

North and South Otter Lake Association AGM Minutes, July 17th 2011

The 2011 AGM was held at Frontenac Provincial Park headquarters.
Meeting called to order by Liz Evans (president) at 10:00 am.

Present: 29 members:

Trent McKee
Barbara Dewhirst & Andre Lessard
Tracy Mallen
Terry Babcock
Steven Blostein
Liz & Mike Evans
Simon & Alison Smith
Walter Abicht
Paul Bodurtha
Peter Dawson
Gail & Mike Beausoleil
Brian Roche
Mike Kramer
Donna Hackett
Wilma & Cam Kenny
Judy Tetlow
Harry Kilfoyle
Mary & Ed Farrar
Don True
Edith Costello
John Vincett
Anne and Barry Robertson

1) Welcome & Introductions:

Liz Evans thanked Peter Dawson for the park's hospitality, thanked everyone for attending and noted the solid turnout with many first time attendees as very encouraging.
Member introductions and respective property ownerships were shared.

2) Adoption of Minutes:

The minutes (prepared by Anne Robertson) were adopted with the following amendment;
Peter Dawson is the Frontenac Park Superintendent, not Park Warden.

Motion put forward by Mary Farrar to adopt the minutes of the 2010 AGM, seconded by John Vincett, carried by majority.

3) Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Edith Costello presented the:
'2011 North and South Cottagers' Association Treasurer's Report' (attached)
Balance as of July 18/ 2010 = \$902.33

Payments made for FOCA membership for 2010 and 2011, interest earned and service charges rendered leave:

Balance as of July 17/ 2011= \$822.95 (not including 2011 membership fees paid)

Motion to adopt Treasurer's report put forward by Edith Costello, seconded by Anne Robertson, carried by majority.

4) Changes to Lake Map or Membership

Barry Robertson presented his updated map of 'North and South Otter Lake Cottagers' (attached)

New owners:

Site 7: Beatrix Mueller

Site 24: Ken Deforest

Site 28: Paul Bodurtha

Site 36: Francis Wright & Brian Roche

Barry requested that any new contact information be provided to him asap to ensure that the map and membership information remains current.

5) Lake Binder and Reports

Lake Binder:

John Vincett described the lake binder which Pam Wheaton is currently looking after, and is comprised of 20 yrs worth of anecdotal information regarding lake wildlife and water changes. John noted that patterns are readily visible despite the fact that the information is not comprehensive. Members were encouraged to add information to the binder regarding last year's observances in order to continue to augment and amass useful information.

Water Quality:

Mike Evans reported on water testing done for MOE at end of every month

Sample taken on May 29/ 2011 and sent prior to mail strike, though results still not available.

(results are posted on MOE website) (www.ontario.ca/lakepartner 1 800 470 8322)

Although Mike noted that the last 2 yrs of results are still not posted despite his enquiries.

Sechi /disk readings @ end of May were below 10 ft (after substantive rain)

Sechi Disk readings late June:

= 4.0m in deep part of lake in bay between Site 35 & 23

= 5.6m in front of Scout Camp

= 4.8m near Desert Lake Rd culvert

Overall water quality is good...

Mike to look into zebra mussel testing next (Judy has tested for larvae several yrs ago...no signs evident then)

Gail Beausoleil from Scout Camp reported that water testing last year at the camp, just after the ice went out registered @ 12 for total coliform.

(Spring from beaver pond near scout camp possibly a factor in water quality)

Wildlife:

Loons:

Wilma reported 2 young in S Otter Lake just around the point in the park

Large groups noted together over last year in N Otter by Ed & Judy.

Significant water shifts created nesting problems this year...but the pair must have nested as there was a young loon seen several times.

Osprey:

Rebuilding nest on island in South Otter after tree with original nest fell down in a big storm. They have built a new nest on another tree.

Last year, a pair of osprey attempted to nest by Peter's cottage on Loon Is, but gave up. This spring, the same pair built a nest on the island opposite KFN property in North Otter, but gave up when the nest was blown apart by strong winds.

Otters:

Walter noted significant sightings

Snakes:

Prolific this yr around the lake

Snails:

Mary F. reported significant increase in population

Snails are implicated in 'swimmers itch'.... ducks and geese carry the parasite that causes it.

Solution is to towel off well after swimming.

