



DRAG AND SPURCE LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, JULY 11, 2021

1. Call to Order and Zoom Meeting Logistics Rick Wesselman, Martin Rist

Logistics: Prior to the commencement of the meeting, Martin went over the logistics for members on how Zoom worked, asking members to stay muted, unless speaking, and use “chat” to type questions to members or individuals. To simplify the voting process members were asked to remain silent if they consented, and only if not consenting, to use the reaction box to check “no”. The meeting is also to be recorded, and is available on-line for 60 days following the meeting. The link is posted on the DSLPOA website at <https://dragnadsprucelakes.ca>

Call to order: The required quorum of 30 members and 4 officers was reached at 1:02 pm. Numbers of attending reached a maximum of 48 during the meeting. As quorum was reached, Rick called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

2. Introductions Rick Wesselman

Rick Wesselman introduced the members of the Executive. He also noted that there were 3 vacant offices: 2nd V.P., Director, Event Coordination, and Officer at Large.

Update on communication sites: Martin updated members on changes to the communication sites, including a new Instagram Account for Eurasian Milfoil [EWM]. There is also a new Twitter Account, and the DSLPOA website can give members access to E-Elerts, where they can sign up to get these via email. Martin also noted that the Facebook site was very popular with lots of traffic. Details about the communications are available on the DSLPOA website.

3. Secretary's Report - Minutes of the 2020 AGM Larry Olivo

The Minutes of the 2020 AGM were posted to the website for viewing prior to the meeting. No members indicated any updates or corrections.

Moved, Larry Olivo, Seconded, Hunter Smith, that the Minutes of the 202 AGM be approved.

Passed unanimously

4. Treasurer's Report - 2020 Year End Financials Hunter Smith

Hunter presented the Treasurer's Report. Total income in the general account was \$13,675, expenses were \$9,728, with a surplus of \$4,447, with a total fund balance of \$27,402. The balance in the Lake Stewardship Fund was \$18,149. The EWM fund balance was \$19,147. Total assets from all accounts were \$64,199.

Moved, Hunter Smith, seconded Larry Olivo, that the 2020 Treasurer's Report be approved.

Passed unanimously

5. Membership Report Karen Gingrich

Karen reported that the total number of members as of December 31, 2020 was 282, which is the highest number of members in recent history. Karen noted that some paid by cheque and a few in cash, which she described as the least preferable, as it made recording and tracking payments more difficult and prone to error. It is easier if members used PayPal or E-transfer, as it makes record keeping and tracking memberships much easier. If members are paying annually automatically, they are advised to remember to update credit card information if there are changes on the credit card account. If members use e-transfer, remember to include the cottage 911 address, or other ID.

Karen also noted that the annual Directory is sent to all paid up members.

She also noted that the New Logo for the association, designed by Jordan Stacey, was approved and is now in use.

For members to obtain information, e-mail is the most common method of communicating with the association, and information that used to pass orally from Area Representatives [formerly called Area Directors], now more often reaches members via email. There are fewer representatives than in the past, but they will still be used for following up on issues face to face so restructuring is possible, but the position will not be eliminated.

Karen also noted that she is looking for 1 or 2 volunteers to assist with clerical matters relating to maintaining membership information and records. Anyone interested should contact her. Her contact information is on the association website.

6. Donation to local charity Rick Wesselman

Rick announced that our usual \$500 charitable donation has been increased this year because of the local needs generated by the COVID pandemic. The charitable donations were made to:

- Haliburton 4C Foodbank-\$500.00
- SIRCH Community Services-\$500.00

7. Lake Steward Report Bert Bicknell, Jim Miners

a) Eurasian Watermilfoil Status: Bert reported that there are 13 biodegradable coconut fibre mats that were deployed in 2 commercial dive sessions in July and September, 2020. EWM areas with considerable growth are apparent but there is less than there was in 2020. Growth control continues to be monitored by volunteers using drone and surface observation and underwater photography.

Bert noted that in 2021, control activity is underway. We have now received approval from the MNR to lay mats in 4 locations, one on Harris Beach and in 3 other areas. Fundraising has begun and an appeal made for volunteers to assist in the process. The EWM working group is also reaching out to the Dysart Council, and other lake associations to coordinate advocacy and request provincial and local government assistance.

The process of identifying and controlling EWM has been assisted with a donation by Wayne Hussey of a floating dock which has been repaired and can be used to bring out rocks to hold down the matting on EWM beds. We have also obtained more fibre and burlap mats and have had some materials donated by Emmerson Lumber and by Haliburton Lumber. Bob and Jane Heyes have made their beach on East Bay available to store the floating dock and matting materials. We expect to be able to start our operations for 2021 to lay down matting from July 16 to October 1, having now received formal permission from the MNR.

