

Draft - Minutes – 2017 Spring Meeting

Saturday, May 20, 2017 9:00 am

Haliburton Forest & Wildlife Reserve

(To be approved by the Membership at the AGM – September 2nd, 2017)

1. Welcome & Call to Order – Tayce Wakefield

KLCOA's By-laws set quorum for the Annual General Meeting as a minimum of more than half of the Board Members eligible to vote. David Austin, Cam Douglas Tina Fagg, Sheelagh Lawrance, Joan Middleton, John Middleton, Terry O'Connor, Janis Parker, Jim Prince, John Smith, Tayce Wakefield and Cathy Whittaker were present so quorum was confirmed.

President Wakefield introduced all the Board members and their associated responsibilities and KLCOA activities.

Motion to Approve Agenda for the Meeting

M: Beach

S: Shiaty

All in Favour

Motion to Approve Minutes of 2016 AGM (September 5, 2016) as posted on the website.

M: Rodd

S: J. Smith

All in Favour

2. Remarks by Reeve Murray Fearrey

Reeve Fearrey began his remarks by thanking KLCOA, for being proactive on septics, water quality and roads. He noted that all lake associations are having the same concerns about water quality. He reminded the audience that most cottages on the Kennisis Lakes were seasonal residences built in the 50s, 60s and 70s; septics then were steel tanks. Now with many cottages expanding and becoming four season homes, and with the addition of dishwashers and washing machines, there is more pressure being put on septic systems and ultimately, lake water quality. Reeve Fearrey has met with KLCOA representatives to discuss a mandatory re-inspection program. The Township has recently purchased 140 acres to establish a disposal facility for the additional effluent. Council will be looking at developing the new regulations shortly. Reeve Fearrey advised that if property owners contracted for their own full inspections in the meantime, using a qualified inspector, they would not have to do another inspection for five years.

Next, Reeve Fearry focused on septic tile beds. He described the need for shoreline restoration and the need to keep a natural shoreline, which acts as a buffer to reduce nutrients and chemicals from leaching into the lake. He advised that property values could decrease as much as 40% should algal blooms become a regular occurrence in the lakes.

In closing, Reeve Fearrey reported on the rise of cottage rentals through Airbnb, and recommended that cottagers use reputable agencies who screen potential renters and that renters ensure that their properties are not overloaded with more people than their facilities, including septics, can support.

In answer to a question about the need to inspect new septic systems, Reeve Fearrey reported that it would likely be at least one to two years until the first inspection would be required. In addition, he advised that when cottages change hands, purchasers should make sure that a septic inspection be done by a reputable inspector. In answer to a question on where to source plant material for shoreline restoration, he noted that there was a nursery close to Lindsay that carried appropriate species.

3. Remarks by Councillor Susan Norcross

Councillor Norcross provided information about celebrations in Dysart for Canada 150 and invited everyone to the celebrations on July 1st at Head Lake. In addition, Dysart 150 events would be held from July 7-9th. A video has been produced and can be picked up at the Dysart offices. An on-line guide is available on the Township's website.

With respect to roadwork, Councillor Norcross advised that \$300K of the roads budget has been allocated to the Lakes and work is proceeding on the Paddy's Bay bridge. In response to a question, she advised that the bridge deck should be complete by July 1st. In response to a further question she noted that it would not be possible to raise the bridge at this point.

In concluding her remarks, Councillor Norcross advised that the Kennisis Lake Landfill would become a transfer station in the future.

4. Local Business Update -Doug Mahood – Kennisis Marina

President Wakefield thanked Doug Mahood for all of his support of the Association, particularly all the activities that take place at the Marina.

Doug reminded people to boat safely and that there were lots of docks and logs floating in the lake. He indicated that if people towed them to the marina, in the interests of safety, he would remove them. A member commented that it was very important that the community support the marina.

5. Remarks by Malcolm Cockwell, Managing Director, Haliburton Forest

Malcolm Cockwell, the new Managing Director of the Haliburton Forest introduced himself noting that he has been involved with the forest for the past 10 years as a researcher, PhD candidate and as an employee. He has now replaced Peter Schleifenbaum as the Managing Director and has put in place a team of people to lead the operations.

