

## **DRAFT Minutes from the 2018 Annual General Meeting – by Nicole McCutcheon, Recording Secretary**

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

*[The Gull and Silver Lakes Residents' Association Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday, July 8, 2018 at the Muskoka Boat and Heritage Centre, Gravenhurst ("TOG")]. See list for attendees*

### **President's Welcome**

Donna McLean, President, ("DMc") welcomed the members in attendance and introduced the current Board of Directors.

### **Acceptance of Agenda**

M/S/C to accept Agenda as presented.

### **Deferral of Minutes of 2016 and 2017 AGMs**

As the Minutes for the 2016 and 2017 AGMs were not made available to the members in sufficient time for their review – it was proposed and agreeable to the members that said Minutes be deferred to the 2019 AGM. Draft Minutes for same will be posted to the GSLRA website.

**TOG Activities Update** – DMc introduced Councilors Heidi Lorenz and Sandy Cairns who came to provide an update of TOG issues and activities. The following is a summary of their comments:

### **Muskoka Regional Centre**

- Town awaiting government to put on open market. Offer of school not taken.
- Jim Davis asked if Town still committed not to spend any tax \$ in trying to solicit or secure any for-profit enterprise to take the space. Agreed.
- Knightstone Capital and the Maple Leaf School still interested but for now, sitting there.

### **Taboo**

- Issues regarding development proposal – initial proposal for hotel now compromise with local neighbours for townhouse dev't.
- (Jim Davis addressing issues re Taboo Resort/ other proposals for condominium development in MLA part of agenda)

### **Hunter's Bay Radio – 88.7 FM Broadcast from Sawdust City**

- Community and Town office participants – weekly address
- Current issues/events
- Contact Jason – Town of Gravenhurst Communications see Website if you want to participate

### **New By-Laws**

- Official Plan approval abating zoning bylaw – Sleeping cabins now allowed over Garages;

and 2<sup>nd</sup> storey boathouses on Lake Muskoka, min 300 Ft frontage

- Signs – Sign clutter By-Law – permits will be issued incl sidewalk sandwich boards.
- New Tree Cutting Bylaw – see website.

### **Current By-Laws**

- Concerns by residents close to the boat launch/Church St Parkette
- Off leash dogs, drinking, swimming
- **Action item:** Recommendation to formalize feedback to the Town and By Law – Dave Stephens and Frank Beynon to consolidate feedback, bring to Donna McLean to communicate to the Town as unified GSLRA input. Objective to have more By Law enforcement.

### **Downtown Revitalization\Actions**

- Activity Guide published
- Historic Sign re Gull lake going back up
- Budget still for digital sign – may be used for upcoming events signage at Rotary park.
- Lots of information in General on Website
- Boat races a big success/big draw for the town
- Ski Show still on Wednesdays. Great sponsors.
- Boston Pizza renovation unknown next steps/unknown issues. Demolition permit in place, rumour was mould/leak issue. No building permit application – so unknown what intentions are re restoration.
- Rowing Club – Severn River Rowing club has moved onto Gull Lake to train. Teaching kids also. Regatta to take place September 2018.

### **Muskoka Wharf docks**

- Short and long term rentals are available. Good revenue for the Town. Kids have been hired re Gas Pumps, and pump-outs.

### **Beach Closures**

- Huntsville Newspaper was contacted with threat to Muskoka beaches. OPP investigating.
- Rotary Park beach was combed, and some shards of glass found. Comment by Sandy that every Spring, a clean-up is conducted, and bits of glass and other foreign objects are found and removed.
- Wide view is that it's likely a hoax but still looking into it.

## Water Availability Issues

- Lack of backflow valve caused removal of one of the stations
- Communication on availability has been poor
- One member cited Director of Utilities referring to cottagers needing to bring own water from Toronto and not draw from local water resources at filling stations. Sandi committed to give feedback for improved communication and decisions. Consensus at Town that water is for everyone, including cottagers.

## Development

- Gull Lake next to boat ramp location
- Different developer/owner
- NO application has been filed in planning but discussions/questions being asked re a 20 unit townhouse development – nothing filed or on public record.

## Financial Update

- Dave Friesen spoke to the financial report
- \$7,063 in regular bank account and \$8,667 in GIC, earns some interest
- DF provided brief overview of the financials presented
- the major expense is the annual water quality monitoring program
- Membership forms were sent out in late June, so no memberships had been collected. Trend of lower memberships continues but Executive has recently recruited a few volunteers to canvass the lakes
- 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 2017 water quality results – results for Gull and Silver continue to indicate healthy lake levels; highest levels of E coli in front of Gull Lake Park
- Water is not drinkable without purification. Runoff bacteria will always be an issue.
- Importance of database is to sound alarm if higher levels indicated and demand action when needed. Need to keep going
- DMc thanked Bruce Little and Greg Bertrand for conducting the water testing for the Association; DMc also asked for volunteers to take over the testing for 2019

(At this point DMc thanked the Councilors for their attendance, their comments and their continued service to the TOG)

## Upcoming Municipal Elections

- Very important Election for cottagers and overall enjoyment of Muskoka

- VOTE – voting rules have CHANGED. No polling stations.
- Telephone or online only. Registered voters receive PIN at permanent residence address in September.
- Early voting Oct 12 – 22
- Election October 22, 2018. Results same day.
- Seasonal owner eligibility: Owner on tax roll and spouse eligible; Canadian Citizenship required
- Adult children cannot vote unless Driver's License indicates residency
- VOTER REGISTRATION: If NOT on tax roll – VOTER LIST **deadline is July 27, 2018:**

1. Check if registered [www.voterslookup](http://www.voterslookup) have tax roll# ready
2. OR call MPAC 1-866-296-6722
3. Town clerk – visit in person to get on voter list if not there
4. After July 28, 2018, call the TOG to register.

