

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

DATE: Saturday August 22, 2020 **Elder's Lodge, Pikwakanagan**

PRESENT: President Kate O'Hara, Vice President Dave Clark, Treasurer Livia Vodenicar, Past President Ron Rimmer, Lake Steward Natalie Corbin, Directors Chris Hamilton, Sandy Nash, Jeff Raisbeck, Sylvia Hillier, Alison Wood, Rick O'Brien, Secretary Theresa Rasp

CALL TO ORDER at 10:05 am

WELCOME:

Welcome to everyone from Kate, especially for Sylvia Hillier, our newest director.

Theresa put forth a motion to approve the July 12, 2020 minutes.

MOTION: To accept the minutes of July 12, 2020 as recorded
MOVED: Ron Rimmer **SECONDED:** Alison Wood **CARRIED**

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Jan 1st opening balance was \$ 6537.96 in savings, \$10,713.33 in chequing, totalling \$17,251.29. There are a number of expenses and monthly reimbursements from e-transfers and FOCA; canvassing YTD has generated \$9930.46 (chequing) and \$6714.86 (savings). A number of expenses are upcoming for discussion and approval.

Accountant usually recommends what portion of closing and opening balances annually should be in chequing vs savings accounts. Rick O'Brien confirmed that the Fish Committee financials revenue and expenses have been tracked going back to 2013. The Fish Committee concurs with the current financial reports.

MOTION: To accept the Treasurers' Report
MOVED: Chris Hamilton **SECONDED:** Dave Clark **CARRIED**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Lake Steward - Natalie Corbin

Natalie presented an overview of various sub-committees. Everyone was in agreement that boating safety should fall under shoal marking. In the past boating safety entailed looking after the boat launches, signage and water level indicators under bridges. There is a speed limit sign on Brennan's Creek, confirmed by Dave Clark.

Water Levels:

Don Bishop is Chair and will be training with Ron Rimmer. The BRWMP amendment has passed, so Round Lake will be dropped for flood mitigation - 50 cm of reservoir capacity room. Golden Lake will see higher levels this fall as a result, likely 4-6 cm weekly. This is a one year trial after which results will be assessed. Any water level above or below the license of occupation would need MNRF to be involved in the decision-making process going forward. Draw down date is Sept 7th.

Shoal Marking:

Chair is Eric Weckworth. Due to COVID this year, Eric and Ron put out the majority of shoal markers with other volunteers also stepping in to help. New buoys in front of O'Hara's and Vornweg's places on Island View Drive as the bottom has become much shallower at that location in recent years. Markers to stay in until Thanksgiving.

Process for marker management should be more functional - get input to do this. Jay Foran met with Natalie and suggested four different points of places where markers would be stored so there would be different allocations for placement with volunteers and storage (best for full time residents to manage). Given the increased boat traffic the past few years including fishing tournaments, this also becomes a boat safety issue in ensuring the buoys are in place until Thanksgiving weekend. Eric is volunteering his help in taking out markers if volunteers can't do it. Natalie noted that with the increase in fishing tournaments, she would like some volunteers to watch that boats coming in through launches to ensure foreign/ invasive species (ie zebra mussels) aren't coming into our lake.

Natalie will reach out to Jeff for his help with organizing storage and placement/ retrieval, likely in four areas (lake quadrants) to also include Cormorant Island, McMillans Cabins, Hoffmans Beach and near Big Island. Natalie will draft up a schedule for all involved. Thanks to Eric and Ron for their work this year placing the markers. 75% of all ropes and chains were replaced this year.

Marker supplies come from Killaloe Hardware for chains and Pride Marine for rope.

Dave noted the amount of boaters that disregard the shoal markers, often ending up beached or ashore. The maps that clearly show these markers may need to be enhanced further, and possibly a pop-up on our website could also help educate boaters unfamiliar with our lake.

750 maps still available (175 maps sold). Fishing map apps are also another tool. Ron has approximately 150 unfolded maps that would be ideal for anyone looking to frame/hang. Natalie suggests a new map that would be user-friendly (smaller) for boaters; if we end up watching fishing tournament boat launching we can also try to sell additional maps at that time & place.