The 4 locations for 2021 include an expansion of the matting off of Harris Beach, the back of Bonham's Bay in the northwest corner, East Bay between the Johnson and Munn docks, and an area just off Podmore Beach. On one of these sites both coconut matting and burlap matting will be used to compare their effectiveness for use in future matting projects. Jim posted slides of the current EWM sites that with which we will be dealing.

To date there do not appear to be any EWM sites in Spruce Lake, but there is concern that the Outlook Bay area with outflow from the rest of Drag Lake, and its depth of 10-15 feet which is where EWM often roots, may become an EWM bed site in future. So it will be watched.

In addition to the current matting projects, both Bert and Jim Miners noted that hand harvesting will be tried in the second East Bay location. Jim noted that hand harvesting is permitted under the Invasive Species Act without a permit if done on waterfront right in front of an owner's property, as long as certain conditions, such as timing, are met. The East Bay trial will act as a guide for future harvesting.

Jim also noted that if boat propellers get caught in and rip the EWM bed, it is important to stop and remove the torn EWM, collect it and get it out of the water to prevent it from spreading and creating new bed.

There was a member's question as to whether there was Blue Green Algae on our lake; Bert noted there were no reports of this, but that it is on our watch list.

Jim and Bert also dealt with questions posted during the Zoom annual meeting: Instructions on how to deal with and identify EWM can be found on our website. As to how big a bed is before it is

matted, the size is not so much an issue as is how accessible it is. As to whether EWM flowers, it does, but this is not considered to be the primary means of spreading.

b) Chinese Mystery Snails: Bert also noted that 6 volunteers have done the CHA training program for the identification and removal of Chinese Mystery Snails. This is an invasive species, but does not appear to be in Drag and Spruce Lake, but is apparently in Lake Kashagawigamog. The snails are found in shallow water, often in large numbers.

c) U-Links Research Projects: As Jim noted, we have 2 Trent University students working with us—Veronica and Matt; their assistance was obtained through U-Links. For privacy reasons, we cannot reveal last names. Veronica is reviewing and summarizing findings from existing research and other reports. Matt is sampling lake water and the material on the lake bottoms, and identifying various weeds at or near our EWM outbreak locations.

d) Fundraising: Jim noted that currently no local contractors have contributed to the EWM fund, and Jim suggested that if members are hiring contractors, they should ask them to consider making a contribution. Jim and the EWM Working Group have also approached the Dysart Council, the Mayor, and Deputy Mayor for funding assistance. The council did pass a favourable resolution to assist, but there has been no response from Dysart, and this despite the fact that there is a sizeable and dense bed near the docking area at the park on Head Lake. Jim indicated we do not have charitable status, although we did consider this status change. At this time, we have decided to maintain our not-for-profit status to keep things administratively simple. The EWM Working Group will continue to communicate with the membership and others to raise further funds for the EWM control efforts.

As well, following the meeting, the EWM received a very generous anonymous donation of \$5,000 which will be very helpful in working on the current matting projects.

e) Communications and Awareness:

Dominique Binckley is coordinating our volunteer group to assist in verification of possible EWM beds, and assisting in work related to the matting and eradication projects now underway. More information on this is available on the website. The EWM group will continue to work on communications to ensure people are aware of the EWM problem and know what to do to identify beds, and what to do to avoid spreading them and assisting in suppressing them.

Moved, Rick Wesselman, seconded, Martin Rist, that the EWM Working Group be permitted to borrow funds from the Lake Stewardship Fund as needed to complete its 2021 work program on the condition that the borrowed funds be returned in 2022 through fundraising and before funds are spent on 2022 work program items.

Passed unanimously

8. Elections Rick Wesselman

Jim noted that after the meeting if an office is vacant and a member wishes to fill the position, he or she can put their name forward for appointment by the Executive, with the appointment to be approved by a vote of the members at the next meeting of the association.

a) 2nd Vice President

No nominations

b) Director, Event Coordination

No nominations

c) Officer at Large

Moved, Rick Wesselman, seconded Larry Olivo, that Laurie Jennings be elected Officer at Large.

Passed unanimously.

9. Question & Answer

There were no further questions.

Moved, Bert Bicknell, seconded Larry Olivo, that the 2021 Annual Meeting be now adjourned.

Passed unanimously

The Annual Meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Olivo', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Laurence M. Olivo, Secretary DSLPOA