

Shabomeka Lake Association Annual General Meeting

August 1, 2021

Board members present: Laura Logan, Peter Alger, Todd Lyons, Janet Campbell, Brad Pound and Steven Richie; regrets: Dan Mennie

25 voting members present, ~29 cottages represented; Quorum was achieved.

Start: 10:07 am End: 11:41 am

- Meeting began with a round of introduction of people/cottages present
- Laura (president) presented the agenda and asked if there were any additional items to be added under Other Business. Peter Smith requested that gypsy moths be added to the agenda.
- Laura Logan made a MOTION for the agenda to be accepted. Seconded by Nancy Magee. Motion passed.
- Sept 1, 2019 meeting minutes: no revisions noted. MOTION by Laura to accept Sept 1, 2019 meeting minutes and seconded by Mike Bathurst. Motion passed.
- Treasurers Report: Todd Lyons began with the financial report which had been reviewed by Mike Bathurst. Mike indicated the financial report was in order. MOTION: Mike moved that the financial report be accepted by the members, seconded by Chris Price. Motion passed. Nick Stroebe asked for clarification of the 'SLA expenses' in the Summary Statement. Todd explained that the general fund was separated into money for SLA expenses and a fire pump fund as monies were raised specifically for maintenance and replacement of fire pumps. George Rowan asked if the cost of the SLA insurance (board liability) has increased. Todd indicated it had not. Todd indicated that 58/100 cottages were SLA members and 26 of 37 road side cottagers had paid their road dues. Todd indicated that road maintenance costs have been negligible the past couple of years due to repairs done by MLFI and the company which has been logging in by Shawenegog.
- Board positions: Laura explained how position terms come due alternate years and 3 position were up for election this year. Todd Lyons and Janet Campbell let their names stand for re-election and Al Tomchick stepped down leaving a vacancy. There was only one nomination put forward. The board welcomes Dan Mennie to the board. Laura thanked Al for his contributions to the board and as our communications coordinator. Present board: Laura Logan, President; Peter Alger Vice President and Road Committee; Todd Lyons, Treasurer and Website; Janet Campbell, Secretary; Brad Pound, MVCA Liaison (Dam); Steve Richie, Township Liaison and Dan Mennie, Road committee. We can best be reached through email shabomekalakeassoc@gmail.com
- Landing update: Steve Richie provided an update on landing issues. Steve has been working with Darwyn Sproule, Public Works Manager with the North Frontenac Township to resolve issues identified by the SLA. The Township agreed to plow the landing this past winter only.

Darwyn is drawing upon a plan for the council to approve to continue to plow the landing during future winters. A portable toilet has been installed at the landing and is being maintained by the Township. Work continues to deal with unused boats stored at the landing, signage concerning no public storage of boats, no day usage of the landing other than loading and unloading of boats. The SLA made the request that road side cottagers store their trailers on their properties as there is an increase of trailers stored at the landing parking lot this year taking up parking space.

- Dam replacement update: (Brad Pound)
 - The damn is leaking and there is concern of the berm failing. The dam was built in 1910. The Mississippi Valley Conservation Association (MCVA), which owns the structure, is planning to replace the dam this fall. The tender has gone out and closes on Aug 13. It is still unclear if the dam project is a go this year. SLA will let cottagers know after Aug 23, which is the decision date for the project go ahead this year. If it does not go ahead, it will next year. Peter Smith suggested that if we have until fall 2022 then we could lobby for a coffer dam to be included in the new construction to maintain lake levels during early construction.
 - In preparation for fall construction the 1st log will be removed the 1st week of Aug with 2 logs per week being removed starting Aug 23 to draw down lake levels to below Thanksgiving level by Sept 1. Last log will be removed Sept 1 lowering the lake another 30 cm. Brad indicated that cottagers should plan as if the project is a go with respect to dealing with floating dock/ barge storage, boat removal etc. Brad described the proposed new structure indicating the berm will be ~ 50 cm higher. MVCA indicated a 100 year flood with the new structure would put water levels 1m higher than present. This would flood the road at the causeway.
 - The pressing issue now is for overland access for water access residents/cottagers. An access road will be built below the dam during construction to provide access for construction, and which can be used by cottagers. Once built, the MVCA will allow foot and ATVs over the dam however the Bon Echo Provincial Park Superintendent has requested to the MVCA that a barrier be installed on the north side of the dam to prevent motorized vehicles and allow foot traffic only. They are concerned with certain activities that are contrary to park rules and wish to prevent further access. MVCA has not yet signed the agreement. The Park will give emergency vehicles access with a key to the locked gate. Brad gave a brief report on historical access on the water access side of the lake starting with a cattle trail prior to cottages being established. The trails are long standing and should be grandfathered into Park plan. Donalda Simmons asked if the Park was aware that the ATV trail is primarily on private land. Laura indicated that she and Brad are meeting with the Park superintendent to try to find a resolution to this issue. At present, the Township has stepped back from the issue. We may need cottager help with a writing MPP campaign, petition etc. if discussions fail with the Park. Discussion ensued. Mike Bathurst mentioned that in the past, Queen's University students doing bird counts on trails they created near Bon Echo Rock.

- Jevan Ballantyne may have a senior contact in the Minister of Environment Conservation and Parks that can help us with our access issue and dealing with the Park. He will inquire.
- It was asked if the lake is still being tested for water quality. Brad indicated his wife Dar is doing it as well as clarity testing on a monthly basis. Lake is status quo except for slight spike in chlorine spring and fall. The lake is not tested for phosphates.
- North Frontenac Lake Association Alliance (NFLA) (Laura Logan)
 - Alliance represents 23-26 lakes in North Frontenac Township; cottagers constitute ~ 75% of Township's tax base.
 - Main issues:
 - water quality,
 - proposed mandatory septic system inspections,
 - cell phone coverage - Rogers won contract to improve service in eastern Ontario. It will be available for all users not just Rogers.
 - Short term rentals – such as the two cottages on Mazinaw Lake along our road. Last year, the Mazinaw association had asked Council to adopt a by-law on short term rentals. It did not pass. The Council has asked the NFLAA for a written a proposal for Twp council to accept to control commercial short-term rentals
 - MOTION: by Laura Logan; That SLA provide its support to the NFLAA proposal to look at ways to control commercial short-term rentals which does not affect cottage owners who chose to rent their cottages. Seconded by Eleanor Lyons. Motion passed.
- Lake Stewardship Plan (Laura Logan):
 - Has been put on the back burner due to immediacy of the dam issues.
 - Laura provided survey results: replies 50/50 water road split
 - Preferred Activities: Swimming, canoeing, enjoying nature, being on the dock or shore, reading, relaxing and walking
 - Top Values: Clean water, cottage safety, peace, protection of the crown land, protection of birds and wildlife, protection of aquatic life, protection of shorelines and landscaped
 - Major Issues: Water pollution, jet skis, algae, septic issues, fish depletion, boat speeds and erosion.
- Other Business:

- Gypsy Moths (Peter Smith) Thanked the SLA for organising this spring spraying and asked that it be organised for next year. Cottagers present are interested. Laura will contact Zimmer Air. Discussion followed about male pheromone traps.

Next meeting: It is uncertain if there will be one in Sept. SLA will keep members informed.