

DRAFT Minutes from the 2016 Annual General Meeting – by Donna McLean, Recording Secretary

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE MINUTES SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE POWERPOINT PRESENTATION DELIVERED AT THE AGM [AND NOW POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE]

[The Gull and Silver Lakes Residents' Association Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, August 6, 2016 at the Muskoka Boat and Heritage Centre, Gravenhurst ("TOG")]. See list for attendees

President's Welcome

Jonathan Hutcheon, Past President, ("JH") welcomed the members in attendance and introduced the current Board of Directors.

Acceptance of Agenda

M/S/C to accept Agenda as presented.

Adoption of Minutes of 2015 AGM

M/S/C to approve Minutes as presented.

[JH introduced guest speaker]

John Joseph Mitchell, representative of Safe Quiet Lakes ("JJM")

JJM spoke to the following: "Be respectful. Share the Space."

- Volunteer organization dedicated to keeping our lakes safe, quiet and respectful to humans and nature
- A 2013 survey resulted in the development of the Boaters Code www.safequiet.ca
- Works with lake associations to educate and encourage waterfront residents to be respectful and thoughtful about safe and quiet water activities
- Talk to your neighbor and explain poor behaviors
- Encourages residents to phone OPP non-emergency if disrespectful and/or unsafe behavior continues 1-888-310-1122

Q - from member/neighbor of Church St. Parkette – can a Boaters Code sign be erected at this site to promote safe activity? [currently swimmers and dogs presenting unsafe situations].

A - absolutely. After some discussion it was agreed that JH would work with the TOG to have a sign erected.

JH then welcomed Randy Jorgensen, {"RJ"} Councilor for Ward 4 to conduct a Q&A session with the members:

TOG Activities Update -

- Improved communication to interested persons – encouraged members to sign up for email blasts from TOG to stay current
- Finalizing new version of Official Plan ("OP")
- OP item of particular interest to members was the reversion of area from Gull Lake Park to Sanders Motors site going back to residential from mixed use [changed in last OP].
- TOG looking for input on Strategic Plan ("SP") for development etc. – upcoming meeting one of many as opportunities for all interested persons to contribute.

Question period –

Q - Concern about geese infestation – RJ – TOG has looked at several options – best solution so far involves the TOG hiring

dog chasers which is effective but temporary. TOG strongly encourages waterfront residents to make their lakefronts unattractive - i.e. no grass, lots of bush and natural vegetation so the geese can't enter the properties. One member suggested that the TOG look at fencing similar to that used by Pinedale Inn which seems to have worked at repelling the geese. There are also companies that harvest the geese for a fee. RJ to review this.

Q – Is there any plan to plant more trees in Gull Lake Park?

A - not aware of anything planned. RJ to look into it.

Q – Member is worried about level of debt the TOG is now carrying? Approx. \$21,500,000.

A - RJ agreed that TOG has serious level of debt. This was caused by intensive capital spending on Wharf area, new City Hall, Centennial Centre expansion, Doctors Building at Health Care Unit etc. Methodology to extinguish debt include:

- Still working on making Wharf area self-sufficient.
- No new debt being undertaken.
- Mandate to set aside % of revenues to pay down debt
- Looking to Province to help fund certain new projects but not infrastructure – no funding for that

Q – Is the TOG planning on using online voting for next municipal election in 2018?

A - This is still to be determined and the Province is also looking at changing to run-off voting. [voter ranks his/her choices].

[JH thanked RJ for attending and speaking at the Meeting]

Official Plan Update

- Jim Davis ("JD") spoke to this process:
 - Attended open meetings to discuss revisions
 - On April 30 JD made a presentation to the TOG
 - Main ask was to change north end of Gull Lake areas back to residential from mixed use (changed in last iteration) And thereby designate all Gull Lake as residential.
 - In June JD made written submission for this to TOG that all Gull Lake to be zoned residential
 - Later in August, OP to be introduced to Council and vote will ensue later in the Fall
 - District will also have its say on proposed OP
 - JD will continue to monitor OP activity and GSLRA will update membership accordingly

Financial Update

- Dave Friesen spoke to the financial report:
 - \$5,280 in regular bank account and \$8,468 in GIC
 - DF provided brief overview of the financials presented
 - the major expense is the annual water quality monitoring program
 - there was a question about the lower membership in 2015 – no real answer except typical in quiet times with no large issues looming, members become less interested

- there being no further discussion, there was a M/S/C to accept the Financial Report as presented

Water Quality

- David Friesen walked the members through the slides on 2015 water quality results – results for Gull and Silver continue to indicate healthy lake levels
- DF thanked the Bertrand family for conducting some of the water testing for the Association

President's Report – GSLRA Priorities

- Official Plan – JD to stay on top of this to ensure residential zoning on Gull Lake a priority
- Muskoka Lakes water quality testing high priority
- Membership drive to win back interest of past members and improve communication
- Succession planning – look for new members to join the Board to bring new energy and ideas
- Seek volunteers to help with specific initiatives

Communications and Transparency

- JH looking for help to improve the website and communications to members

Nomination of Directors

The following Directors agreed to stand for nomination and serve for another year: Jim Davis, Donna McLean, Dave Friesen, and Jonathan Hutcheon. The President then called for nominations for new candidates. Roger Bertrand volunteered to join the slate of nominations. There being no further nominations, the nominations were declared closed and there was a M/S/C that those persons nominated above be elected to serve as Board members until the next AGM.

Other Business

- Concern was expressed that too many boats using the Hewitt St. dock for extended periods.
- DMc undertook to write a letter to the offenders and for all vehicles in the parking lot in order to increase awareness of the rules and to encourage a general respect for others needing to use the docking space which is limited.
- Concern was raised for the lack of communication by the Executive in the past year
- What did they do? What are members paying for? Are they listening to their membership on specific issues? Why didn't they communicate on the activities undertaken, if any?
- JH expressed regrets that the membership felt they weren't be served in a meaningful way. Personally, he admitted that a new job is taking up a considerable amount of his time and explained that the Board needed more volunteers to help.
- This resulted in a general call to the members to take an interest in and volunteer for a specific area of interest – not as board members but keen participants.

Adjournment

JH then thanked those in attendance and accepted a motion to adjourn the meeting.