

Steenburg Lake Community Association

57th Annual General Meeting

Sunday, August 2, 2015

Meeting called to order: 10am

President's Introduction:

Thanks once again for the breakfast for the AGM. Anita Waddell, Scott and Heather Lloyd-McGinnis, Tina Lloyd and Jackie Rudd.

Guest Speaker: Anita Waddell, Canadian Lakes Loon Survey at Bird Studies Canada, Long Point

Gift was provided to Anita to thank her and Ken for 30 years of doing the surveying and reporting the data. Also SCLA made a \$50 donation to the BSC on behalf of the Waddells

Motion to accept the minutes of AGM 2014, 1st Donna Cameron, 2nd Heather Stallaert.

Executive Reports:

President:

Fortunately no pressing issues faced us this year, it seemed to be a calm year. However there were 15 real estate listings this year so we can expect many new members and neighbours.

Financial Report

Our association continues to be in a strong financial position. To date this year we are showing a loss of \$2,091. This is the usual situation at this time of year.

Most of our expenses for the fiscal year have been paid, including FOCA dues, insurance and newsletter expenses. As dues are turned in, the bulk of revenue is collected in August

Normally we turn a profit of over \$2,000 in a year and it is expected this year should be the same.

Efforts are made to contain expenses while continuing to offer the same variety of events and services that our members have come to expect. Comparisons with other lake associations show that we are in an excellent position

We now have invested assets of just under \$32,000. All of our investments are held in GICs with the local Scotiabank branch in Bancroft. Some of the investments that have matured recently have been reinvested in laddered type of investments that allow a portion of the funds to become available once a year. This would provide for funds should an urgent cash need arise or we can react to changes in interest rates.

Most of the investments are locked in at rates over 2% which puts us in a good position, considering the recent drops in interest rates. Our investments generally provide about 1/4 of our overall net income.

Merchandising activities have also made a healthy contribution to our net income. We periodically review the products that are offered and make changes to the product line to allow for continued healthy sales.

Municipal Affairs

Ken was not in attendance. He is a full time resident and is able to drop in on the municipal meetings and is able to report on their activities.

Marketing

We continue to do healthy sales in the products offered. We now have a mini flashlight for \$4.00.

Lake Stewardship

There was an unregistered ice hut left on the ice by the beach in the spring. Crime stoppers had it listed and possibly locals know who owned it but won't say. The fines are heavy for abandoning an ice hut after the required removal date. When it went through the melting ice it floated, came to shore and was successfully removed.

The lake levels have been variable. In June they were very high and a blockage was found between highway 62 and Limerick Lake. There was also a beaver dam on the McGeachie property blocking outflow. When these were removed the lake level slowly dropped to more normal levels.

Testing for invading species (eg. zebra mussels) was done the end of May. Samples were taken by the Boat Launch, the deepest part at the other end of the lake and near the beach. The results should be available in the fall.

Samples to determine phosphorus and calcium levels were taken in May and sent to the Lake Partner Program in Dorset, Water clarity measurements are being done monthly to the end of October. The results of this sampling should be published on the Lake Partner Program website in November

Membership

156 memberships have been paid with more to come as the canvassers get their memberships in to Marlene. 26 people paid by Pay Pal, more than ever before. 33 members registered for the meeting so we have quorum, 31 was needed.

Marlene organizes the road cleanup and this year there was an excellent turnout on the North Steenburg Lake Rd. Unfortunately only the McDonald family worked on the cleanup on the South Road. We need to encourage more volunteers for this area.

Social

The regatta was almost cancelled due to lack of an organizer. Jennifer Vanner stepped up and did a great job running all the games

The fun run takes place on August 8, registration has been very low this year, we need everyone to step up or this event is at risk. Advance registration is important in order to have all the supplies ready. Any additional volunteers would be great.

We have some very nice door prizes this year, all local artisans. Possibly we could consider an art/craft weekend for many others on the lake that have various talents

Newsletters

Comments on the newsletters have been positive. We need people to continue to contribute book reviews, recipes, pictures and lots of stories. Also people can go online and choose how to receive the newsletter, by mail or online. This will help save printing and mailing costs as it is the biggest portion, of the cost of producing the newsletter.

Old Business:

McGeachie Conservation Property

The threat last year of Crowe Valley Conservation Authority amalgamating with Quinte Conservation Authority, seems to have passed, they are not moving forward with this. There was concerns about the possibility of sale of the property and potential development if it was sold.

At last year's AGM, we learned of an anonymous donor who would match up to \$10,000 of donations towards the transfer of the McGeachie property to a land trust. The SLCA also created a budgetary account of up to \$2,500 to be used to the same ends. As this is no longer likely to happen or be necessary, the SLCA is seeking clarification to see if the same offer would still stand if the funds were used instead to help develop the property as a conservation area and assure its continued existence as a public asset.

Everyone should look into visiting the McGeachie Conservation area, it offers many features, great hiking trails, wilderness areas and is free of ATVs or snowmobiles.