In recent years, the Forest has expanded from 60K acres to 100K acres and the operations have been divided into two parts – Forest Products and Tourism and Recreation, each overseen by a General Manager. Malcolm's goal is to grow what is already built. He noted that summer wolf howls will continue on Thursday nights, with the addition of summer evening research nights on Tuesdays.

With the addition of more acreage, the Forest will be looking at the possibility of a "quiet use reserve" for cross-county ski and snowshoe trails.

In response to a question on forest health, Malcolm discussed Beech Bark disease at length, advised that the area will see a significant die off of beech trees in the near future. He also advised that researchers are looking at hemlock and the possibility of high mortality rates in the future. Information will be posted on the Haliburton Forest website.

In response to a question regarding emerald ash borer, Malcolm indicated that it should not be an issue this far north however cottagers are advised never to move firewood from another location to Haliburton and risk the spread of insects and disease.

In closing, Malcolm welcomed the audience to visit and enjoy all that the forest has to offer.

6. 2017 Update – Tayce Wakefield, President, KLCOA

Please see separate file for the slides and details of this presentation

President Wakefield began her presentation by reviewing all of the cultural, environmental and social activities that have already taken place or are planned in 2017 and thanked the responsible volunteers.

Next, she reviewed all of the external relations initiatives undertaken by the KLCOA Board including requesting that Dysart undertake a mandatory septic re-inspection program, forming a committee to look at communication connectivity enhancements for cell and hard-line services, and working with Bell on this initiative, and further initiatives with Dysart including roads maintenance, snowplowing and the Paddy's Bay Bridge reconstruction.

President Wakefield then discussed the properties owned by KLCOA and advised of new signage that would be installed to provide information on responsible usage of the properties.

Next, she advised that changes to the KLCOA bylaws are being proposed. The suggested revisions will be posted on the KLCOA website, and will be brought forward for review at the Annual General Meeting in September. She noted that this is an election year for the Board. As one of the most active Cottage Owners' associations in the Province, she hoped to see some new faces step forward to run for the Board.

In conclusion, President Wakefield advised that there was now a new Welcome Package that would be dropped off to new cottage owners. In response to a question, she said there are approximately 600 KLCOA members, or two-thirds of the lake.

7. Draw for Art on the Dock-Cathy Whittaker

Cathy Whittaker, displayed a limited edition print created by Wilf McOstrish, an exhibitor at Art on the Dock. A raffle was held and the print was won by Philip Healy. Cathy announced that the prints were for sale, as well as T-shirts with the same image with proceeds to be donated to the Artists in the Schools program. Orders can be made on-line through the KLCOA website.

8. Financial Review – 2016 Actuals & 2017 Budget -David Austin, Treasurer, KLCOA

Please see separate file for the slides used in this presentation.

Treasurer, David Austin gave an overview of 2016 revenue and expenses, details of which are contained in the slides. He advised that total revenues were approximately \$20K, expenses were \$23K and additional advertising revenue was \$6K so the Association ended the year with a surplus. He then summarized the reserve funds.

Next, he reviewed the 2017 budget.

Motion: That the 2016 actuals and 2017 Budget be accepted.

M: Davis

S: Rodd

9. Water Quality Testing - Cam Douglas

Please see separate file for the slides used in this presentation

Cam began his presentation describing the Lake Partner program, and water quality testing that has been done by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC). He noted that results over the past several years have indicated there are rising phosphorus levels, particularly in Little Kennisis Lake, and water clarity has been decreasing in Kennisis Lake. Increased phosphorus levels lead to algal blooms and decreased dissolved oxygen levels which impact fish and other aquatic life. KLCOA has decided to be proactive on this important issue and in conjunction with MOECC, will begin its own water quality testing program with a team of volunteers. The necessary additional equipment will be loaned by MOECC.

