

DRAG AND SPRUCE LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, JULY 7, 2019

MINUTES

1. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions-Rick Wesselman, Vice President. Rick called the meeting to order at 9:45 am, a quorum having been reached. Rick then introduced the executive members, Karl Gonnson has tabled his resignation for health reasons effective immediately. The members thanked Karl for his past service to the organization.

2. Presentation of Charitable Donation. Each year we make a donation to local organizations; this year it is being split between two organizations.

Donna McCallum - Abbey Retreat Centre –Donna introduced this organization and Doug Norris who is one of the key members. This is a new organization, taking in cancer patients on a retreat to assist them in acquiring skills to deal with handling their illness. This service is provided at no cost to participants. Doug Norris spoke briefly to explain how the system works to help establish connections with others involved that will assist them and help them to rest connect and thrive, using a 4 day program. Doug also explained that the retreat also offers space for other organizations and events, as part of the goal of being a useful presence in the county for individuals and organizations. He thanked the DSLPOA for its donation.

Barb Bohlin – Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary - Barb introduced this organization. It treats and releases injured wild animals, and is funded solely on public donations. Monica Melichar is licensed for handling wildlife, and is well skilled in dealing with these issues. Monica spoke, thanking the many volunteers who assist at the sanctuary. The organization handles all kinds of birds, small mammals, fawns and other creatures. This is a daily and ongoing operation, and she noted that the turtle trauma centre is currently overwhelmed and being expanded to treat the many who are injured from road accidents. Monica noted that they would welcome any volunteers over the age of 16 who wished to assist. They have occasional open houses to recruit volunteers. Further information is on their website, woodlandswildlifesancurty.ca Monica thanked the DSLPOA for its donation.

3. News from the Municipality of Dysart

Deputy Mayor Pat Kennedy

Taxes have been increased by 6.7% in order to continue to deliver services including road repairs which were up this year, perhaps because of climate change and a difficult winter. The road crews were fully utilized. He noted that Harburn Road is being extensively repaired and upgraded. While taxes are up, we are still lowest in the county, although we are the largest municipality with the most road mileage.

With respect to the lakes, the tree cutting county by law has been upgraded, and consent is required from the municipality to remove a tree on the shoreline. Call an arborist or Jamie Rogers to get clearance to remove a tree, and take a picture of the tree being removed. New shoreline protection is

being enhanced as the lakes are important economically to the community. The goal is preservation of natural shoreline within 30 meters of the high water mark to preserve shoreline and trees maintaining natural cover. Municipalities will also put other controls in place, including barring the use of fertilizer, and requiring a lot's shoreline to have 75 % natural cover. There is also action on climate change with installation of larger culverts to handle heavier rainfall as well as taking other measures.

Amalgamation is also an issue. The county is looking to combine municipalities, and Pat is not in favour as he thinks it will cause taxes to rise. The county is looking to see if services overlap and can be more efficient with less duplication, for example with common purchasing to reduce costs, and perhaps moving landfill sites to oversight and management by the county. Generally, moving some services to single tier is perceived by many as being more efficient.

The fireworks by law has met some opposition by those who don't want restricted use-and by some who want no fireworks at all. The by law may need some modification of its language. Added attention is also being given to the noise by law -- you can phone in a noise complaint without leaving your name. By law enforcement may follow, first with education, and then if necessary with fines.

Broadband- the Federal and provincial government have now committed funds to the Broadband initiative that will result in transmission from sight line rather than wires directly to the house, which will be via signals from higher and then lower towers to cover the territory. This will hopefully eliminate cell phone gaps, but this is still in the planning stage.

The county is looking for more physicians for the area. If members know of any physicians who might be interested in providing services in Haliburton, contact Pat Kennedy.

Problems with cottage rental issues are best dealt with by calling by-law enforcement regarding things like noise and parking on roads. Dysart is looking at further legislative controls in this area.

Councilor Larry Clarke

We are trying to increase control on matters connected to climate change. Road conditions are primary. A second issue is septic systems with higher water temperatures causing the need to control outflow affecting lakes. With inspections we have seen a 30% failure rate. In Dysart, in future, pump outs will be tied to inspections. It will likely be several years before this comes into place on Drag and Spruce Lake. New systems won't be subject to inspection. Licensed inspectors are listed on the Dysart website.

The dump is another big issue. Costs have risen regarding waste diversion for recycling. There is a home composting program being developed, as provincial regulations do not permit this on the current dump site. Later in 2020, Haliburton's dump will be a transfer station rather than landfill. The biggest problem for the dump is construction waste, and we are looking a program for segregating construction waste to redirect it for processing.

Fire Chief Mike Iles

A key matter is smoke alarms. It is likely that 30-40% are not compliant. Smoke alarms need to be checked to see they are not expired, and battery and hardwired units need to be checked, as does the

backup battery even on hardwired alarms. Check to see the alarms have working batteries, that the test of the alarm works, and that the alarm has not expired. If you make a 911 call on landline, there is no problem, but if you call on a cellphone, the 911 operator can't tell where the call is coming from. Be sure if using a cellphone that you give the 911 operator your location. Think twice about putting a gate or locking it on your property, as it can slow down the response of an emergency crew. If you have a home alarm system with a smoke alarm, be sure someone nearby has a key, if the alarm goes off to avoid having the responders break down a door. The alarm company also needs a number where they can reach you here.

