

CLEAR LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

JULY 8, 2017

PRESENT: CLPOA Board Members **Ron Algate, Charles Wilkins, Dennis Cartwright, Ian McClennan, Michael Silver, Margaret Kenwright (Erin Beckett and Past President Gary Deathe absent with regrets);** Membership Volunteer Chair **Sharon Cleverdon;** Water Testing Volunteers **Bob Cleverdon, Sharon Cleverdon;** Estimated attendance **50 CLPOA Members.**

GUESTS: Township of Muskoka Lakes (TML) Mayor **Don Furniss,** District and Township Councillor **Ruth Nishikawa,** Township Councillor **Donelda Hayes,** Safe Quiet Lakes Board Member **Karen Dalton.**

10:10am: Dennis Cartwright opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

A Minute of Silence honored the recent passing of members of our Clear Lake community, namely **Margaret Campbell, Heather Cartwright, Beverley Hayhurst, Ed Johnston.** Condolences also to families of those whose names may have been missed.

A hearty welcome to Clear Lake's new residents **Rick and Anne McFadden** of 1055 Ridge Rd.

PRESENTATIONS:

(I) TML MAYOR DON FURNISS

1. OPP COST TO TML has risen by 70% since 2015. TML Council studies conclude that within the District of Muskoka, taxpayers of TML are subsidizing part of the costs of OPP to service Bracebridge and Gravenhurst. **Mayor Furniss** will provide electronically the cost details that he covered today to the Executive of CLPOA for distribution, along with a form letter petition to sign and send to Premier Kathleen Wynne. TML Council estimates an impact of about \$300 per property and suggests it is in our financial interest to help convince Premier Wynne there should be fair tax allocation.
2. TAX CONCERNS, INFRASTRUCTURE DEFICIT **Mayor Furniss** and TML Council hope not to be in a deficit situation two years from now. An upcoming public session, about two hours in length, will explore ideas. Among questions discussed, "What services are expected?" "How do costs relate to expectations and use of facilities?" Contact TML for the August Public Session date. Results will be considered in TML 2018 budget.
3. PROPOSED MEDICAL MARIJUANA FACILITY – TML Council turned down the application but the issue is being appealed at Ontario Municipal Board (OMB). **Mayor Furniss** said if Council is not successful at OMB, at least, as with several throughout the country, the facility could provide some jobs and its processes and distribution would be highly regulated.
4. INTERSECTION OF MUSKOKA RDs 169 & 13 (Southwood Rd) – Members **Suzanne McClennan, Dennis Cartwright,** and **Councillor Ruth Nishikawa** voiced concern that parked cars at the restaurant (PIE) inhibit space to make turns. Although barrels of plants now keep parked cars off the north side of the road, the concern is more cars once the neighboring Clear Lake Brewery opens. **Mayor Furniss** said that a certain number of parking spaces are required according to customer capacity. A By Law officer has been by and can be contacted to respond to problems.
5. BALA FALLS UPDATE - **Mayor Furniss** said he believes that Swift River Energy has received, or is about to receive, Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) Directors' clearance under the Land Improvement Act. Meetings have been held to arrange Insurance coverage for District access. Retained contractors are ready to begin. **Mayor Furniss** anticipates activity later this summer. With modern and detailed engineering, the footprint will be relatively small and on land.

Questions from the Floor to Mayor Furniss:

