

Draft - Minutes – 2018 Spring Meeting

Saturday, May 19, 2018 9:00 am

Haliburton Forest & Wildlife Reserve

(The Minutes were endorsed by the KLCOA Board of Directors at their meeting on June 10th. They are to be approved by the Membership at the AGM – September 1st, 2018)

1. Welcome & Call to Order – Deb Wratschko

KLCOA's By-laws set quorum for Members' meetings at 25 members present and entitled to vote at the meeting. Joan Middleton, Membership Director confirmed that quorum had been achieved. The following Directors were in attendance: Gino Ariano, Arlene Burch, Grant DeMarsh, Scott Durie, Brian Evans, Tina Fagg, Sheelagh Lawrance, Joan Middleton, John Middleton, Terry O'Connor, Jim Prince, John Smith, and Deb Wratschko.

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

Motion to Approve Agenda for the Meeting

M: Jeff Pinkney

S: Tony Lepine

All in Favour

Motion to Approve Minutes of 2017 AGM (September 2, 2017) as posted on the website.

M: Keith Rodd

S: Grant DeMarsh

All in Favour

2. Remarks by Mayor Murray Fearrey

Mayor Fearrey began his remarks by addressing the condition of the gravel road from Paddy's Bay to the Dam. He noted that the roads around the Kennisis Lakes were not originally constructed to sustain year-round traffic and over the years have been upgraded. He advised that this portion of Kennisis Lake Road would receive some remedial work this year, but major upgrades would be done after the work on Red Pine dam was complete.

With regard to property taxes, Mayor Fearrey advised that the tax rates in Dysart were the lowest in Haliburton County. He noted that it is a municipal election year and that some candidates were promoting a one-tier system for the County (eliminating the townships, and just having a county

level.) His view was that it is not necessarily a cheaper alternative and it could result in some negative changes to municipal by-laws - allowing boat houses on the lake, for example.

Next, Mayor Fearrey addressed the Septic Re-inspection Program. He noted that while he has received some negative feedback from people who think that the program is about penalizing property owners, he said he is also receiving comments from lakes who want to be part of the program sooner. He advised that if the lake degrades, everyone loses, and property values go down. The inspections will be done with the tank full, then again after pumping. Inspectors will also enter the cottage and count the number of bedrooms. Dysart is hoping to complete 500 inspections per year; they will need to be repeated every five years. The program is supported by the entire Dysart Council. He hoped that once people go through the exercise, they will be more aware of how to look after their septic systems. He advised that those property owners with metal systems should be concerned about the condition of their tanks.

Mayor Fearrey commented that he has a great working relationship with Malcolm Cockwell, Managing Director of the Haliburton. Then he took questions from the floor.

In response to a question, Mayor Fearrey advised that if a new property owner had an inspection last year by a licenced inspector, and had the paperwork, the inspection would be good for another four years.

Another member advised Mayor Fearrey that the boat launch at Little Kennisis needed some attention.

A final question was in regard to the definition of a bedroom, according to the building code. The member noted that the wording indicated that a bedroom has a closet. Mayor Fearrey stated that in his view, a bedroom has a bed, but he would check the wording and perhaps recommend a revision if necessary. (Note: Possibly an Ontario Building Code Issue)

3. Remarks by Councillor Susan Norcross

Councillor Norcross began her remarks advising that the tax increase for Dysart was 1.15 %. The OPP integration has run its course, but roads continue to take a toll on the budget. Approximately \$500K has been allocated for Ward 4, which includes the Kennisis Lakes.

She announced that a state-of-the-art skate park will be opening in June. It is located beside the Arena, and she invited members to bring their children and try it out.

Next, Councillor Norcross advised that a new building clerk has been hired, and will be available to answer questions. She thanked KLCOA's Board of Directors for all of its input and involvement. In closing, she announced that she will not be running again in the fall municipal election.

4. Local Business Update -Doug Mahood – Kennisis Marina

President Wratschko welcomed Doug Mahood to the floor, and on behalf of KLCOA, thanked him for the use of the marina property for many KLCOA activities.

Doug introduced Chad Burden, and announced that Chad will be taking over the Marina Store. Doug will continue to do the marina operations.