Municipal Election

The election that took place last year had results as expected. Limerick council has 3 representatives from Limerick Lake, no representatives for either township live on Steenburg Lake. The fact that we are split between two townships has us at a disadvantage. Limerick council has a couple of full time people who actually seem to have some business background, several computers were noted at recent council meetings. In contrast, Tudor-Cashel have no waterfront property owners, and do not seem to have embraced modern technology. They also don't take kindly to questions or suggestions from the public at their meetings. Too often, both townships go into closed sessions after the council meeting and no minutes are taken and no reasons are given for the closed session. The provincial Ombudsman has suggested that the number of closed sessions these councils hold seems extreme and alarming.

South Road Maintenance

After much runaround, many letters, attendance at council meetings and subcommittees, both councils have chosen to ignore the advice of their legal counsel that suggested road maintenance could be an issue that moves to a higher level of government. It also appears that the councils are moving towards a policy limiting the dollars put towards seasonal maintenance of roads. At this stage there is not much SCLA can do to proceed as this is still just a proposal and hasn't even gone to council. The south road residents may need to meet to discuss their next step.

Ideally amalgamation of the two townships would be the preferred action as this would unite the townships with regards to the South Road. Unfortunately, council members are more concerned with preserving of their positions.

The county is now in discussion regarding whether construction permits should be issued to people who are not on municipally maintained year-round roads.

A thank-you to Jim Tanner and Gord Schad for all the work they have done in fighting for the maintenance of the south road.

A reminder to all to slow down on the South Rd., People drive too fast on the South Rd. despite signage that has been placed along the road, and near missed have already been experienced.

There is a possibility of road work on the culverts on South Rd. so there may be intermittent closures this fall. We will get details of any road closures as they become known.

New Business:

Hydro One Electrical rates

Hydro One plan to get rid of the seasonal residential rates so we can expect our rates to go up. Although the debt retirement fee is expected to be finished by next year, there are still huge delivery charges. There is also still talk of the province selling Hydro One for immediate cash flow. Fortunately the line clearing has helped with power outages this year as they have cleared the area up along Hwy 62 and down from Coe Hill.

Agave Silver Corp and Limerick Mine Development

An agreement was reached in May of this year between Agave Silver Corporation and Hastings Highlands Resources Ltd, to develop and investigate a new nickel and copper mine in Limerick Township. From what we have been able to determine, the site in question is located near Two Mile Lake, just north west of Limerick Lake, but there is a second Two Mile Lake, just east of Ormsby as well. The township doesn't want to be involved in the discussion of this mining development so Hastings County was approached. They don't know much about the development, but are of the same opinion about the location, and point out that it is in the earliest stages of a very long process that may never come to fruition. This is an issue we need to follow; the preliminary exploration may result in nothing worth mining but if so, the possibility of large trucks and traffic could affect enjoyment of our lakes directly and indirectly as well as potential for water quality being affected.

Update of New Bylaws

Motion to open bylaws, 1st Chris Langman and 2nd by Jim Tanner

Changes are being proposed to the bylaws, points changed,

Change of title, property owner vs cottage owner, President and Vice President must be property owner, addition of Membership as an officer. The distinction is now made between an officer and a director of the corporation. Officers are directors, but directors are not necessarily officers. The number of standing committees has been increased from four to seven to include Newsletter, Merchandising and Internet/Website. Under elections is the definition of length of term (three years), defining how long an officer can continue in the role and what happens if there are no volunteers to take over the position after 3 terms, financial terms and signatory clarification, choices of financial investments for the reserves.

The changes are not intended to be comprehensive but there will be new Provincial legislation for Not for Profit Corporation down the road. Tom Little has reviewed our bylaws and feels we are in fairly good position at the moment.

Motion: The motion to accept the draft proposal of the bylaws 1st Tom Hughes 2nd Ken Waddell.

Election of Officers:

Membership: Marlene has been doing it for 12 years. Diane Burke has put her name forward; acceptance of Diane, 1st Eileen Walsh 2nd Joanne Boyce

Social: Donna will not be able to continue, so we need someone to take over the chair of the position. Other people handle the individual events but we need someone to co-ordinate all the events. As no-one has put their name forward, the Social position will remain open for the moment.

Vice President: The position is intended as preparation for the Presidential position, Pat was nominated to return for another 3 year term, acceptance of Pat, 1st is Anthony Genovese 2nd David Cameron

A position for a 2nd Vice President will remain open for now as no names were put forward.

President: Anthony has been in the position for 4 years but will not be continuing beyond this year. He will commence transitioning the position over the coming year, and assume a Past President's post as Pat Stallaert step's up to take the position of Acting President until an election for President can be held at next year's AGM

Discussion period:

Question: What are the benefits of buying the shore line allowance, what are the costs, what type of survey is required?

Answer: Many people have started the process for purchasing the land, there is a cost benefit of grouping several property owners together to split cost of the survey. The benefits of owning the road allowance

include financial institutions willingness to mortgage seasonal property and improved ability to utilize the land for our own purposes. It is still to be determined the effect on our property taxes.

Awards for Photo Contest

Winners of this year's contest: Patty Reil, Jackie Rudd, Susan Jarson, Lynn Rusaw, Bob Henderson, Judie Hughes, Amy Fletcher

Door Prizes:

An excellent selection of wood working, carvings and pine needle baskets were offered as prizes representing the talent in the SLCA membership.

Meeting adjourned