

DRAG AND SPRUCE LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 26, 2020 1PM

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING [on line via Zoom]

1. Zoom Meeting Logistics [Martin Rist and Rick Wesselman]. Note that the Minutes may be less detailed than minutes for an in- person meeting. Start time was delayed to allow members to sign in on Zoom. There is no proxy voting, and there is one vote per property. As of 1:09 pm we have a quorum. We have two guests: Councillor John Smith and Mayor Andrea Roberts. It was later noted that Councillor Larry Clark was also in attendance.

Meeting logistics—Martin Rist. Martin gave basic instructions on how to use Zoom and its options.

2. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions [Rick Wesselman]:

Rick called the meeting to order at 1:09pm, and introduced officers and guests

3. Secretary's Report [Larry Olivo]

a. Minutes of the 2019 AGM

Moved, Larry Olivo, seconded Martin Rist that the 2019 Minutes be accepted. Motion passed; Minutes accepted as posted

b. Constitution Amendment-Executive title change

This is a motion to amend article 4 as a result of the provincial government's requirements for registering information for a non profit corporation. As a not for profit corporation, we are required to have a president, secretary and 3 officers register contact information with the provincial government. To do this we need to change the titles of some of the members of the executive to "director". The amendment is a technical change of titles. There is no change in function of the offices.

Moved Larry Olivo, seconded, Rick Wesselman that the proposed updates to article 4 of the constitution be accepted. Motion passed, article 4 amended as posted.

4. Treasurer's Report- 2019 Year End Financials [Rick Wesselman]

Ben Wyatt having resigned as treasurer, was not able to present the budget. In his place, Rick presented the budget, as posted. Rick went through the posted budget

item totals, noting a balance \$22,955 in our operating account. The Lake Stewardship fund is in a negative balance due to the Milfoil expenses. Total cash in our account is at year end was \$32,298.

Moved, Rick Wesselman, seconded, Jim Miners, that the 2019 year end financial reports be accepted. Motion passed, and the 2019 year end financial reports are accepted.

5. Membership Chair's Report [Karen Gingrich]

Karen gave her membership report noting that our current membership number at 238, with membership predicted to be at year end at 288. Karen suggests that members talk to neighbours to encourage them to join. To keep track of renewals, reminders will be emailed in spring and fall. Members who pay by PayPal can check their payment status there.

Karen also noted with respect to the new Logo contest that we have 7 designs submitted with approximately 2 more to come, so the time is extended to October 1st for submissions, with a vote to follow on line on a date to be announced.

The membership report also posted the contact information for the DSLPOA, so it is easy to get in touch and obtain information.

Jim Miners said he had received a question about the format for the Directory, as to whether it shall be in paper or online. There is some concern with the latter about privacy, and members are invited to email their view to DSLPOA so that the executive can get a sense of what shall be done. Karen noted that there seemed to be an even split between those who favour the electronic vs paper version.

6. Eurasian Watermillfoil Project Status [Bert Bicknell, Jim Miners]

- a. Fieldwork:** Bert reported on the current status of the project to control Milfoil on our lakes. There are 2 large beds located off Harris Beach, and they have substantially grown over the past 5 years. The weed as noted on the slides [available on our website] is feathery but similar to other species. Our research showed that the best option was to cut the light to the weed beds, killing or reducing it, using coconut matting as advised based on research and advice from Trent University. We applied to the MNR for coverage of the Harris bed in 2017. We now know that the weed expands easily. We received a permit in 2019 to lay matting down between July 16-Oct 1. We used a dive company to cover the Harris bed with 5 rolls of matting at the Harris location. We got the matting at no cost from Trent University, and are now determining how much matting is

needed to suppress a weed bed, as 1 layer is often not enough, so we have used 2 and 3 layers in different areas.

We have now found 3 other areas as Bert noted, which will be dealt with, hopefully in the near future, using a dive team to lay out the matting and weigh it down with stone. The drone shot of the Harris matting, showed the matting having blocked out the weed it covers. We also recently discovered a stretch between the 2 weed beds that had nothing growing on it, but it was not clear why this area is barren.

The Ministry has told us our permit only covers Harris beach, so this fall, we will use our current matting supply [8 rolls] to cover the remaining area of the Harris weed beds—we intend to cover these beds with 1 layer to see how well that works. We also will move our markers to cover the beds if there is a change. We have also distributed newsletters, and have had the help of volunteers, including Emmerson Lumber which contributed some materials, to weigh the matts down. We have also posted signs at boat launch areas, warning boaters to stay out of the buoy marked areas so as not to cause the weeds to be cut up and start to spread further.

We have a dive team coming on Sept 28 to lay down the additional matting at Harris beach on parts of the weed bed not yet covered. We will be applying for further permission from the MNR for the 3 other sites we have identified as well as 2 other sites recently discovered. And Bert noted there may be still other sites, which will require further permits, and we hope to persuade the MNR to modify their application process to give us more leeway in dealing with beds as we discover them.

In addition to the beds off of Harris Beach, we have found beds at Jumping Rock near Podmore beach, East Bay, Bonhams Bay, and two recently discovered new ones, one off the entrance to Bonhams Bay and one near Gibraltar Bay.