- Bala Falls Hydro Plant: Mike Silver asked whether the dam would further reduce the level of water in Lake Muskoka in the summer when the water level is already low. Mayor Furniss explained that to his knowledge the dam will not operate during low level conditions. It will run when there is water and be shut off when water is low.
 - Torrance Barrens: Jiri Skopek asked whether there is a way to keep the Barrens free of garbage. He saw messes left by campers. Mayor Furniss said By Law enforcement officer has been by. Mike Silver noted MNR has placed rocks to keep campers from entering the main astronomical site, but it inhibits sky viewers with large telescopes from setting up. Mike Silver mentioned he called the OPP to report people at the Barrens cutting a tree for firewood. Police arrived while the disagreeing parties were present, but were not helpful. Don will follow up with the new detachment commander.
 - OPP: Scott Andrews asked how different payment levels are arrived at with OPP operating in 330 out of 400 municipalities. Mayor Furniss said there is a formula for OPP services at a cost per property \$191 which represents 60% of the cost, all municipalities pay same rate. Then there is a 'calls for service' charge where the bill is in the global system and the total is added at \$115 per call for service. Township of Muskoka Lakes charge is less than \$2Million plus a call for service of \$500,000. We share cost for the District as well. The Province pays nothing toward Municipal OPP policing but does cover cost for police on the water (marine), on Hwy #11 and on Hwy #400. Mayor Furniss said TML Council has compared our cost with that of Orillia and Barrie and the cost for private policing is five times greater than what we pay for OPP.
 - Medical Marijuana Facility – Shelley Wagner asked what additional cost to Council will there be to hire an additional Planner to speak at OMB hearing. Mayor Furniss explained that since Council is defending their decision, a second planner is not required. But the cost to TML at OMB hearing will be \$4-\$5000. Ruth Nishikawa noted there are only 7 medical marijuana facilities in BC but 23 in Ontario.
 - Parking at Southwood Rd and Clear Lake Rd – Ruth Nishikawa said last weekend there were cars parked on the curve of Clear Lake Rd. Camp Buses had difficulty negotiating the turn. Hal Pegg noted it is better since potted plants are there but maybe line markers could come out to mark road and it might eliminate parking on curve. Mayor Furniss said he would ask Public Works department about this. Suzanne McLennan wondered if police officers should be checking drivers leaving the brewery once it is open.
 - Fire Permits Ron Algate asked about rules around permits and burning brush or campfires on properties. Mayor Furniss said 'No Burn' rule is in place. This means property owners may have fires from dusk to dawn but no daytime fires to burn brush. Fires for cooking are permitted anytime. From end of October through April, brush may be burned on properties in daytime. Suzanne McLennan said fires at the Barrens should not be allowed at any time.
- (II) **DONELDA HAYES** invited all to Walker's Point Community Centre next weekend for a Canada 150 Celebration. Antique boats and cars. Fiddle music on Sunday. Pamphlets were distributed.
- (III) **RUTH NISHIKAWA** invited all to Sunset Park on Sunday, August 19 for a Canada 150 Celebration.
- (IV) **KAREN DALTON, DIRECTOR, SAFE QUIET LAKES (SQL)**
- At Erin Beckett's invitation, Karen Dalton presented information on behalf of *Safe Quiet Lakes*. The not-for-profit organization, inception 2011, promotes Safety and a responsible code of conduct on the water. CLPOA has purchased an SQL sign to display at the Boat Launch. The recent SQL Survey, distributed by email to our members, closes Monday July 10. Please watch the SQL Video, filmed on May 24 weekend, 2017, available on website, www.safequiet.ca.

- All members of SQL are boaters. With mutual respect and safety in mind, SQL hopes to greatly reduce 1) boats traveling too fast and too close to shore 2) loud boat engines 3) large wakes 4) unsafe and inconsiderate boating
- Activities – SQL has presented at about 20 places and distributed information to about 90 lake associations. Its operation relies on donations. Works with Transport Canada. *Your Lake Your Views* pamphlet is here for distribution. “*Erin Research*” will have survey results in late August.

Questions? Roman Niemy said he spoke with a boater last summer who had been towing a skier but had no spotter. The boater said he used a rear view mirror instead. Brian Ternoway asked that the SQL Boater’s Code be available on our website www.clearlakemuskoka.com. Suzanne McClennan complimented Karen on her presentation. Karen noted that SQL focus groups invite participation. Karen thanked Erin for the invitation and passed along Erin’s regret she couldn’t attend meeting today.

MINUTES of 2016 AGM – Dennis asked for the motion to approve Minutes as distributed on CLPOA website. Brian Ternoway tabled the motion and Hilda Thomas seconded. All in favor. Approved.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2016 – Copies are available. Jiri Skopek moved to accept Financial Statement as presented by Ron Algate. Seconded by Bob Cleverdon. Ron thanked Scott and Christine Andrews for buying the raft from CLPOA that we originally planned as a floating dock for the ramp.

Ron noted that CLPOA expenses are relatively consistent with last year. Communication expenses down (no presentations to TML this year). We have *Oliver’s* coffee and donuts today, supporting local business, less cost and closer than *Tim’s*. Other saving—no more yearly stipend to McBain family for use of their private ramp. Donation to SQL of \$100.

Ron moved to accept Income Statement of 2016. Seconded by Suzanne McClennan, all in favor, accepted.

Bob Cleverdon asked whether we have a financial liability to do any work at the McBain’s ramp. Connie (McBain) Parker would like to let us know what their decision will be after family discussion. CLPOA was to offer greenery and help plant. Ron asked whether anyone has tried to use their ramp. Connie stated there has been no problem this year and thanks CLPOA.

DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS – Dennis explained CLPOA by-law requires approval by members for disbursement of funds, e.g. water testing \$1300, liability insurance \$2000, costs for Regatta, MLA membership. Dennis moved that permission be granted from membership. Seconded by Gaylen Silva. All in favor. Granted.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – SHARON CLEVERDON Prior to meeting, 39 paid memberships. Today an additional 26, making 65. We have 113 cottages on the lake and mail to 167 families/individuals. Typically we have 135 paid memberships. More reminders will be sent.

WATER TESTING (Bob Cleverdon) – since 2006 CLPOA has taken part in Muskoka Lakes’ water quality program. 190 sites tested with same systems and protocol. Sicci test, phosphorous, ecoli and total coliform. We are ‘Green’ on a scale of Red-Yellow-Green and consistently good. Results are available on MLA website. Phosphorous Spring test, as last year, is at lowest level since 2006. 60% of MLA tests have shown a drop in phosphorous, thanks to adequate shoreline vegetation, proper septic systems, using products with no phosphates. 2017 Camp Pine Crest site tests are being dropped because of 17 years of good results. Those funds to be allocated to other lakes, where needed. **Questions?** Suzanne McClennan noticed a washout where the outlet is. Bob said it has been fixed. Gaylen Silva asked whether we know Spring test results yet. Sharon and Bob answered phosphorous 6.8-5.73, close to last year. Gaylen, does Camp Pine Crest do its own testing? Coel Balmer answered yes, it is a legal requirement they do so their own testing for drinking water.

Dennis reminded us to consider joining Muskoka Lakes Association. Each membership reduces our Test cost by \$30.

REGATTA – Saturday, Aug. 5 at 1139 Ridge Road, Mike Silver’s. Dennis asked for a volunteer organizer. Lisa Pennycook volunteered. Thank you, Lisa.

BOAT LAUNCH – Dennis Cartwright – Any comments about Public Boat Launch? Hours are posted. No issues yet but Ron Algate (cottage property next to ramp) spoke with late arrivals last year. Please have two people launch a boat or hire someone knowledgeable. Use a proper vehicle and method to avoid tearing up the gravel beside the launch. Please tell renters our procedure. Hal Pegg (property next to ramp on other side) says most people comply with 9am-1pm. Hal does question whether some boats going out and in again during the day are being properly washed down.

TOWNSHIP ISSUES (Charles Wilkins)

1. TML FACILITIES – Charles asked the mayor fate of community centres and township services. Mayor Furniss said there will be Council discussion Thursday July 13, 9am at TML office regarding cost of maintaining the number of facilities and service levels. For example Bala Arena is used only 200 hours a year at high cost. Ideas to reutilize to increase hours of use. Presently it doesn’t sustain itself.

2. MEDICAL MARIJUANA FACILITY - Charles added to earlier update from Mayor Furniss that you can make your voice heard, pro or con, at OMB hearing Aug 22 10am Port carling. Attend or contact the case facilitator.

TORRANCE BARRENS DARK SKY RESERVE (Mike Silver) – Michael reports there is no commitment by the town of Gravenhurst to the Muskoka dark sky. Good start years ago but RioCan did not comply with By Law and Gravenhurst did not insist they do so. TML has a stronger By Law. August 8th, Mike will depose to Gravenhurst Council and Mayor Furniss is also attending. Torrance Barrens is an internationally known site, the first of its kind, and important to Muskoka. Mike contacted a RioCan executive who did turn off half the lights, but there is no official agreement. Coel Balmer also will attend town meeting in Gravenhurst.

Mike prepared a Petition for Members to sign as they leave today to be presented to Gravenhurst Council. Information will also be distributed by email to all members for their signing.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- Dennis reminds us to use our website to add photos, keep your contact information up to date.
- Suzanne mentioned loons have sounded upset in the middle of the night.
- Speeding is an issue, please slow down on both Southwood Rd and Ridge Rd.
- Sharon – what about dock reported stolen? Turned out not to have been stolen.
- Dennis said there will be a survey circulated by the District of Muskoka about size of council, seasonal residents will be counted 100%, may be a help for OPP service, facilities, etc.

NEW ISSUES

- Melanie Johnston, Clear Lake Road – Barrels and docks float into our bay at 1090 Clear Lake Road – please come and pick up your lost items.
- Simone Skopek asked for a Regatta sign-up sheet to be circulated

ADJOURNMENT 12:10PM – Simone Skopek moved that the meeting be adjourned, Bob Cleverdon seconded.