Boating Safety:

Natalie is registered for FOCA webinar meeting on Aug 25 - "Signs and Buoys" - with Transport Canada rep (Kate to join as well). Speed limit and wake speed signs have rules around what can be posted. Property owners have asked about getting "No Wake" signs posted around their water areas; if there are no obstacles then they would have to incur the cost themselves.

Boat Launch on Island View Drive is a registered public beach, meaning there are many swimmers there who are drawn to the markers at O'Haras and Beatty's Island. Natalie to talk to Andrew Sprunt (NAW CAO) about the township posting something given this is a public beach and we have safety concerns with heavy swimming and boat traffic. Natalie is going to ask about this kind of sign posting at the FOCA webinar, as well as with Andrew.

Water Testing:

Chair is Natalie.

2007 was when water testing group was formed and met with Bev Clark from the Ministry of Environment who advised that Phosphorous was an excellent marking of water quality. The Lake Partner Program test is free, and e-coli is not worth testing as there is always some e-coli in water especially where there is wildlife. GLPOA joined LPP in May 2007, and in 2010 a special reading was done at Brennan's Creek due to an algae bloom but there is nothing in any testing indicating an algae bloom. Testing was done upstream and downstream of the water treatment plant (Killaloe) and had similar e-coli tests. While we don't have an e-coli problem, it appears that wildlife (ie Beavers) can show increases in e-coli. Caduceon Labs became our testing lab back in 2015, due to concerns about the Ruby Road dump and whether there were contaminants coming from there.

Natalie then presented historical data done with government and volunteer testing. Notable readings:

- Nitrogen is supposed to be .1 and .2 - we are not far off (50 is the high!)
- Phosphorous readings below 10 mean zero risk; readings were quite low
- Calcium keeps plants and fish healthy; lowest would be 2 mg and we are healthy.
- E Coli levels are extremely low and therefore the water is quite clean and healthy. 200 is a high level; we are at 24!
- Water clarity isn't clear if it's turbid or high in iron. Our measurements are awesome in that area!

Natalie is recommending that the data be reformatted for ease of use for visitors to our site.

Natalie proposes that we return to Lake Partner Program who will perform water tests for clarity, calcium and phosphorous all which are most critical, and which

costs us nothing. Caduceon costs over the past few years average in the \$700-\$750 range, which is not a huge cost but if we can save these costs and maintain quality water testing then it makes sense. We can set up multiple volunteers through LPP, and will receive the equipment free of charge from the province.

Golden Lake Oleotrophic - great pictures, descriptions on how to do water testing, offer of a volunteer to advise on testing.

The North Renfrew Health unit tests public areas such as the IVD boat launch. The Deacon pit stop area is considered provincial and the reserve tests Commanda's campground regularly.

Glenn offered to do the water testing this year as LPP is not working this year due to COVID. Andy Trafford and Tammy Joudrey can do the testing with Glenn & Heather for the last test of the year with Caduceon.

FOCA and the lab Deca did multiple publishings during this year to say that in no way was it a risk for LPP to be shut down this year during Covid. The LPP was in danger of shutting down prior to this year, but FOCA stepped in, hearing from many LPP programs around Ontario and the risk of shutting down looks non-existent for the immediate future.

Fish Committee:

Jay Foran is Chair. He asked MNR biologist Lauren Trute, for update on what they are planning to do with the lake. No response as of yet. Natalie discussed shoal marking with him. More on the fish committee in **Other Business** notes.

2020 Goals:

- Update info (ie lake levels) and pics on our website
- Finalize our lab
- Implement changes to shoal marking storage/marker management

Ron noted at this point – and everyone agreed – this was an excellent and comprehensive Lake Steward Report, and thanked Natalie for the presentation.

MEMBERSHIPS: Kate O'Hara

Paid memberships to date: 243 YTD including complimentary sponsors. Some canvassers have gone back out and/or emailed to see if there are any outstanding membership we can collect for this year. Considering the year we've faced with Covid, this number is not unexpected and in fact higher than was estimated.