The daytime burning regulations have been upgraded with those of other county municipalities to make them consistent. Burning is now from 7pm rather than 2 hours before sunset. The fire should be of combustible materials, away from the house, overseen by a responsible person, with a means of extinguishment. Also insure it is fully out before bedtime. If fires are seen to be running during the day, you can call the fire office [705 457 2126 or miles@dysartetal.ca] for follow up, or if an immediate threat, call 911. Sending out a truck can be charged to the person running a daytime fire contrary to the by-laws.

4. Secretary's Report - Minutes of the 2018 AGM- Larry Olivo

The draft minutes were posted to the DSLPOA website and are in the 2019 edition of the Lake Directory.

As we are a not for profit corporation, incorporated in 1979 by Letters Patent, we are obliged to provide the Ministry of Government Services with up to date corporate information as to who current officers are. This has apparently not been done before, but we are doing it now, and I ask that all officers elected today fill out page 2 of the Corporate Information form with the required information and give it to me before leaving the meeting today.

MOVED, Larry Olivo, Seconded Peter Markel, that the Minutes as posted be accepted

Passed unanimously

5. Treasurer's Report Erin Neimann

Erin posted the Treasurer's report and it is also set out in the 2019 Directory. It indicates we had a very good year, increasing our total net income, helping to cover the cost of the navigation buoys. Other income and expense items are fairly consistent. \$5.00 of each membership covers the Lake Steward program including program costs in that area. Our financial position is that we had a net surplus of over \$19,000 which rose about \$1000 from the previous year. Our current assets include cash in our account in the amount of \$35,926. We have over half lake residents paying the membership. Rick noted we keep a cash reserve in part in case of environmental issues.

Erin announced that she will not be running for this office this year. The members thanked her for her efforts over the past two terms

MOVED, Erin Neimann, seconded Joe Sebesta, to accept financial statement as presented and posted,

Passed unanimously

6. Membership Report- Karen Gingrich

Karen reported that we are improving and developing our communications system with membership, through use of the new database. Accurate membership information will be confirmed over the summer as Area Directors make contact with everyone on their lists. Members should check the Directory to be sure the information is accurate, and report any discrepancy to Karen or the area director.

The membership fee will continue to be \$30.00 per year, given the current state of our reserves

7. Area Director's Co-ordinator's Report-Barb Bohlin

Barb works carefully with Karen and the area directors. Barb called up Joe Sebesta to thank him for 20 years of service as an area director. His post is now vacant, as is the position for Sand Point , Mural Lane, off Indian Point Rd. previously staffed by Nancy McNair, who has retired. Our thanks to Nancy for her service. Anyone interested in filling these positions should contact Barb.

One thing area directors are doing is giving out laminated maps, recently updated, to new members. If other members want one, they are available for \$5.00. Barb introduced the area directors to the membership with thanks for their continued service.

8. Webmaster's Report-Martin Rist

Martin reported on the website and its further development, and how to contact it, and receive updates. He also noted that you can pay membership via PayPal on line from the website. There is now a link to Facebook to create a community bulletin board. Anyone can view it, but if you want to post you have to join the group from the link on the website. There are also a variety of accessible resources on the site and links to other sites of interest. The website can be reached at dragandsprucelakes.ca

Martin also reported on the Coalition for Equitable Waterflow, (CEWF) which reports on water levels, flooding etc. Lake level information is available on line via the link from our website. Water levels are very high this year, and the CEWF expects climate extremes to cause both high and low water, and the general advice is to anticipate this and be prepared.

9. Lake Steward's Report-Bert Bicknell

Bert notes that the committee keeps a careful watch on lake quality. We are currently running an invasive species test system, but the Ford government has cut funding and the program is being eliminated. However, 2 individuals through the CHA, [Centre for Haliburton Associations] have gotten volunteers to fund and run the program, so we will continue to participate. Bert has done the data gathering on Drag Lake, but we need someone to run this on Spruce Lake. There are two volunteers for this, fortunately.

Bert was at a CHA meeting where the focus is on continuing to test water samples for chemicals as well as of invasive species. Bert noted the lake quality continues to be fairly constant, and is doing well. The main threat is malfunctioning septic systems so this will require attention, and as noted earlier, septic inspections will become mandatory.

Bert noted the Milfoil off Harris Beach, 300 yards off shore, 8 to 12 feet deep at season start. It is currently marked by 4 buoys. The weeds can come close to the surface, and is an invasive species. Bert is in the process of arranging to put down a mat to cover the Milfoil to hopefully kill it off. The program is run by Dr. Eric Sager of Trent University, and we are in process of getting involved in this and getting an MNR permit to deal with it this year. The mat should cut the light to the weed to slow the weed down, but probably not eliminate it. The matting is not toxic and will gradually biodegrade. We have the rolls of matting and are ready to go, and it is a big task but we will try it with student help once we get a permit. If we can't get it done this year, we certainly will next year. The DSLPOA has put up funding for this. Bert also warned people to stay outside of the area marked by the 4 buoys and not to cut, or run boats through the Milfoil bed, as this increases its spread. Two members noted 2 other possible sites for Milfoil in the area near Lazy Bay which we will check.

