

Baptiste Lake Association AGM Minutes

***August 10, 2019
Birch Cliff Lodge
10:00 a.m.***

Directors present: Adrian Hill, Hilary Phillips, Paul Coleman, Anne Coleman, Marlin Horst, Diann Kuder, Shelley Pickard; Regrets: Eric Hooey, Wally McColl,

1. **Welcome** – Sadly Meena Weese passed away yesterday. (Marlin Horst made this announcement)
2. **Introduce Directors and Guests** – Adrian Hill made the introductions of the directors.
3. **Minutes of the 2018 AGM** as posted on the website: Motion to Accept, Anne Coleman, Seconded Diane Kuder, motion carried
4. **Treasurer's Report** – Marlin Horst on behalf of Eric Hooey: Marlin explained the report. We are one of the wealthier lake associations, with net assets under 3 funds, Lake Plan, Environmental, Unrestricted. Revenue is derived from advertising, donations, golf tournament and also the membership is up. Marlin Horst moved that the financial report be accepted, Hilary Phillips seconded, carried
5. **Waiver** of requirement to have the financial statements for Fiscal 2019 audited - Marlin Horst: Motion to Accept, seconded by Peter Oliver, carried
6. **Brief Overview of the Activities of the BLA** over the last year. – Paul Coleman gave a brief overview. Wally McColl continues to attend and report Municipal meetings, the directors continue to build relationships with administration staff and councilors at Hastings Highlands. Wally McColl noticed docks left behind in Redmond Bay last year and reported it immediately. A full report by Shelley Pickard is attached with these Minutes. Peter Oliver asked if there is knowledge as to who was the guilty party but

we have no answer. The BASC and fish hatchery connections with the BLA, allowed for the North Baptiste Lake boat launch to be added to the four only boat launch repairs by the municipality of Hastings Highlands ; Nature Day, about 20 – 30 people , Garlic Festival on the 17th, Golf Tournament on the 18th and Corn Roast on September 2nd . Letters have been written to the Minister of the MNR and he replied that Jennifer Card of the local MNR office has authority to work with us on the Lake Trout question. Anne Coleman has coordinated the digitizing of all BLA records.

7. Introduction of Speakers: **Marlin Horst, FOCA, President of FOCA**, has served 3 years on the board. FOCA is a treasure trove of information for cottage associations, sign up for e-lert mailing list. Important Items: Hydro One is restructuring their rates, \$2,000 increase pending for seasonal rate, depends on where the cottage is located, depends on density, Hydro wants to implement this rate immediately, FOCA is battling Hydro on this issue. Classification dependent on occupancy and number of owned homes. 2nd Item: FOCA did a survey of road associations; septic re-inspection, FOCA has done a survey of how the inspection is being done in other municipalities and will publish this on their website. Lake Partner Program, successful for decades, is on the chopping block by the Ontario government, letter writing campaign to the Ontario government. How many associations in FOCA? Over 200,000 people represented, small – 10 members, large – 5,500 members.

8. **Mayor Vic Bodnar** presented the Municipality's plans for Septic re-inspections. Conversations with numerous communities have taken place as to how to go about the inspections; at capacity lakes means their phosphorous levels to algae blooms (caused by septic systems) are at risk, shorelines need to be re-instituted; pre -1980 structures will be the first to be inspected. Diamond Lake will be the first to be inspected once a by-law is instituted. The process will include a letter to cottage/home owners asking

for a drawing of the septic system. Also the septic company doing the pumping can do the inspection. The mayor quoted from an Upper Paudash Lake septic inspection. Out-houses will be included in the inspection. Also required are the names of contractors who installed the septic system, plus the date of installation. David Milne recalled the system of testing the water in front of a home/cottage or resorts requiring an expert or a self-test. Adrian pointed out that there are properties behind his that feed into the streams on either side of his property which in turn would affect the test readings of his waterfront. There is a Public Forum slated for the fall where people can listen to the Council and their achievements during the first year in office. Discussion of clear cutting on lake front properties, need bigger fines in revised by-laws, pictures before construction and after with requirements to replace the removed foliage. Boat launch repair to North Baptiste to begin in autumn. Another issue is wash -outs of snow mobile trails that have to be repaired by MNRF and this is not happening because of the cutbacks. Waste sites: recycling contractor retired and we need a new contractor or solution in 6 weeks. Dire situation. Digester coming from Nova Scotia? Delinquent taxpayers reduced dramatically. Question raised concerning Electric charging stations planned for the future.

9. **BLA participation in evaluating Baptiste Lake for Lake Trout stocking:** a Citizen Science program partnering with MNRF, the Fish Hatchery and the BASC. There is a group of BLA volunteers available guided by Frank Hicks. This group must complete the steps required to satisfy criterion for the biologist's certificate to approve the restocking of the lake.
10. **Discussion of fireworks issue,** Update from Adrian. Growth of usage of fireworks. Adrian kept a log of the number of times they heard fireworks three years ago and it was every day. Presently it continues to be frequent. The by-law is in draft and is still sitting at the Municipality. Baptiste is a protected sensitive lake. Laser show alternative. The Interlake association is

behind the by-law, recommend an article regarding the dangers. It was pointed out that an article in the Newsletter is not adequate as it reaches an audience already in favour of reducing or eliminating fireworks. An article in the newspaper would be a good step.

11. Boat launch update. As reported by Mayor Bodnar, a boat launch repair will take place on the North Baptiste Lake location in the fall.

12. Motions from the floor Moved by Pat Jared, seconded by Kan Chhatwal, Motion that an award be established in memory of Meena Weese for excellent stewardship of the lake.

13. Thank you to departing directors, Carol MacLennan, Kathy Irwin

14. Nomination and election of new directors. Moved that New directors Saby and Cindy Belcasto and existing directors, Adrian Hill, Wally McColl, Shelley Pickard, Eric Hooey, Paul Coleman, Anne Coleman, Hilary Phillips, Diann Kuder, be accepted. Moved by Adrian Hill, seconded by Anne Coleman, carried.

15. Paul Coleman commented on the Postal Service from Canada Post in Maynooth. Plea for articles for the Newsletter and donations for the GOLF tournament.

16. Adjournment: Moved by Hilary Phillips, seconded by Anne Coleman, carried, 11:45 a.m.