

GREATER BOBS AND CROW LAKES ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Members Bedford District Community Hall South Frontenac Township

Sunday July 10th, 2011 1:00 - 3:10 PM

Item 1. Welcome and Introductory Remarks:

President Taro Alps welcomed members, guests and visitors to the 32nd annual meeting of the Association. He thanked members for coming out and for being interested in our lakes. He mentioned that the Association is always looking for new members as well as volunteers to help out with various lake projects.

Item 2. Approval of Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of the last general meeting held on August 8th, 2010 was made by Rick Prudil and seconded by Jim Blair. Motion carried.

Item 3. Welcome to Mayors and Councilors

President Taro Alps mentioned that the Association lakes fall into three townships: South Frontenac, Central Frontenac and Tay Valley. He introduced South Frontenac Councilor and Deputy Mayor, Mark Tinlin.

Councilor Tinlin wanted to recognize the great leadership of our Association by President Taro Alps. He also mentioned that there would be a "Constituents' Day" on Monday, July 18th, 10am till noon at Bedford Hall.

Reeve Keith Kerr from Tay Valley was introduced. His remarks included mention of the new fire hall in Maberly and the new strategic plan for Tay Valley Township which was looking for input from stakeholders. The township website should be referred to for details on meetings and/or other ways for constituents to submit their input.

Q. Mohamed asked about narrowness of private roads and impact for emergency services. Reeve Kerr noted that private roads have general standards regarding width, height etc. so that that fire trucks are not damaged.

Item 4. President's Update:

President Taro Alps reported on the following lake association initiatives.

(a) *CSW Shoreline Survey*: Funding was declined from Science Horizons however partial funding was to be supplied by the Association and also the Foundation. The intent was to complete the survey of every shoreline property on the lakes this summer. Binders for

completed properties were available for pickup at the meeting. Bridget Dilauro from the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds would speak further on this initiative.

(b) *Turtles and Wetlands Focus Group*: Erin Nadeau from the Toronto Zoo and French Planning are co-ordinating this project. Erin Nadeau would provide further details later in the meeting.

(c) *Workshop and Lecture Offering*: There would be a full day workshop on *Nature Journaling* by Peri MacQuay at the Crow Lake Schoolhouse on Sat. July 23rd, 9am – 3pm. In addition Lloyd Jones would be speaking on the *Mystery of the Mast Road* on Thurs., August 4th at the Bedord Hall, 7-9pm. Sign-up sheets for both were available at the meeting.

(d) There had been numerous break-ins on the lakes this past winter and in light of that, President Taro Alps introduced OPP Constable Toby Winny from Hartington to speak further on this issue. Constable Winny noted that there had been 97 break-ins in South Frontenac Township since January 1st, 2011. Approximately half of them have been solved. With seasonal cottage break-ins, OPP often lack evidence and since lakes can't be patrolled in the winter, thieves often come in this way. He suggested that cottagers should securely bolt doors and put wood across window sills. The onus for security and policing is on our shoulders as there are only four officers on duty at any time and they have a large area to patrol.

Questions and answers to the Constable included:

What are thieves looking for? Tools and outboard motors are most frequently taken.

Which lakes in particular are targeted? All lakes, particularly the remote spots on lakes.

Are islands targeted? Yes, but less frequently than mainland properties.

At one point there was a lookout for a red pickup truck, i.e. linked to break-ins. Is this still the case? Yes, and a white Ford pickup has also been linked to break-ins.

Are aluminum boats disappearing? Yes, for the metal component as well as scrap cars and scrap metal of any sort.

What is the process to use when following up after a break-in, especially if there has been a time delay? Contact OPP anytime; time delay is not an issue.

Constable Winny suggested that everyone write down serial numbers or engrave their license number on items of value. Also, there is a program where officers will, from time to time, check on cottages via ATV. The membership should talk to their President regarding this so that he can press higher powers in the OPP to have this done.

(e) President Taro Alps noted that Mark Segsworth had provided samples outside the hall of the South Frontenac garbage bins for private lanes. Board member Larry Arpaia noted that he was co-ordinating private laneway associations and would they please get in touch with him to be part of this effort.

Item 5: Emergency Water Pump Project

Martin Yates reported that five groups purchased water pumps last year at a total cost of \$13,000. Approximately \$7,000 of that total was subsidized by the Foundation. Training in the running and maintenance of the pumps would be provided by Larry MacNinch. The program continues this year and the Foundation continues to subsidize the program. August 5th is this year's deadline to apply. Interested parties should contact Martin Yates for further details. There was a question regarding the priming of the pump and a priming pump is recommended to do this.

Item 6: CSW Shoreline Survey

Bridget Dilauro of the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds noted that approximately 700 of the 1440 shoreline properties have been surveyed. The purpose of the project is to provide shoreline property owners with the necessary information to protect and maintain their shoreline. The information will not be used by any regulatory agency. It is strictly information to consider when making any choices regarding development on your shoreline and how it impacts habitat, water quality etc. Results so far indicate that the majority of the lake shorelines are considered "natural" according to their criteria. Binders of those properties already surveyed were available for pickup at the meeting.