Chad thanked Karen and Doug for their help. He advised that the store would become a satellite location for the West Guildford Store, and they will be carrying a meat selection. He indicated that they have a number of plans to add services including grocery delivery from the West Guildford store to the marina, and possibly BBQ rentals, catering, with more interesting services to come. Members expressed enthusiasm about the new services. In response that a question about hours, Chad indicated that the plans are to keep the store open until Thanksgiving.

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

Malcolm began his presentation with an overview of the business. He noted that the company has 2 Divisions – Tourism and Recreation, and Forest Products. Over the past winter, the focus has been on renovations to some of the accommodations and revamping the website. With respect to the mill, it is now producing up to 33,000 board feet per day, and is a cleaner, safer environment. The Wood Shop now includes a section for hobbyists, with a selection of live-edge stock.

With respect to programming, Malcolm advised that the Forest is now offering guided tours, including birdwatching, canoeing, and foraging during the summer months. Every Tuesday there are free natural history lectures, including one on edible mushrooms and big, wild cats. Wolf howls will continue to take place each Thursday. He indicated that a public recreational trail will hopefully be ready for next winter. Access will be free and will focus on quiet recreational pursuits, including cross-country skiing and snow-showing.

Next, Malcolm discussed forest health. He advised that because of last summer's rain, the forest growth had been significant. He is starting to see dead beeches that have succumbed to Beech Bark disease, and noted that the "aftermath forest" - the dead trees would be a safety issue, and recommended to property owners to remove the trees before this becomes an issue.

Next, he discussed Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, a very threatening disease to hemlocks. It has not been seen in the forest yet. With respect to invasive species, Giant Hogweed, which can deliver 3rd degree burns if touched has been spotted in the forest; it is hard and expensive to remove. He reminded members not to bring firewood from another location, and not to let guests do the same. It is also recommended to hose down ATV tires if they have been used in another location. Seeds get trapped in the tires and get transported to our area. Finally, he said that if anyone spots an unusual plant or tree, take a photo and Forest staff will try and have it identified.

In response to a question, Malcolm advised that ticks have not been spotted in the forest. He recommended that members check out the Invasive Species website operated by the OFAH.

6. 2017 Update – Deb Wratschko President, KLCOA

See slides on KLCOA.org site for details. (Go to Records –May 19, 2018 Spring Meeting Charts)

President Wratschko provided an extensive summary of what has happened since the 2017 AGM, as well as many programs and events that are upcoming.

In concluding her presentation, she thanked the many volunteers who play an integral role in KLCOA's programs. She noted specifically the involvement of Shirlee Weeks and Andi Rogers on the Eyes on Norah's Island Committee, who are both stepping down after a number of years and indicated that Jeff Pinkney would be looking for new volunteers. With regard to Art on the Dock, Deb thanked the sponsors, Parker Pad and Print and Viper Marketing for their generous support, as well as Wilf McOstrich for creating this year's artwork for advertising and the limited edition print.

She ended her presentation by advising that KLCOA is always looking for volunteers for events and to sit on committees and she invited those interested to approach any of the Board members.

7. Draw for Art on the Dock

Joan Middleton, Membership Director, displayed a limited edition print created by Wilf McOstrich, an exhibitor at Art on the Dock. A raffle was held and the print was won by Jeff Pinkney. Deb 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 – 2017 Actuals & 2018 Budget – Grant DeMarsh, Treasurer, KLCOA

See slides on KLCOA.org site for details. (Go to Records –May 19, 2018 Spring Meeting Charts)

Grant began his presentation advising that the organization is in good shape financially. He then thanked David Austin, KLCOA's former Treasurer for four years, for all of his hard work. Next Grant provided an overview of the 2017 revenue and expenses, details of which are contained in the slides. He then reviewed the 2018 Budget, noting that while he is budgeting for a slight loss, there is an expectation that it will be a break-even situation at year end. There were no questions.

Motion: That the 2017 actuals and 2018 budget be accepted.

M: Arlene Burch

S: Keith Rodd

All in favour

9. Stewardship Initiatives – Jim Prince

See slides on KLCOA.org site for details. (Go to Records –May 19, 2018 Spring Meeting Charts) Jim gave an introduction to the next three presentations, advising that KLCOA's stewardship initiatives are all about maintaining the quality of the Kennis Lakes, through shoreline health, septic health and water quality monitoring.