Bert noted that we need, during installation of matting, to pick up pieces of broken milfoil resulting from matting being laid down as the pieces can drift and take root elsewhere, creating further weed beds

b. Communications, Awareness, Fundraising

We have raised approximately \$31,000 so far aiming for a goal of \$50,000 as this is an ongoing and serious problem of eradicating or suppressing the milfoil.

Bert noted in answer to a question, that eradication or reduction will be the result of our attempts to control the weed, as we don't know yet if the

matting will kill the roots; and in reports from other lakes, there is no indication that the weeds can be eradicated entirely, but we can expect, apparently, to be able to control the weed growth and expansion, and generally suppress it.

Another question is whether or not the process to suppress can be accelerated. Jim noted that this is an ongoing process. And hopefully municipal and provincial funding assistance can be obtained, and we will be approaching potential contributors beyond local property owners on the lake, potentially allowing us to be more aggressive in controlling the milfoil.

Jim noted we will have a new area on our website with updated information on the milfoil control process. He also noted we are considering placing markers near the new sites, to warn boaters to stay clear of it.

Jim noted that a weed bed has been located in Head Lake, where boats coming in and out of the lake can contribute to its further spread in the lake system.

Jim reported on fundraising and communications. He thanked Bert for his tremendous efforts so far, along with Mike Podmore and Bob Heyes. We will post the names of all volunteers on the website to thank them, along with those who have made financial contributions.

Jim reported that the EWM working group was formed this summer so we had a team to deal with the milfoil problem, both with fundraising, purchasing needed material, obtaining future permits to cover or harvest milfoil, locate milfoil beds, and engage volunteers and dive teams. We are also having the EMW group organize fund raising, and communications to lake users and interested parties, keeping a record of efforts to control milfoil and records of control results. Our online survey, available on the website, and via our Facebook site, has given us insights as to what communications methods work, how people learned about it, what their main concerns are. The results will be posted on our website.

We will continue to keep our members informed as matters progress.

On fundraising, phase 1 has been donations from property owners, some of whom have not been members of the DSLPOA, though many of them are joining. In phase 2 we are soliciting assistance via grant applications and other government agencies and funding programs. Phase 3 will seek contributions in kind or with payments from third parties and local businesses, though with the COVID issue, this last will not be easy this year.

A fair number of respondents indicated that they would be willing to volunteer to assist with our milfoil projects.

A question came in about how milfoil spreads; Bert noted a very small fragment can re-root and that pieces can drift for kilometers, so we must be very careful about controlling debris from matting installation. Bert is also very cautious about harvesting as a method of controlling the weed beds, as it will likely create debris which can then re-root.

The slides Bert has used at the meeting will be posted on our website.

c. Spending Limits

The motion tabled, as Rick notes, is to permit expanded spending beyond the constitutional limits of \$250.00 to support the EWM working group program. The motion tabled is designed to permit necessary spending on expenses in excess of \$250.00.

The motion was moved by Jim Miners, seconded by Karl Hartwick.

The motion passed unanimously to permit spending on the Milfoil project's expenses that are above the constitutional \$250 limit.

7. Shoreline Preservation By-Law [Mayor Andrea Roberts]

Mayor Roberts noted that the bylaw deals with a county wide problem and is set as a county bylaw. She noted that this summer had an explosion of building, partly due to the COVID issue, and partly due to get shoreline changes made before the new and expanded shoreline preservation by law goes into effect, which had a major impact on shorelines. Consideration of the bylaw has been underway for several years, and she noted there has been some negative reactions but lots of positive support. There is an existing by law, and the county executive is clear that a new and more extensive one will be required to control impact of major work on or near shorelines. The by law draft is being refined, and once it is ready there will be public consultation with likely passage of a shoreline preservation by law in late winter or early spring. Mayor Roberts noted is she is in favour of a new bylaw to protect the shoreline.

Councillor Larry Clark noted that the 30 meter coverage is currently at a straight, horizontal line from the highwater mark, though the by law is not finalized, and there are matters still to be determined concerning a variety of issues.

Rick noted there will be varied opinions on the by law among our members and we will try to support the general view of a majority of members. We will therefore be posting information about this matter as it goes forward with public consultation by the county, and proposed revisions to the by law. As the process goes forward we will be soliciting our members' views of the by-law.

8. Elections [Rick Wesselman]

a. 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents

1st VP:

Jim Miners volunteered to stand as 1st VP, and a motion to that effect, moved by Larry Olivo, seconded by Karen Gingrich was voted on by members at the meeting.

Jim Miners is elected unanimously as 1st VP.

2nd VP:

no nomination

b. Treasurer

Moved, Bob McMurchy, seconded, Barb Clive, Hunter Smith nominated as Treasurer.

Hunter Smith is elected unanimously as Treasurer.

c. Director, Event Coordination

No nomination

c. Officer at Large

No Nomination

2. Question and Answer [all]

Rick noted in answer to a question about how further and other issues can be dealt with, that we can have further zoom sessions to deal with any upcoming issues, with discussions and notice of meeting posted via email and our website.

There being no further questions, Moved, Karen Gingrich, that the meeting be adjourned. There being no disagreement on this and general membership approval, Rick adjourned the meeting

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.



Larry Olivo, Secretary, DSLPOA