Generally, Bert notes on the basis of testing over time via the Lake Partner Program, there has been little change in the lake water quality, though lake temperatures have risen somewhat in this period, which may increase plant growth. Shoreline restoration and maintenance, and septic inspections will also help to maintain lake water quality.

10. Navigation Committee Report-Rick Wesselman

Following approval last year, we have placed buoys in all the noted danger areas. There have been no issues with vessels hitting markers, and we have noted some areas with signage to encourage safer navigation. So far, the program has met with approval. Volunteers are necessary to place buoys in the spring and take them out in the fall. Volunteers should contact Rick. If anyone notes an area they think is needing a marker, contact Rick about any danger areas or areas with Milfoil. Rick notes that the marked areas are on the map on line on our website. One member has asked for signage for Lazy Bay to slow boat traffic.

11. Summer Events-Barb Bohlin

Barb noted the summer events, which can be found listed on line on our website and in the lake directory. She encourage people to come out as a way to meet neighbours. Many thanks to volunteers

who have run these programs over the years. Anyone wishing to get involved, contact Barb. If there are weather issues affecting a program, the information will be on the website if the event needs to be cancelled.

12. Early Bird Draw-Karen Gingrich

The following is the outcome of the early bird draw

1. Drone photography of your property donated by Trillium Team, Royal Le Page.

Cindy Nightingale

2. Tickets to Highland Summer Festival

John McPherson

3. One year subscription to the *Haliburton Echo*

Deb Farquaharson

4. Year membership in DSLPOA 2019-2020

Bob Norris

13. Elections -Barb Bohlin

President:

As Karl has resigned his position for health reasons, the President's position is open. The Members thanked Karl for his years of service as President.

Moved, Kathy Wesselman, seconded, Erin Neiman, that Rick Wesselman be elected President.

There being no further nominees, Rick is declared elected.

Vice President:

There being no-one nominated, this position is and remains vacant.

Secretary:

Moved, Joyce Moore, seconded, Bert Bicknell, that Larry Olivo be elected Secretary

There being no further nominees, Larry is declared elected

Treasurer:

Moved, Erin Neimann, seconded Martin Rist, that Ben Wyatt be elected Treasurer

There being no further nominees, Ben is declared elected.

Lake Steward:

Moved, Larry Olivo, seconded Martin Rist, that Bert Bicknell be elected Lake Steward.

There being no further nominees, Bert is declared elected.

Directory Editor:

Moved, Catharine Gonnsen, seconded Linda Rist, that Donna McCallum be elected Directory Editor

There being no further nominees, Donna is declared elected

Membership Chair:

Moved, Donna McCallum, seconded, Gary Hunt, that Karen Gingrich be elected Membership Chair

There being no further nominees, Karen is declared elected.

Webmaster:

Moved, Larry Olivo, seconded, Kathy Wesselman, that Martin Rist be elected Webmaster

There being no further nominees, Martin is declared elected.

Advertising Coordinator:

Moved, Barb Bohlin, seconded Rick Wesselman that both Terry Hartwick and Merla Russel be elected to share this position.

There being no further nominees, Terry and Merla are declared elected.

Officers at Large:

Moved, Barb Bohlin, seconded Erin Neimann, that Robert Norris be elected as an Officer at Large.

There being no further nominees, Robert is declared elected. The second position is currently filled by Jim Miners, whose term is not expired.

Event Coordinator:

Moved, Joyce Moore, seconded Bill Wilson, that Barb Bohlin be elected as Event Coordinator

There being no further nominees, Barb is declared elected. As there is a second person to be elected and there being no further nominations, the second position is declared vacant.

Area Director:

Moved, Larry Olivo, seconded, Bert Bicknell, that Barb Bohlin be elected as Area Director Coordinator.

There being no further nominees, Barb is declared elected.

13. Other Business

a. **Issues involving private property-** A note that there have been complaints about trespass, with a dog, or a swimmer jumping off a cliff, or hiking, on private property. Please respect other people's property and caution guests not to trespass.

b. **By law enforcement-** There is some resistance to reporting by law infractions. We are currently investigating how and whether by law infractions can be reported through the Lake Association to be passed on to the municipal by law enforcement staff. We will report on a proposal at the next annual meeting and put the proposal to a vote by the members.

c. **Subdivision requests-** None we are aware of.

d. **vacant lots on the lake-** Yes there are, more on Drag than Spruce Lake.

e. **midnight markers**— the term refers to markers put out by individuals and which are not officially authorized under federal or provincial regulations. These unauthorized placements expose those who place them to liability, and members are warned to refrain from placing midnight markers.

14. Motion to Adjourn:

Moved, Gary Hunt, seconded Peter Markle, that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.



Larry Olivo

Secretary, DSLPOA

July 7, 2019

