, unless the province permits tax increases to come from elsewhere; he cited as an example Newfoundland and Saskatchewan where those provinces have allotted a percentage of the sales tax to the municipalities.

Murray also noted other matters, that in his view, affected municipal cost exposure. For example the Ministry of Transportation does not set road specifications, so that provincial road maintenance contractors such as Miller Paving, set their own specifications, which results in more frequent repaving of roads which raises costs to taxpayers. There is also a need to have the province and municipalities jointly and severally liable for suits from those who claim a road was improperly maintained as the liability load falls otherwise solely on the municipality. Another factor is interest arbitration of municipal employee salary. If, for example, York Region with a higher cost of living, gets a particular amount, then local employees claim, and sometimes get the same amount, even though the cost of living locally is lower. The answer to these municipal financial problems may be to actively lobby governments, particularly in election years.

Some questions followed: One member asked about new provincial legislation permitting ATVs on roads. There are some restrictions, Murray noted, but they are difficult if not impossible to enforce.

Another question concerned controls over re-arrangement of buildings on existing lots where the surface is rearranged in ways that are detrimental to water flow and runoff. Murray noted that the new by law controlling removal of trees may be of use, but that otherwise one needs to contact the MNR, although controlling this kind of redevelopment has proven to be very difficult.

A further question was if there will be a septic inspection schedule. The answer is there will be, but it is not up and rolling just yet.

Murray was asked if the municipality could do anything about improving GPS reception. He noted that municipality has made info available to GPS service providers, but we can't force them to be more accurate.

He also noted that there is not much the municipality can do to get internet service improvements. Bell says it will put no more money into Haliburton county unless there is more business to justify it (how Bell is supposed to get more business, when it doesn't supply the service remains an unanswered question). Access in future is likely to be by cell towers for internet, bypassing Bell. When you get an application for a tower, Murray notes, you will have to decide whether you want it or not, weighing unsightliness against reception.

---

#### 5. Announcement of our Charitable Donations –

A decision to donate \$500 to ***The Haliburton Voluntary Fire Department*** was graciously accepted by the Fire Chief, Miles Maughan

In accepting the donation, Miles noted that they do their best with volunteers, who spend time training and responding.

He suggested we could help ourselves by having working smoke alarms. If there is a cottage fire, you usually have 3 to 5 min to clear out, once a fire starts, so the alarm can be a lifesaver, even if the property is destroyed.

Miles noted that we also have to have a CO detector if we have a fuel burner in the house (woodstove, or propane stove or heater) or have an attached garage.

Barb made a further suggestion that members have 911 signs on docks and trees along the shore. Miles noted that during a storm, they often use a boat to respond to calls, if roads are blocked. So dock signs are really helpful. Signs can be purchased from Vista Signs for \$20. There is contact info on our website about where and how to order.

Asked about fire pits, Miles noted portables-are legal and anyone can use them. They should not be placed on a deck though some people do. There have been some cottage fires resulting for deck placements.

#### 6. News From Area Director Coordinator – Barb Bohlin

Barb introduced Area Directors, identifying the areas they were responsible for. Area Directors are often a member's first stop for questions about the DSLPOA..

There are several areas where Area Director volunteers are needed

- 1)Carroll Road covering some 11 to 14 cottages
- 2) part of Indian Point Road from first Nation to Stratheden
- 3) Another Chance, Quinte and Tadmore

Distribution of new updated to 2015, laminated maps will be available from Area Directors for \$5.00 or free to new members. They were also available after meeting at the back of the meeting room.

Dave LeFerle passed out information cards for Helping Hand, a SIRCH body that has expanded a new service, not just for disabled, for small jobs around house that you can't or won't do. Have licensed septic Inspector and also licensed building and other inspectors available. They can be contacted at [www.sirch.on.ca](http://www.sirch.on.ca).

#### 7. Webmaster's Report – Martin Rist

Approximately 32,000+ site users since the DSLPOA website was set up by Martin. He noted that on line membership payment is becoming more popular, and that the site is used to pose questions, provide answers, and give notice of lost items, such as floating docks that have floated far from home.

Martin indicated that he was open to suggestions to consider upgrading and improving site. He noted that if you put in your email address, you can get automatic updates sent to you. There are links to local Haliburton papers, *Cottage Life*, and other local sites.

#### 8. Update on CEWF and Water Levels – Martin Rist

Members can go to the CEWF website ([www.cwef.ca](http://www.cwef.ca)) and obtain updates, including water level updates. This being an election year, the federal government has made a large contribution to the costs of improvements to the dams and reservoirs for the Trent canal system. The website has a graph showing lake levels, including the record breaking level from last year's storm. After storm water surpluses last year, we requested the Trent Severn administrators to leave an extra foot of water in Fall, as it will drop in winter anyway. They did and so it gave us slightly deeper water in late summer and fall. Martin hopes that this will be repeated this year and in subsequent years. This spring, the levels were a bit lower than average, as there was less snow. But our water came up in the spring, and the system was kept closed, so we are now at average levels.