10. Water Quality Testing – Sarah Ariano

See slides on KLCOA.org site for details. (Go to Records –May 19, 2018 Spring Meeting Charts)

Sarah gave a detailed presentation on the water quality testing program, and explained how to interpret the data. She advised that the team was looking to find a new lab that has the capability to

test at a more refined level. She thanked all the volunteers who are doing the testing on a regular basis. The next tests will be done in July and September.

11. Natural Shorelines – Jim Prince.

See slides on KLCOA.org site for details. (Go to Records –May 19, 2018 Spring Meeting Charts)

Jim began his presentation advising that the goal of the program is to improve awareness about natural shorelines, and to make the connection between water quality and natural shorelines. He provided background on what projects had been done to date, as well as 2018 activities - the native plant supply program, in partnership with Abbey Gardens, and identifying restoration opportunities and seek grants for funding.

12. Mandatory Septic Inspections – John Smith

See slides on KLCOA.org site for details. (Go to Records –May 19, 2018 Spring Meeting Charts)

John thanked everyone for being so supportive of the mandatory septic re-inspection program. He reviewed his slides and concluded by noting that KLCOA does not endorse any particular inspector. He did encourage everyone to go to the KLCOA.org site and look at the responses that inspectors have made to questions posed by KLCOA. He invited members to attend a septic inspection workshop on June 16th at 1062 Soap Pond Road. Dysart's Building Inspector is scheduled to lead the workshop.

13. Website Update – John Smith

John reported that the KLCOA website received a major update over the winter and invited members to check it out. He noted that people will now see advertising from local businesses. In addition, a KLCOA Facebook Page is now set up.

14. Shoreline Restoration – Julia Sutton Environmental

See slides on KLCOA.org site for details. (Go to Records –May 19, 2018 Spring Meeting Charts)

Julia reviewed her slides in detail, covering the importance of natural shorelines, planting considerations, how to create habitat, and purchasing plants.

In response to a question regarding sourcing of plants, she advised that while there were no nurseries that were propagating locally, there were some good nurseries that supplied native plants. In wrapping up, Julia reminded members not to bring perennials from the city, not to plant invasive species such as periwinkle (vinca), or goutweed, and not to use services that spray for mosquitoes, as the insecticide kills butterflies and pollinators.

15. KLCOA Lands and Traditional Rights of Way Update – Gino Ariano

See slides on KLCOA.org site for details. (Go to Records –May 19, 2018 Spring Meeting Charts)

Gino reviewed the steps towards developing a lands strategy including making an inventory and documenting all KLCOA landholdings and initiatives, looking for additional land protection and/or acquisition opportunities, and investigate opportunities to minimize the current and future tax burden on KLCOA. In addition, an inventory of other public land areas around lake (boat launches,

bridges, islands, dam area) would be taken. All this information will be used to develop a KLCOA Traditional Rights of Way strategy. He will be reaching out to individuals and group for information.

16. Soap Pond and Boating Safety – Terry O’Connor

See slides on KLCOA.org site for details. (Go to Records –May 19, 2018 Spring Meeting Charts)

Terry began his presentation advising that there are now 22 hazard markers around the lake, marking the worst hazards and it was important for boaters to give the buoys a wide berth, and use their local knowledge of the lake to avoid the unmarked hazards. With respect to Soap Pond, he reported that its ecology has changed over the past 5-7 years, primarily because of boats and jet skis, travelling at high speeds and putting up wake. He reminded residents that the Federal law is 10km/hr within 30 meters of shore line. Signage has been designed in cooperation with Dysart, which owns the adjacent property to advise boaters to slow down.

17. Fisheries – Brian Evans

Brian reported that he received a great deal of positive feedback from fishers on the lake when it was requested. Recently, a 37 yr. old, 5 lb lake trout had been caught by the now retired MNRF biologist. He asked members to please practice the releasing of fish.

18. Q & A and Discussion from the Floor

A member asked if was possible to video the septic open house that is planned for June 16th. President Wratschko said that the Board would look into it. Another member inquired whether or not it was possible to install the automated speeding signs on the road to slow drivers down. Deb responded that she would research the possibility. On the same theme, another member asked if KLCOA could educate people about walking on the right side of the road (facing traffic.) In conclusion, President Wratschko indicated that the Board was always looking at ways to educate and communicate to its members. If others had suggestions, they can send an email to info@KLCOA.org.

19. Adjourn

M: Scott Durie

S: Tony Lepine