

Little Silver and Rainbow Lakes Property Owners Association

Minutes from Directors' meeting –September 2, 2017—1, LSL Road—10 a.m.

Present: Frank Johnson (President); Eileen Barbeau (Secretary); Alison Bentley; Andrew Kendrick; Sue Sammut; Lynn Tarzwell; Wilma van Zwol.

Regrets: Paul Chambers; Keith Keyes.

1. **Minutes** of July 15th meeting previously circulated. Approved before posting.
2. **Business arising**

- a) **Insurance**

Wilma recommended that purchasing director insurance for us was not viable due to the necessity for a significant increase in membership dues. There was unanimous agreement that we would not proceed.

- b) **Adopt-a-Road project**

Eileen reported that updates have been provided on the website Home Page. To date, property owners along the road together with some Association members have been successful in removing most of the second year wild parsnip plants (those which produce the seeds) together with some first year ones as well as collecting garbage (a requirement of the original Adopt A Road program) along the road-sides. Lanark County had used their long arm cutter in the deep ditches and Ken Parks had mowed the edges. There may not be any more work (and volunteers) needed this season but she will check the roadsides in a couple of weeks to be sure. At her suggestion, it was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to those Association members who assisted in the project. Unfortunately not many came forward so those who did contributed much valuable work. It was Sandy & Ken Parks and the property owners along Bolingbroke Road, whom they coordinated, who did most of the work pulling plants on a regular basis. Frank reported that it was suggested by the Director of Public Works for Lanark County that the official Adopt-a-Road sign posted on the road be in the name of "Friends of Bolingbroke Road". He had agreed to this as it was representative of the involvement. Eileen and the other Directors concurred. Concern was expressed that the County was in effect getting volunteers to do their job by means of this program and also that there were plants behind the roadsides which were thriving and what was been done about those? Eileen mentioned that she would provide liaison with the *Friends of Lanark County*, a group active in lobbying various levels of government regarding spraying practices and regulations.

- c) **Bulletin & Newsletter**

As the intent of the Bulletin was to point readers to recent postings on the website, it was decided to continue to issue one when needed.

Eileen offered to produce a September Newsletter and requested ideas, and especially copy, from the Directors. She planned to circulate a draft to all for comment /approval prior to mailing it out. From time to time questions have arisen regarding the distribution of Association mailings. Directors felt that all property owners should receive them, whether members or not; for the few property owners who have not provided an email address then the Area Reps would be asked to make deliveries.

d) Posting of Minutes on the website

Those from the last meeting were posted after circulation to all Directors present for approval. Eileen has received no comments regarding them, either as webmaster or secretary.

3) Lake Stewardship Plan status

Outline Lynn is happy to prepare this when the chapters are ready

History As Keith was unable to attend, Frank will check with him regarding responses to the posted draft.

Development After Frank met with Noelle Reeve, TVT Planner, the existing draft benefitted from her input. He is waiting now for her response to the revised draft when she returns from holidays. The latest draft will then be posted on the website. At the AGM, Noelle had referred to the Lake Capacity Model suggesting that we might want to consider requesting one for our lakes. The Directors requested Frank to further discuss this with her.

Environment Alison offered to prepare some sections with her expertise as a wild life biologist. These will be added to the draft currently in process. Directors reported that property owners had been receiving the mandatory septic inspections and that the experiences with the process were positive. It would be helpful in the preparation of this chapter if it was known how many systems were functioning well and how many were not (and specifically what were the recommendations) – of course, the information requested would be without any identifying information, except upon which lake the property was situated. Noelle Reeve would be asked if this is possible. RVCA was on the lakes sampling recently and the results are expected soon. For some time there has been concern that quality of water in Rainbow has not been at the same level as that in Little Silver – there are plans to investigate this.

Respect & Safe Recreation The material in the drafts posted was assembled by Eileen from various sources. She would like to receive suggestions for additional resources.

In the general discussion following it was decided to maintain the original goal of bringing the LSP to the AGM 2018 although this will necessitate a tight schedule in order to receive member input prior to that. Drafts will be posted and revised in response and reposted on an ongoing basis and it is planned to have a document in draft form for circulation in the spring.

4) Beaver baffler update and options The Directors spent considerable time in discussing associated issues. Examples, not an exhaustive list, were: Is the current system working? How much maintenance is needed? What are the options for the baffler? How to respond to the great amount of rainfall? Is water flow a good thing? How does this affect the quality? Shoreline problems; beaver population? how can we plan for the future? We have already spent a significant amount of Association funds- will more funds be needed? If the reserves are insufficient what are the options?

Discussions were informed by RVCA mapping of the watershed, knowledge of Paul Pospisil's baffler construction downstream which has been effective for many years and a numerical model developed by

Frank to improve understanding of the lake levels, flow and beaver baffler performance. Rainfall data was available from Bolingbroke as were measurements of the actual head at the dam. This modelling permitted prediction. Frank showed everyone the high precision piece of equipment which he used to measure the Chlorophyll and dissolved Oxygen levels.

There will be a meeting shortly with RVCA and a professional colleague of Frank, Prof Doug Haffner, a cottager on Farren Lake who is with the Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research, University of Windsor, to discuss our challenges with water quality and shoreline.

Two extensive submissions from property owners were received specifically for the meeting. However, as not all Directors had been able to review them prior to the meeting, a detailed point-by-point response was not possible at the time (see the President's comments below **).

For the present, the Directors made the following decision: to install another length of black pipe. This will not be obtrusive; the pipes are predominately under water. The position of the new pipe will be such that it will be used only when there is high water. Funding was approved for an expenditure of about half of the reserve funds (approx \$200).

The Directors were concerned that this configuration might not be respected and that some of the construction might be moved or removed without consultation with either the Lake Steward or President. It was also pointed out that the Directors are all volunteering their time and energy to their work on the Board. Some members have expressed appreciation to them for their work but it is sad that there is contentious discourse within the organization.

An upcoming workshop, the annual *Lake Links*, on October 21st this year, seems particularly relevant to us: **Beyond the Shoreline: Science to Stewardship**. Some directors will plan to attend and the event will be publicised on our website and in the Newsletter.

Next Meeting November 5th 10:00 a.m. 1LSL Road

**Post script from the President, Frank Johnson.

Not all the Directors were able to read these extensive documents before the meeting. Some email servers reject large attachments and my request for a summary of a 12 page document was declined. The discussions however covered many of the points raised. The effective management of beavers at the dam is a subject for further discussion- - received wisdom from one MNR document suggested removing the dam and killing the beaver but this has been tried in the past at Little Silver Lake without success. One property owner complained about a tree on his property that he considered to be endangered by high water. The great majority of trees on the shoreline are Northern White Cedar which thrive in swamps. Water levels have declined by several inches since these submissions were received.

After the meeting the correspondents were informed of the actions taken.

The meeting with RVCA referred to in the minutes did take place the next week and at that time RVCA was alerted to the correspondence and concerns. Two Directors joined me at the meeting.

Due to previously set commitments, the first available date for the meeting wasn't until November 5th.