## BIG Issues

### ❖ *Environment is Our Economy*

- Enjoyment of Muskoka as we know it at risk
- Resorts are failing – applications to become condos
- Pushes density beyond sustainability
- Pressure on infrastructure of District of Muskoka as population migrates north
- Pressure on environment
- 100 resorts are in question/at issue
- None on Gull or Silver Lake but could be
- “Friends of Muskoka” has been mobilized as a membership to raise funds to research and lobby

### ❖ *Spending/Financial irresponsibility at issue*

- Elected officials not questioning staff budgets or spending
- Unsustainable increases 3-5x CPI
- Growth in staffing – hiring policies and strategies focus on high paying senior staff/department heads with support staff
- Councilors said to be intimidated by staff and not challenging them on actions, issues, budgeting or hiring.
- Our councilors have not been good at asking tough questions needed

### ❖ *“One Muskoka”*, i.e. consolidation of all the Townships into one governing body is being floated as an idea

- not favourable per Jim Davis
- increases cost of government
- Loss of local contact and issues
- Not advocated by the MLA

- Many issues are Queen's Park issues – but as population migrates north, Health care will be an issue; Youth development – issue highlighted by Rand Simpson

#### ❖ **MLA and Friends of Muskoka**

- Working together to research and provide recommendations on candidates
- Not many people running
- MLA and Friends of Muskoka objective to recommend candidates based on alignment with MLA values. Official 3<sup>rd</sup> party status required in some cases where official advertising/PR activities (vs Facebook/Member communications where 3<sup>rd</sup> party status not required to promote individual candidates)
- Objective: Mobilize the vote; review candidate platforms. Ability to influence make-up of council.
- July 21 meeting to be held – interview strategy with candidates with objective to report and recommend candidates via a series of questions relative to alignment with 4 principles of MLA and FOM
- The Environment is our economy and must be protected
- No residential waterfront subdivisions – 100 resort properties at issue
- Responsible fiscal practices
- Good and Civil Governance
- **Action: See website for detail and sign up. FriendsOfMuskoka.ca to receive info on the election and candidates.**
- For more information [MLA.on.ca](http://MLA.on.ca)
- **MLA meeting: July 27, 2018. Steamship Museum Muskoka Wharf** – Our MLA small lakes membership component of our GSLRA membership allows attendance at the meeting. No voting rights, however. Visit [MLA website](http://MLA.on.ca) for more information.

#### ❖ **DEVELOPMENT AND MLA INITIATIVES**

- Proposed high density on the big lakes:
- Some legal battles already underway; halting some issues involving planning, scientific testing, lake carrying capacities for condo conversion issues
- Steve D'Agostino, legal representative hired
- Development specific to GSLRA:
  - **Great Gulf Kendari**
    - All quiet; withdrew OMB
    - With Taboo failing, why build another?
    - 50 acres to Great Gulf likely not important
  - **Moonlight Bay**
    - Approval withdrawn/timed out per planning committee

- No activity on file. Have to re-apply
- **Church St - 20 Units**
  - NO application has been filed in planning but discussions/questions being asked re a 20 unit townhouse development – nothing filed or on public record.
  - GSLRA will communicate if anything formal is filed
  - If Moonlight Bay no activity and not sold, why would another be successful?
  - MTO hwy 11 Hewitt/Pinedale bypass
  - No activity.
  - Marshalling yards would have to be relocated first. If they move, that might be a clue to activity happening, but no activity and likely no funding/low priority to move the highway

#### ❖ **COMMUNICATIONS**

- Complete FIRE BAN on - Fireworks too
- RSS feed of news items added to GSLRA website. Visit and sign up.
- Loon Call newsletter
- Post articles of interest
- Keep email addresses up to date
- Member concerns expressed on membership forms are taken seriously – top issues include water quality, taxation, safe boating and water activities, fire safety, Hewitt St. activities
- add other issues you're passionate about.
- AIR BNB not cited as a concern but might become one. A number of municipalities looking into it. May be hard to enforce. If a problem, please let GLSRA and Jim Davis know.

#### ***Nomination of Directors***

The following Directors agreed to stand for nomination and serve for another year: Jim Davis, Donna McLean, Dave Friesen, Jonathan Hutcheon, Carole Anne Simpson. The President then called for nominations for new candidates. Dave Stephens agreed to stand for election to the Executive. 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***

- Number of found items at Dave Ackland's cottage beside the "4Es" cottage
- Sep. 29, 2018, "Doors Open" at Opera House
- Sawdust City Music Festival Aug. 3-5/18

#### ***Adjournment***

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