

Drag and Spruce Lake Property Owners Association
Annual General Meeting Minutes
July 9, 2017

1. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

The meeting called to order at 10 am by Karl Gonnson who introduced the Executive and asked each to stand as their name was called.

2. Secretary's Report

Karl explained that our secretary Larry Olivo was probably enjoying a "wee dram" in Scotland and in his stead today Catharine Gonnson would record the minutes. The Minutes from the 2016 AGM as recorded by secretary Larry Olivo were published in the 2017 Directory and presuming all had sufficient time to read them a vote was taken . Moved by Dave LeFerle to accept these as published, Seconded by Peter Markel. Vote carried.

3. Treasurer's Report

Erin Neiman gave the Treasurer's Report noting that the fund balance at the end of 2016 was \$ 14.3K. The acceptance of the report was moved by Judy Neiman and seconded by Donna McCallum. Vote carried.

4. Presentation of our Charitable Donation for 2017

The presentation was done by Directory Chair Donna McCallum. This year's recipient was SIRCH which stands for Supportive Initiative for Residents in the County of Haliburton. Gena Robertson from SIRCH accepted and gave a short and enlightening talk on the more than 20 programs and work done by this great group of people.

5. Karl briefly discussed the packages that had been put out on the seats containing a lot of local information and thanked the Coalition of Haliburton Association, Echo and Parker Pal for provided them free of charge.

6. Karl called upon Bert Bicknell to welcome and introduce his neighbours, Colin and Justin as the newest members of the Drag and Spruce Lake Property Owner's Association. Colin jokingly assured us that although they had just sold one of their two properties, we could all rest easy because contrary to the rumour, they had NOT sold to Premier Wynne. Both Colin and Justin indicated how much they appreciate the natural beauty of the "Highlands" which remind them of home in Scotland, and find it much preferable to busy Muskoka.

7. Speakers for the day

Jeff Papiez and Greg Freeman, were introduced by Barb Bohlin. They educated and updated the Association on their efforts over several years on Soyers Lake with Navigation Markers and Speed Limits on the water. It was a very interesting talk with a lot of great new information provided to our Association from these gentleman. They spoke about Transport Canada guidelines, the three main markers that matter are:

- 1) red/green upstream downstream
- 2) yellow caution markers and
- 3) (sorry can't remember what the third was) CAN ANYONE HELP?

and the problem of private buoys, and the \$45 a year their group spends per year on insurance for the Association in regard to this important initiative. There were many questions for the speakers and a general membership vote was taken as to whether we wanted to pursue this for our Lakes. Moved by Judy Neiman to pursue more information and form a committee to study this matter further. Seconded by Frank Abby. The vote was 8 against and 30 for carried.

Names of individuals willing to stand on this committee were:

Daren Maloney
Merilla Russell
Les Condor
Beniola Greenlow
Rick Wesselman
Frank Abbey
Stan Consking
Gunar Jensen
Barb Bohlin

8. News from the County and Dysart

Councillor Dennis Casey spoke briefly about being aware of the many volunteers in the community who respond to emergencies and knowing what their emergency lights look like on their private vehicles when they are hurrying to respond to a call.

Reeve Murray Ferry spoke about the 150th Canada DVD that has been made by Kim Emmerson who travelled to England to research some of our Haliburton history. He also spoke about garbage and sewage, running out of landfill space and the need for septic re-inspections, also briefly about shoreline restoration issues near and dear to our hearts.

9. Membership Report and Early Bird Draw

Karen Gingrich reported that there were 116 paid up members for this year (early bird entries) and then 20 more had paid at the AGM this morning. The early bird draw winners were none other than Collin and Justin, Michael and Nancy Stinson, and Brad and Lori Francis.

Karen wanted us to know she is a permanent year round resident on Drag Lake. There was discussion around the need of our association to input info into a database such as Microsoft Access that could facilitate more efficiency and make updates such as address changes easier etc. We are seeking where possible the email address and appropriate permissions from our members for this. Road Association were considered as possible places to obtain property owner information if needed and a possible outreach for new membership was suggested such as Chestnut Hill Realty where real estate agents offer new property owners a free first year membership to a Property Owners Association of the Lake they purchase on. Membership dues for the year may be paid right up until the end of a calendar year for that year but obviously we prefer to collect early. Also people should be aware that the names printed in the Directory are not necessarily all paid up members. They reflect our best efforts at contact information for any property owners on our lakes whether members or not. We presently believe only about half the property owners are members of our association and we wish to improve this.

10. Lake Stewards Report

As always Bert Bicknell kept us up to date with his report on the health of our lakes. So far we are free of most of the nasties that have invaded lots of other lakes and a question was asked about the weed bed opposite East Bay which Bert said is Eurasian Milfoil and cautioned all to leave it alone..

11. Webmaster's Report

Martin Rist told us about the dam which being rehabilitated this year and discussed the record high water levels we have been experiencing with all that entails. He says the Trent Severn is drawing down. Our website is an important tool to keep us in touch with one another and what is happening on our lakes so please use it. Martin also advised that our association now on Facebook and that about 100 members had joined.

12. Area Director Co-Coordinator Report and Summer Events

Barb Bohlin advised that we are seeking an Area Director for Indian Point between First Nations and Strathem so please volunteer. New 3rd edition laminated maps have been made and are available for \$10 per copy. Our Association puts on 8 events each year for a total cost of \$910 in total

which is great and our approximately 30 volunteers are terrific. The schedule of events is in the 2017 directory.

13. Elections

We are now lacking a Second Vice President.

Anyone who wants to volunteer please call Karl Gonnson.

Nomination of Rick Wesselman for First Vice President was moved by Barb Bohlin, seconded by Peter Markel. Carried.

Nomination of Karen Gingrich for Membership Director moved by _____, seconded by _____. Carried.

14. Update on Biochar

Karl Gonnson stated he has a conflict in this area as his wife is an appellant in the OMB hearing along with three other property owners of our Association.

Interested members are encouraged to go to the website for past updates. Karl indicated that settlement discussions with Haliburton Forest Biochar were now scheduled for the following week..

15. Future Direction of DLPOA

Karl summed up on

- membership drive
- improving communications with our members
- updating our "member database"
- updating our constitution and by-laws
- protecting our lakes and way of life

and I'm sorry I have written on my notes that there was a motion by Donna McCallum seconded by Phillis LeFerle to make membership personal (which makes no sense to me whatsoever) so if anyone can remember this or what it was about please fill in this gap or I will just strike it from the minutes as the scribbles of a lunatic.

No New Business and we adjourned by 12:00 noon.

Catharine