The topic of buffers was discussed and it was defined as any strip of vegetation along your shoreline. There is a huge difference in lake health when this is in evidence. Buffers provide habitat and filter the water. They also protect shorelines from erosion.

Questions and answers included:

Is the shoreline survey done in the mid-80's still available? Yes, it is and CSW will avail themselves of this information in the future.

How big does the buffer have to be? Thirty metres is the recommended size for the best impact however even a metre makes a difference.

Item 7: Turtles and Wetlands Project

Erin Nadeau of the Toronto Zoo explained that three Ontario lakes were chosen for this pilot project, Bobs Lake being one of them. The purpose of the Adopt-a-Pond program (part of the Healthy Water/Healthy Wildlife Initiative) was to give people the necessary information they need to protect wetland environments. The planned focus group was to develop an action plan for a stewardship program for the next 5/10/15 years. A wetland assessment would be done on the lake and Erin encouraged people to let her know of significant wetland areas. The tentative focus group date was August 10th and those interested could sign up at the sheet available at the meeting.

Questions and answers included:

Frogs are in decline... do we know the cause? Generally less than ideal breeding and spawning areas are the reason as well as global warming.

Is turtle nest information useful? Yes, this information would be helpful to the research being done by the Toronto Zoo.

Item 8: Septic Re-inspection Update

Rich Phillips noted that currently in Ontario there is no mandatory septic re-inspection, only voluntary. He encourages everyone to voluntarily re-inspect their system every 3-5 years and to push their MPPs to require mandatory re-inspection.

There was a comment from one member regarding his frustration with the township records (or lack of) for the initial inspections.

Item 9: Bobs & Crow Lakes Foundation

Susan O'Brien Mactaggart clarified about the independent status of the Foundation from the Association. The Foundation is a financial engine to make projects happen in a time when government sources are declining. It is self-sufficient and carries a charitable status. She encouraged members to consider joining as they were looking for new directors.

Norm Mole spoke on the upcoming *Frontenac Frolic* to be held on August 20th, 8am – 4pm at the Bedford Hall. There would be a flea market, antiques, bake sale and a cow flop bingo. Tickets to be sold for \$10/ea or 3/\$20. Prizes to be \$1,000, \$500 and \$250.

Item 10: Financial and Membership Report

Martin Yates drew members' attention to the financial report that accompanied the agenda. Highlights were as follows:

For the 2010/11 year our income was \$13,383, and expenses \$11,675 leading to a surplus of \$2,313. Members' equity at June 30th was \$29,860.

Revenue Highlights: Memberships revenue was \$7,995 representing 60% of our total. This is an increase of some \$500 last year. Donations from members also increased by \$330 to \$1,463 or 11% of our total. We also received a grant of \$805 from the Bobs and Crow Lakes Foundation and \$1,700 from the MNR (Ontario) which completely offset the cost of the Fisheries program.

Expense Highlights: Last year we managed to contain our routine expenses to similar levels to 2009-2010 with the exception of the notice boards, which needed extensive repairs. Signs are much more visible now. We also invested in re-building our web site and it now contains a lot of up-to-date information.

Major Projects: Martin drew members' attention to the summary of the major projects for 2010/11 on the back of the financial statements. As the funds in most cases were not paid directly to us, the full cost of these projects does not show in our accounts. However, through the generosity of the Bobs and Crow Lakes Foundation and by leveraging funding from other sources, we were able to complete projects that benefited the lakes that cost over \$41,000 at very little expense to the GBCLA membership.

Membership Report: The paid-up membership for 2011 year end was 236. This represents only 17% of the properties on the lakes. For those who haven't renewed membership for 2012, they should see Edie MacNinch as soon as possible.

Question and answer:

If there is \$29,000 in reserves, why are we not using this? President Taro Alps noted that shortly \$10,000 of Association monies would be used towards completion of the shoreline survey.

Item 11: Fisheries and Wildlife

Gord Thompson noted that all recent updates regarding fisheries were detailed in the fall and spring newsletters. We are now in the third year of a five year plan. Next year Crow Lake creek beds will be rehabbed and in the fifth year an evaluation will take place to see the impact on fish stock (walleye). At that point the Ministry will make a decision regarding assistance.

There will be a cisco and white fish workshop in September with a Ministry rep and local experts. Further details will be provided.

Item 12: Election of Officers and Directors for 2010/11

Before proceeding with the election slate, President Taro Alps wanted to acknowledge one long-time volunteer and also several departing directors.

Larry MacNinch was acknowledged for his 12 years of dedicated volunteer service installing, removing and monitoring the hazardous marker buoys in the West basin.

Heather Irving was acknowledged for her 5 years of committed service as director for Marine and Cottage Safety.