Leeches:

Have been found on occasion...recently at Scout Camp beach

Fishing:

Gail reports excellent fishing: when hotter fish are deep, when cooler: in shallows

Gail has caught 3-4 lb bass and large pike

N Otter good for Crappy in weeds after 6:00 pm

Beavers:

Simon reports fewer sightings and less damage, tho' tree loss on shoreline still evident

Wiring young trees is helpful: tho' beavers can chew through 3 inch wire

To deter: 2 inch wire needed 3 feet up trees

Barry noted little evidence of saplings down

Bert indicated that WD 40 sprayed on trees will deter beavers from chewing as it is a natural fish oil; although it does need to be re-applied after rain.

Liz thinks township may have removed some beavers due to on-going problems with N/S Otter Lake culvert blockage.

Butternut Trees:

Anne R. notes that Butternuts are endangered, and therefore not allowed to be cut whether alive or dead. She reported that they are scattered around the lake despite canker problems that are causing them to die out.

Walter Abicht noted that professional forest management experts located a Butternut between his property and the park boundary that is possibly resistant to the canker.

Ash trees:

Emerald ash borer is still a problem: reported in Toronto, Ottawa and Landsdowne. No evidence of it here yet; although significant Ash tree die off was noted.

6. Changes to our Constitution:

Liz reported the need to incorporate because FOCA, and other Lake Associations advised this for insurance purposes. The added protection would help to avoid high insurance costs

a) Name change before Incorporation:

Jean Hodgson did title search:

There are other Otter Lake Cottage Associations; hence:

Motion by Barry Robertson to remove ‘cottagers’ from title; (especially since several people are year round residents)

Title to read: ‘North and South Otter Lake Association’

Seconded by Gail Beausoleil, carried by majority

b) Preamble – environment

Motion: John Vincett: Preamble to include:

‘...and with the maintenance of the health of the natural environment’

i.e.: 1. Preamble

The North and South Cottagers’ Association has been founded for people in the area of North and South Otter Lake who are interested in an organization for their common good. The Association concerns itself with taking an interest in everything which may contribute to the health, pleasure, comfort and security of those living temporarily or permanently in the area, and with the maintenance of the health of the natural environment. All members are encouraged to reflect the general feeling of their Community and to bring their needs to the attention of the Association.

Seconded by Ed Farrar, Carried by majority

c) Sec 4: Members/ Designates

Discussion re designates not appearing previously in constitution. Confusion re ‘designate’ vs ‘informed designate’ vs ‘regular user’ Suggestion made to remove the sentence:

‘the designate shall be a regular user of the property of the owner making the designation’

... particularly because owners would like to be able to nominate a designate they trust to enact their wishes... one who may not necessarily be a regular user.

Also to remove:

‘upon applying for membership’

because the wording created confusion as to who was making the application, and that this designation should be able to occur at any time if reasonable notification was given to the executive.

Suggestion to adjust to:

The members of the association shall be (i) the registered owners of lands included within the said area and the spouses of such owners, or (ii) the designates of the registered owners; provided the aforesaid owners and spouses of owners or designates who have paid the Association their annual dues as per Membership C. Designates shall be identified in writing to the association.

Motion by John Vincett to return this section with the above feedback for the executive to clarify, seconded by Anne Robertson, carried by majority.

d) AGM para D (addition),

D. Each property owner as shown in the ~~attached~~ current property owner plan represented at the annual general meeting, or designate of the property owner, shall have one (1) vote on each motion put to the meeting, and motions shall be determined by the simple majority of votes on a show of hands. Those members who own more than one registered lot included in the jurisdiction shall be limited to one vote on each motion.

Motion to adopt changes as above by Barry Robertson, seconded by Andre Lessard, carried by majority

Para F (proxy votes)

- A. For voting at the annual general meeting, the property owner or his/her designate may appoint a Proxy. The Proxy must be a paid-up member of the Association and shall be identified in writing, signed by the registered property owner or designate. This proxy appointment notice shall be presented to a member of the executive of the Association at the commencement of the annual general meeting.

Discussion re need to clarify distinction between designate and proxy...& is there need to identify both, or will one suffice? Wording also suggests that proxy must be a paid up member vs. the member they are representing.