The recent federal Infrastructure funding announced by the Federal Government will permit repairs and improvements to dams—Coboconk, Horseshoe and Kennesis are ones in our area. Some reconstruction will control the dumping of water downstream which will help maintain our lake level. As there are multiple jurisdictions involved the CEWF will be working to get municipalities more involved than they have been. With an election coming, we will be lobbying politicians to get commitments.

Barb noted that we are very fortunate to have Martin as our rep.

#### 9. Summer Events Update – Barb

The Sailing Race will be at 2 pm today, weather permitting. Members are urged to check our website for any news or changes in events with respect to summer events. Barb noted that Fun Day has a new location for this year, The Haliburton Fish Hatchery on Gelert Rd. 4 minutes south of the high school.

Barb asked that members please send us **photos** from any of our lake events or from scenes on the lake so that we can use them on the website and in the directory.

We need a new summer event coordinator. Barb noted this is not a hard or time-consuming job, but we do need someone to do this. Barb will work with and train applicant. Anyone interested should contact Barb.

## 10. Elections– Gary Oliver

The Positions up for election are set out below. Gary noted that transitions occur at the Fall Executive Meeting as the terms of former officers expire then. Over the course of Barb's tenure, we have divided jobs into more finite positions so people are not overburdened, and the work is divided among more people.

Barb has done the job for a very long time, and done a superb job, and Gary did not want to let event pass without recognition. Barb has always taken up any gaps.

Gary presented Barb with a gift from the Association as a demonstration of the members' appreciation of all of the work Barb has put in over the years.

Following on the new principle of limiting and defining assigned tasks to officers and members of the executive, the role of President will be different from what it has been. Barb will stay with some of the roles she had as President, but the new incumbent will take the administrative role to organize the AGM and the Spring and Fall executive meetings. It will now be not a huge job, or overly time consuming. Anyone interested should contact Barb or Gary.

No nominations were received, and the positions remain open for the time being. Anyone interested in these positions, should contact Barb Bohlin. Any volunteers will be mentored and assisted. The positions are:

- Vice President
- President
- Membership Chair
- Lake Steward

We also need someone to take over as coordinator of the summer events. Training is provided and you get to work with great event organizers.

Please let Barb know if you would be able to donate a couple hours or more to help out the association. Or see Gary after the meeting or email us.( Thanks to those who came forward as new volunteers!)

11. Early Bird Draw! 3 great prizes for those who have paid their fees!

Steve Glover

Rainer Hentschel

Ted and Linda Brankston

Many thanks to the Minden Wine Store, The Forest Festival and the Highlands Summer Festival for providing the prizes!

12. Update and discussion of the Shoreline Naturalization and Restoration project [SNRP]– Bert Bicknell and Barb Bohlin

Bert stated that in August 2014 he and Barb worked with several environmental organizations to conduct a shoreline assessment on all of the DSLPOA properties right down to dam on the Drag River. Two environmental student graduates were here for 2 weeks, with volunteer boat drivers, to look at 400 properties. They surveyed from the water and completed the data sheet, with shoreline details, structural changes, type of aquatic habitat, with comments about erosion where relevant. In addition to their work on the water, they also did a lot of data analysis

Confidential reports are now available, but are not easy to access. You will get a letter which will have a code that allows you to access information. The ordering process is not transparent, but we will put instructions on the DSLPOA web site, and you can email in any questions to the DSLPOA website.

The Report: one section is your personal information and many pages on what you might want to do to improve the quality of your site, with additional pages on how to do this.

Reports are strictly confidential and no one but you can see your site information. We are hoping to get a summary report at the end of the summer that provides an overview of our waterway results, but it won't give out individual information.

Bert noted that the Idea is to act now to take steps to help keep our water quality high, and it is up to us as we are a reservoir lake—we don't get runoff from other lakes coming into our lake

Bert and Barb spoke at length about lakeshore protections. The following is a summary of some major points with some suggestions on how we can maintain quality. The main source of problems is phosphorous leaking from septic fields. The best solution to this problem is lots of trees and plants with deep roots to intercept the flows with a naturalized shoreline.

There is a direct relationship between lake quality and natural shoreline---reduce grass, and create a natural zone at the shoreline; do not use fertilizer which would add nitrogen which makes runoff problems worse.

Plant native trees and shrubs, don't mow, leave wood debris, and let nature take its course. Don't use concrete steps or other hardened surfaces. Avoid cribs for dock supports. Prune trees but do not remove them.

Avoid using bleach and anti-bacterial soap and having it get into septic system.

The report will have all of this information, and more, in great detail.

---

How to get the report. Loveyourlake.ca is the website, and it is not very user friendly. Martin Rist took us through the steps with an indication of how to avoid errors. The site makes it look like you have to pay for the report, but in fact that is not the case. An explanation of how to navigate through the website to get your report will be put on the DSLPOA website.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55.

Larry Olivo, Recording Secretary

June 28, 2015