Rich Phillips was acknowledged for his 15 years of helpful and dedicated service as Vice President and South Frontenac Liaison.

President Taro Alps read the slate of Officers and Directors for 2011/12.

Officers:

President – Taro Alps
Vice-President & SF Liaison – Vacant
Treasurer – Martin Yates
Secretary – Janice Walker
Membership Secretary – Edie MacNinch

Directors:

Water Quality – Bonnie Carabott
Marine and Cottage Safety – Vacant
Fisheries and Wildlife – Gordon Thompson
Commercial Camp Liaison – DiAnne Henderson
Communications and Public Relations – Larry Arpaia
Web Site Co-ordinator – Rick Prudil
Crow Lake Representatives: Bernie Gelineau and Don Manns

With no nominations from the floor, President Taro Alps moved that the slate be accepted by a show of hands. Motion carried.

Item 13: Other Business and Members' Comments

Questions and comments included:

At the recent Oak Shores AGM, a member noted the seadoo activity in that area was quite dangerous to both people and efforts at shoreline restoration. Though she had spoken to at least one of the parties involved, she asked about signage to reduce speed in this area. Heather Irving noted that Transport Canada is the only legal agency that can put up signs on navigable waterways. Her suggestion was to report incidents to OPP and another member suggested getting license numbers of the offending boats/seadoos.

Past president Charlie Stewart applauded the visibility of the new signage and the recent efforts for better communications. He urged and requested the Board to get more information out "one-to-one" for 2012. President Taro Alps noted that the distribution of the shoreline survey would help to accomplish this.

One member suggested including information about the association in tax notices (cannot be done) and another asked if a membership form was included in the survey binders (yes it was).

Another member commented on the high water levels this year and could the association make a point to address this issue with Parks Canada. Another member expressed her opinion that she wanted water levels to be high. President Taro Alps noted that there are various reasons to keep levels high, particularly as it relates to fish breeding.

Heather Irving brought three motions forward to the membership:

First motion: I move that the President of the Greater Bobs & Crow Lakes Association write a letter, no later than August 15th to the Mayor, the members of Council, the members of the Police Services Committee and the Commissioner of the Hartington Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police, expressing great concern over the large number of crimes on our lakes and in surrounding areas. This letter shall include a request for Council and the Police Services Committee to review the complement and deployment of Police Officers for our area prior to setting their next budget for emergency services. The letter shall also request a recommendation that the area be considered for further funding for more Police Officers in our area Detachment, given our large and expansive area and the expensive tax base that water front stakeholders contribute. A response shall also be requested.

Susan O'Brien Mactaggart seconded the motion. President Taro Alps asked that a phrase be added that said, "Letter to be approved by the Board." Amendment to motion seconded by Susan O'Brien Mactaggart. Motion carried.

Second motion: I move that the President of the Greater Bobs & Crow Lakes Association, no later than August 15, 2011, send a letter to the Commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police, Smiths Falls and the Commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police, Headquarters, Orillia. This letter shall express great concern over the large number of crimes on our lakes and in surrounding areas. And it shall ask for all of them to review the deployment and complement of Officers in our area and consider asking for funding for more Officers, given our crimes, our

large vast areas and the response times to answer calls and the lack of sufficient personnel to follow up on occurrences. A response shall also be requested.

Bernie Gelineau suggested that a copy of this letter should also go to the Lanark OPP Division. Councilor & Deputy Mayor Mark Tinlin cautioned the group that this is a taxpayer- based service as the Township contracts directly with the OPP. Heather Irving wondered if allotments could be adjusted for this so there is no increase. Councilor Tinlin confirmed this could be done. President Alps asked that the motion be amended to include that "The Board approve this letter prior to being sent out". He would also send out to the membership the responses he received. Motion seconded by Marg Hetherington. Motion carried.

Third motion: I move that, no later than August 31st, 2011, that the President of the Greater Bobs & Crow Lakes Association act on the Emergency Services Book with regard to Fire and Emergency Services launch sites for the lakes. This book needs to be presented back to the Fire Chief and reviewed in-depth as to what sites are suitable for emergency purposes. In addition, he shall request the Fire Chief visit the sites, inspect same, make arrangements if required under the law with private owners, and request signage at the roads so that emergency personnel have some idea of where they are going.

President Alps asked that an amendment include the meaning of "act on". Past president Charlie Stewart explained the book is to be returned to the SF Fire Department with our comments written down. The word "review" is to be substituted for "act on". Motion seconded by Charlie Stewart. Motion carried.

Door prizes and plants were given out and three free one-year memberships were given to Mole, Laidlaw and Mackay.

Item 14: Adjournment

Motion for meeting adjournment by B. St. Arnaud and seconded by R. Crowe. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:10pm.

- To be distributed to all Directors.
- To be posted on the web site.
- To be made available to all members upon request.

Janice Walker
Secretary