Motion by Judy Tetlow to send this section back to executive to clarify, seconded by Mary Farrar, Carried by majority

e) Executive Para D (new) officers

- D) The executive shall be permitted to appoint interim executive members to fill any vacancies that may arise between annual general meetings.

Motion to adopt as above by John Vincett, seconded by Anne Robertson, carried by majority

Executive Para F & G: member indemnification

F) All members of the executive and their heirs, executors, administrators and estates shall at all times be indemnified and saved harmless out of the funds of the Association from and against:

- i. all costs, charges and expenses whatsoever which, in good faith, he or she sustains or incurs in defending any action, suit or proceeding which is brought, commenced or prosecuted against him or her for, or in respect of, any act, deed, matter or things whatsoever made, done or permitted by him or her in the execution of the duties of his or her office; and
- ii. all other costs, charges and expenses that he or she sustains or incurs in or about or in relation to the affairs of the Association except such costs, charges or expenses as are occasioned by his or her own willful neglect or default.

G.) The Association may also indemnify any executive member in such other circumstances as the law may permit or require. Nothing in this Constitution shall limit the right of any

person entitled to indemnity to claim indemnity apart from the provisions of this Constitution to the extent permitted by law.

Motion to adopt changes as above by: Andre Lessard, seconded by Wilma Kenny carried by majority vote.

7.) Water Ski Course

Mike Kramer reported that his water-ski course went out in mid Oct 2010 and was put back in during spring 2011

July 18/ 2010 to July 17/ 2011 amassed 12.5 hrs of ski boat running time: an average of .63 hrs per wk during the season

A permit application with Transport Canada was filed in March 2010

Permit notification is pending, Transport Canada to announce in local paper

Mike notes that he does not use the course when other boats are out in the main part of the lake, that he will continue to be respectful, responsible and considerate regarding the use of the ski course.

Gail noted risk management concerns regarding the adjacent Scout Camp; that boat wake had disconnected the water supply on several occasions and that people on the beach were sometimes frightened by boat approaches.

Walter expressed aesthetic concerns regarding the course and was encouraged to resolve these directly with Mike.

Some discussion ensued regarding the potential use of a submersible buoy system; although Mike indicated that such a system was unreliable and upwards of \$1,500 so he was not considering this option.

8.) Report for the Year

Liz Evans indicated that her report was embodied in everyone's contributions and thanked them for their information and on-going assistance in maintaining the health and quality of our lake and thereby promoting everyone's enjoyment.

9.) Other

Scout Camp Detritus

Gail indicated that storms had brought in a number of unclaimed items to the scout camp property including a red steel boat and 2 sections of dock.

She requested that respective owners remove these items asap or the Scout Camp would claim ownership and salvage them.

Suggestion was made that she send out this information with pictures to all Lake association Members with a 30 day timeline for property claims.

Sydenham Library

Wilma shared that the new Sydenham Library allowed for on-line book orders and suggested a connection with our Lake Association.

Wild Parsnip

Wilma noted that Wild Parsnip is rampant along the roadside and warned that it can cause a severe skin reaction.

It is a large dill-like plant with greenish/yellow flowers.

Barry noted that it is not visible on N/S Otter Lakes.

Stolen Items

Barb indicated that she and Andre had a turquoise/blue canoe stolen from their property between the fall of 2010 and spring of 2011.

Peter Neumann (in the adjacent area) had a length of chain taken from his dock this spring.

Lake owners are asked to remain vigilant and to provide a neighbourhood watch system

Otter Point Lane Boat Ramp

Judy noted that the Otter Point Lane boat Ramp is currently managed by Keith Austin and Dale Midwood in conjunction with their private road management.

Dale and Keith would like to remind lake owners that the Otter Point Lane Boat Ramp is for the use of Otter Point Road property owners.

It is costly to maintain the road and ramp; however given the frequent limited accessibility at the culvert Dale and Keith recognize that other lake owners may need alternate boat access...

They request that if this is the case one of them be contacted regarding access, and a donation be made to the Otter Point Road Fund.

10. Elections

Proposed Slate of officers for 2011/2012:

President: Liz Evans

Vice president: Peter Neumann

Secretary: Jean Hodgson

Treasurer: Edith Costello

Members at Large: Barry Robertson, Brian Roche, Steve Blostein

Past President: Wilma Kenny

Motion to accept slate of officers: Walter Abicht, seconded by Mary Farrar, carried by majority.