

Minutes of the 2010 Annual Meeting of the North and South Otter Lakes Cottage Association

The 2010 annual meeting of the North and South Otter Lakes Cottage Association was held at the Frontenac Provincial Park building on Sunday 18 July.

The meeting was preceded by a half hour coffee social.

Liz Evans (President) called the meeting to order at 10:30 am

27 members were present:

Members present

Edward and Mary Farrar

Catherine West and Ian Burgham

John Vincett and Pamela Wheaton

Rudy and Joyce Duncan

Simon Smith

Liz and Mike Evans

Brian Roche

Anne and Barry Robertson

Harry and Henriette Kilfoyle

Roslin Sinclair

Steven Blostein

Mike Kramer

Bill Racz (Scouts Canada)

Gail and Mike Beausoleil (Scouts Canada)

Judy Tetlow

Edith Costello

Barbara Dewhirst and Andre Lessard

Peter Dawson (Park Warden)

1. Welcome

Liz welcomed members and thanked the Park for their hospitality and free parking passes.

Liz pointed out that there had been changes in the lake people this year. Sadly the McGreers have both passed away, and Brian Roach and family are the new owners of the McGreer's cottage..

Each member then introduced themselves.

Minutes

The minutes of the 2009 meeting had been distributed. Three amendments were made:

* Edith Costello was added to the list of attendees in 2009

*A statement that Otter Point Lane boat ramp is intended for Otter Point Lane owners only and is not a public boat ramp (permission to launch and a donation may be acceptable) was added and

*The Water ski course had been used for 21.1 hours over 12 months

Motion to adopt the amended minutes was moved by Barry Robertson, seconded

by Harry Kilfoyle and passed.

2. Election of Officers

Liz presented the slate of officers for 2010-2011

President : Liz Evans (another year)

Vice President: vacant

Secretary: Jean Hodgson

Treasurer: Edith Costello

At large: Barry Robertson

At large: Steve Blostein

Peter Neumann is considering joining the executive

Motion that the slate be accepted. Moved by Mike Kramer, seconded by Ian Burgham and passed.

3. Treasurers report

Edith Costello presented the treasurers report which is attached. The present balance in the account is \$902.33. Edith proposed that the annual dues to FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations) be paid. 26 members paid dues in 2009

Moved by Edith Costello that the treasurers' report be adopted. Seconded by Barry Robertson and passed unanimously

4. Lake Map and Membership

Barry Robertson had updated the membership list which has been passed on to all cottage owners. He asked that the executive be notified of any changes to the present information. Last year it was suggested all civic addresses be included in the list. This was done and given to the fire chief. Some properties do not have a civic address: they either have no road access, have no buildings or are unregistered. Copies of the list are available. We have e mails for about 80% of property owners.

5. Lake Binder

Pam Wheaton passed out sheets for members to report natural sightings and changes in lake activity, shoreline water level and water quality on N and S Otter Lakes over the past year.

a. Water quality was discussed. Readings are submitted to the Ministry of the Environment web site (**HYPERLINK** "<http://www.ontario.ca/lakepartner>" www.ontario.ca/lakepartner, 1 800 470 8322)

David Crane and Jean Hodgson had done some research.

The water clarity last year was similar to previous years. The secci disc reading for clarity in May 2010 was 50 cm less due to excess pollen in the water. The phosphorus levels are fine.

Mike Evans volunteered to take over the monitoring job.

b. Beavers. Ed reported little beaver activity. He suggested breaking down the dam in the stream between Rothwell and Holleford Lakes to lower the water level in Otter Lake.

Barry reported on his beaver survey. There is one new lodge and 18 trees have been cut. In long term context the number of cut trees has varied between 4 and 55 with an average of

19 per year.

Simon Smith described the extensive beaver activity on his property. Mike Evans, Steve Blostein, and John Vincett contributed to this discussion.

c. Trees. Barry reminded members about the Asian Long-horned beetle and the Emerald Ash Borer which are now a real threat in our area. He described the symptoms of the tree that is host to the Ash Borer

d. Birds. Ospreys built a new nest on Bridget Roussel's island. The occupants have not been seen for a couple of weeks. The Osprey nest on South Otter has 2 young.

No Loon babies fledged this year. Ian volunteered to make a sign to deter people from camping on Loon Island.

e. Lake levels. Steve pointed out the beaver damming of the culverts inconveniences people using the boat launch and could flood the road. Liz explained she and Mike checked the culvert in April and contacted the roads department who then came and broke up the dam. The timing of this culvert clearing is important to avoid flooding of the Loon nest.

f. Invasive Plants. Barry summarized the identifying features of Garlic Mustard and that it suppresses growth of other plants. A booklet is available

g. Fish. Alfie was not present. There was no discussion of the fish in Otter Lake.

h. Turtles, Snakes and Amphibians. Liz pointed out these species need protection.. Toronto Zoo has good identifying posters. Frontenac Park collects reports of sightings of these species and has a library of field guides on these species.

6. Boating Competency

A license is now required for any power boat operators. It may be completed on line.

Discussion followed

7. Tree cutting regulations

No tree cutting is allowed within 100 feet of the shoreline in order to reduce erosion, maintain filtration of chemicals and reduce septic leaching. The shoreline bushes and trees clean water as it trickles towards the lake just like kidneys. Thus tree cutting to the lake is not allowed.

Septic leaching near the shoreline may be a problem.

Discussion followed. We need to look after the water's edge.

Regulations are available from the Public works Department of the Township of South Frontenac. (613 376 3900)

Reports of violation of the tree cutting law should be made to the Township.

8. Private Lanes

The township will now help with improvements to private lanes. A lane residents' association may apply for the grant of 50% of the total cost. Details of application may be found on line through Frontenac Township

9. Liability Insurance

FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations) suggests insurance for officers and directors to protect them from financial and personal loss in the case of a lawsuit against the Cottage Association.

The water ski course is insured independently and the Cottage Association is not

responsible. Aviva is an insurance agency that for our small membership would charge \$260 for Officers and Directors insurance and \$260 for liability annually. It was noted we have about \$900.00 in our account.

.10. Association Incorporation

It had been suggested that if we were to become incorporated (one time cost about \$155.00 plus search) then we could be sued only for the amount in our bank account. . Insurance should not then be necessary. Simon suggested incorporation might not cost if done appropriately

Peter Neumann has volunteered to get a properly worded a by-law to cover us.

Motion: to get a properly worded by-law. Moved by Barry, seconded by Judy Tetlow.

Motion: That we proceed with incorporation. Moved by Ian Burgham, seconded by Mary Farrar

Simon wished to be included in this process

11. Property Lines/Civic signs We are encouraged to make sure our property signs are there and that access roads have at least 15 foot clearance for height and 15 feet width to ensure access for emergency vehicles. For details see Frontenac Township website.

12. Boat Launches: There is only one public boat launch. The one on Otter Point Lane is private, and permission is required.

13. Water Ski Course Mike Kramer submitted a full report which is attached. The course has been used for 17.4 hours this year for an average of about one hour per week. Mike offered to repair the Scout Camp pump if it were damaged by waves. Steve said he had not seen anyone else using the course.

14. Other

Auditing of the finances is necessary by law. Mike Kramer volunteered to do this

Thanks. Mary Farrar thanked Frontenac Park again and the Scouts for past hosting of our annual meetings

Next Meeting The next annual meeting will be on the third Sunday in July 2011. July 16.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 11:55 am

The meeting was followed by a delicious pot luck lunch outside.

Attachments

Treasurers report

Slalom Course Update

Respectfully submitted

Anne Robertson

October 6, 2010