Cam summarized the process going forwarded and in conclusion stated that our water quality is within our control. We are all part of the problem, and we can and need to be part of the solution. While the overall water quality is still fantastic, we need to work together and keep it that way.

10. Love Your Lake Shoreline Assessment- Jim Prince

Please see separate file for the slides used in this presentation

Jim said that the lake stewardship focus has three pillars: septic health, water quality monitoring and shoreline health. Jim reviewed the background on the Love Your Lake Program and advised that all property owners should now have their individual reports. He encouraged owners to read and act upon their results. Properties were either evaluated as degraded, ornamental, regenerative or natural. While the final overall lake report will not be available until June, preliminary results are that 78% of properties are either regenerative or in a natural state. This puts Kennisis Lake in the top 8% of Haliburton lakes – but just barely.

Next, he described two shoreline restoration pilot projects that were undertaken on the lake and advised that a workshop would be held in the future to provide information and techniques for shoreline restoration.

Jim, also organizes the BOOM sailing program on the lake and reported that there were still six spots available in this summer's program.

11. Septic Presentation – John Smith & Terry O'Connor

Terry began the presentation giving some background on KLOCA's discussion with Dysart on septic re-inspection and noting that KLCOA is supportive of this initiative. John reviewed the 10 point brochure on septic health and noted specifically four points: Have your septic pumped regularly, about every 3-5 years, take care what goes down the septic and avoid substances like kitchen grease, protect the bacteria in the septic by avoiding antibacterial soaps and use multi-ply rather than single ply toilet paper (it breaks down faster).

John Smith announced that a septic seminar would be held on Saturday, June 17th, with both an inspector and a pumper. Attendees would have the opportunity to win a ½ price inspection.

There were numerous questions following the presentations. In response to a question about how cottagers will be notified about the mandatory inspection, John opined that will be Dysart's responsibility, but KLCOA would provide updates on the program as it becomes available through the township. Another member asked how new cottagers would receive communications. John responded that information will be disseminated through the eBlast, KLCOA's website, the Welcome package for new cottagers as well as inserts in the tax bills. John added that KLCOA will encourage the municipality to provide a list of qualified inspectors. Finally a member suggested that KLCOA look at a group buy for both pump-outs and inspections.

John briefly reported on two other items. A roadside clean-up was held earlier in the month with 12 volunteers. He advised at a very large amount of garbage was picked up, particularly beer bottles and take-out cups and containers. John thanked the volunteers who participated. In addition, he reported on the new West Shore sign that has been installed at a cost of \$1500 and requested that West Shore families consider a donation of \$25 each to help offset the cost.

Terry reminded members about the upcoming First Aid course and reported that there were still three spots left.

Terry and John concluded their presentations noting that there were numerous brochures at the back of the room with further information.

12. Water Levels & Coalition for Equitable Water Flow (CEWF) Update- Chris Riddle

Please see separate file for the slides used in this presentation.

Chris began his presentation thanking KLCOA members for support for the naming of Keewaydin Island.

He reported that 2017 had seen the highest water levels ever recorded, in fact 4 inches above the highest levels, as a result of 6 weeks of rain in a single month resulting in flooding in Minden. This was not a localized event but was occurring all along the Trent Severn Waterway (TSW). Chris concluded his report noting that water levels should return to normal in about three weeks as long there was no further heavy rains.

13. Norah's Island – Jeff Pinkney

Please see separate file for the slides used in this presentation.

Jeff began his presentation noting that Norah's Island was the biggest island in the lake and it is managed in partnership with the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust. He introduced other members of the Norah's Island Management Committee and thanked Doug Mahood and Peter Schleifenbaum for their support. Jeff announced that a 10th anniversary celebration would be held on Sunday July 16th and it would be a Bring Your Own Picnic. Members of the Carruthers Family who donated the Island will be in attendance. Jeff concluded noting that a new agreement with the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust will be signed shortly

14. Q & A and Discussion from the Floor

For those that receive their information from KLCOA via mail, print-outs of the proposed by-law changes were available at the registration desk for pick-up.

15. Adjourn

M. J. Parker

Adjourn