

Loon and Turtle Lakes Cottage Association

Annual General Meeting Minutes – Saturday, July 20, 2024

The meeting began at 10:30 AM.

ITEM	TOPIC	OUTCOME
1	Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dan welcomed everyone to the AGM/BBQ. - He thanked Joel Kwinter for his work in organizing this event as well as the many volunteers who are here today. - He thanked Sobey's for their generous donation of food for the BBQ and the businesses who contributed prizes for the raffle. These include Canadian Tire, Home Depot and Home Hardware. - He stated that this was a great event for neighbours to get to know their fellow neighbours. <p>New Bylaw:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan highlighted a new bylaw being proposed that may impact island cottage owners with more details to be provided later in the meeting by Councillor Jo Morphy. <p>Lake Levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan indicated that the lake levels were up by about 11 inches. • He stated that the "leveler" that was installed near the beaver dam had been damaged. This leveler was there to send water past the beaver dam without damaging the dam. It is unknown how this damage may have happened but perhaps someone downstream didn't want the water. <p>New Cottagers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was suggested by a member that perhaps a program could be developed so that existing owners could get connected with new owners in order for them to share their knowledge and experience from their history of living on our lakes. <p>Owner: TBD</p> <p>Raffle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proceeds from the raffle are to be donated to Gravenhurst Against Poverty – GAP.
2	Review of minutes from 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A motion was put forth by Dick Thomas to approve the 2023 AGM Meeting Minutes. • This was seconded by Robin James. <p>The meeting minutes from 2023 were approved.</p>

3	Financial Information	<p>The Financial Results were distributed prior to the meeting. Our Treasurer, Laura Sandwell, reviewed the highlights that included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increase in membership over last year. • Revenue to exceed forecast. • Approximately 48% of planned expenditures have been incurred to date.
4	Membership	<p>David Caruana reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are approximately 260 cottages on our two lakes. • Last year’s total membership was 172 cottages • This year, it has increased to 189 cottages. • David thanked all the members who have supported the association’s work over the years.
5	Environment	<p>Peter Helston provided the following update on the environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter presented the Doug Cross Stewardship award to Stan Proszek for his efforts in maintaining a sustainable waterfront buffer on his property. <p>Other environmental items of note include:</p> <p>Water Testing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water testing annually on both lakes looking for phosphates and a new testing tracking for road salt is being introduced. Both are currently at acceptable levels on our lakes. <p>Benthic Monitoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This testing is done to determine our lakes health by sampling the critters at the bottom of our lakes that we never see. Again this year, our results are within the acceptable margins as noted by the Muskoka Watershed Council. <p>Weeds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As invasive weeds can impact our waters, please take photos of weeds that are unfamiliar to you and send them to Peter Helston. He will follow up to verify the type of weeds you have identified. <p>Man-Made Chemicals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you use fertilizers for your grass, these man-made chemicals will eventually end up in our lakes. <p>Shoreline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave the first 5 or 6 feet of your shoreline to Mother Nature. <p>Blue/Green Algae:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This algae is toxic to humans. • It can be caused by a combination of hot summers and phosphates in the water. • We have not experienced this type of algae on our lakes. <p>Recommended Contractors List:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This list is on our website, loonturtle.ca • It contains a list of many types of contractors who have been used by our fellow cottagers and they are completely satisfied with their work.

6	Re-Election of Board Members	<p>Dan identified each of the Board Members and briefly outlined their roles. The Board members are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Caruana, Michael Clarke, Peter Helston, Robin James, Joel Kwinter, Gary Lyon, Brian Mellon, Laura Sandwell and Dick Thomas. It was noted that Michael will be retiring from the Board at the end of the year after 10 years as board member. • A motion was put forth to re-elect these members by Ezra Rozen and was seconded by Grant Neal.
7	Jo Morphy Councillor Ward 2	<p>Jo Morphy spoke on the following topics:</p> <p>Docking Bylaw:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report is to be finalized in August for review by the Town Councillors and the Mayor • This report MAY contain recommendations to limit boats stay at public docks 1) to a maximum of a 6 hour stay, 2) to disable the boat after 6 hours and 3) to confiscate the boat. • Jo will not know the details of the report until the August meeting but stated that the purpose of this bylaw is to eliminate the boats that are abandoned at public docks. <p>Bay and Beyond Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a District of Muskoka project and they are managing the project. • The road closure issues that we are experiencing in Town will last until at least November • A suggestion was made to hire an OPP officer(s) to manage the traffic at the James St. and North Muldrew Lake Rd. intersection on Sunday afternoons and into the evenings. Jo will follow up on this. <p>Rock the Barge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rotary Club sponsored the refurbishment of the seating in front of the stage in Gull Lake Park. • The seating has greatly increased and the project has been well received by those attending events at the park. <p>Short Term Rentals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complaints about short term rentals are down from previous years. • Cottages that are licenced for these rentals can be viewed on the following Town link. <p>Short-term Rental Accommodation Licences Gravenhurst</p> <p>Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A place to find events going on this summer is with this Town link: We Dig Events and Promotions Gravenhurst <p>Q & A Topic Included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital proposal by Provincial Government is not being supported by the Towns of Bracebridge and Gravenhurst and local funds for the project are being withheld (Bracebridge). • Closure of Trailer Park on Muldrew Lake • Farmers Market at Gull Lake Park – pros and cons for this location were mentioned.

8	Meeting Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.
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