CORPORATE SPONSORS

Jeff has great feedback from sponsors to have their sponsorships waived for 2020. Similar fee schedule is proposed for 2021. There are some businesses that may not be able to continue on as sponsors due to Covid-related issues but we'll wait and see what transpires in the new year.

COMMUNICATIONS: Chris Hamilton/Alison Wood

Newsletters: Very positive feedback about the quality of the content after having only soft copies available this year; anticipate going back to hard copies as well next year.

Facebook: Chris reports that our Facebook page is over 1000 members. Questions on Facebook page:

- What's your interest in Golden Lake and Bonnechere River?
- Are you a property owner?
- Are you a member of GLPOA?

Ron is no longer co-administrator along with Ali. The board is asked to consider rotating the administrative role on a regular basis. If you see anything that you feel should be removed, please let Ali know. There are not many posts taken down.

Monthly Updates:

5 monthly updates were sent this year with one more to come. Kate writes these, and Chris advised we get great feedback from membership on these updates!

Website: Chris showed page views, unique visitors and other stats. Our costs have gone up as we want to be sure to be considered a secure website; we've signed up for a managed SSL support (security software language) and upgraded to a different web service level (they take care of some of the maintenance). Overall costs are \$374 every year for the entire maintenance and management of our website on a three-year contract.

MOTION: to accept all Committee Reports
MOVED: Dave Clark **SECONDED:** Don O'Reilly **CARRIED**

OTHER BUSINESS:

AGM Debrief

Kate: Very positive feedback – and again many thanks to Chris for his superlative hosting! We'll keep Zoom subscription (\$20/mo) until at least the end of this year.

Municipality Communications

Andrew Sprunt (CAO, NAW) received our last GLPOA update, and asked if he could share it at their next Council meeting, as it was so informative. Kate sent the August update to the other two townships - Bonnechere Valley and KHR - who responded in kind, and also sent it to Round Lake Property Owners Association and RPG. Ron is our rep for GLPOA on the amendment committee.

BRWMP & Ron Rimmer

Kate spoke to Janice Visneski-Moore about the amendment and water level management stakeholders committee, as well as to update on our AGM. Janice sent a special thanks to Ron for his contribution, and Kate asked if Ron could remain on the stakeholders group - to which Janice said she would be honoured to have him continue with them! Ron has accepted.

FOCA Renewal

Happy to hear we had a great AGM as a result of their advice about how best to tackle AGMs in 2020. Membership will go from \$3.50 to \$4.00 p/p in 2021. We will submit for 250 memberships for 2020. There are 713 properties on Golden Lake/ Bonnechere River and we have estimated seasonal properties at 65%.

Historic Financial Records

Rick has financial records going back 7 years. Rick has offered to hold onto these for 7 years. Anything older than that will be destroyed.

Fish Committee

Natalie has worked on opening up better communication lines with the fish committee to ensure we all have similar goals and means of keeping everything within our constitution, be accountable and not work at arms-length. The Fish Committee will be invited to the next meeting on Sept 26th.

In addition, Natalie suggests reaching out to the committee to be involved in the invasive species area as John Taker from Lake Clear Property Owners Association contacted her about having a suspicion of zebra mussels in their lake. They've sent away tests and are awaiting confirmation, but given there are zebra mussels in many lakes in this area it would not be surprising. We have had a number of fishing tournaments this year, so should have a committee to reach out to those people hosting those tournaments and create a one-stop spot for registering, providing maps and inspection of boats going into the water to prevent invasive species.

Closing Remarks

Kate thanked everyone for their support particularly in a difficult year with COVID. This was really our first official meeting this year and we had plenty to cover!

NEXT MEETING: Sept 26, 2020

This will be a zoom meeting for all board members including the fish committee.

MOTION: Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Moved: Kate O'Hara

SECONDED: Jeff Raisbeck

CARRIED

Kate O'Hara, President

Theresa Rasp, Secretary

These minutes are not official until approved by the Board by resolution and signed by the President and Secretary.