

Oxbow Lake Cottagers' Association

2021 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, July 3, 2021, 10:00 am, via Zoom (hosted by Mosgroves)

Present: Markus & Ann Herten, Murray & Lynda Arnold, Nina Lowe, Calvin Goldenberg, Phil Guselle, Chris Rolls, Evan Cambray, June Smyth, Colleen Dodds, Kerry Judges, Karen Winegarden, Nick & Heather Mosgrove, Joanne Gordon, Carol Speers, Barb & Larry Barber, Nickie McRobbie, Lisa Aldersley (Fleck), Angie & Peter Heydon, Neil Cambray, Darlene Kingston (Dodds), Kent & Cheryl Harris, Mary Ann Raidel, Wendie Leest, Marc Lichtenburg, Kathryn Turp, Jeremy Scott, (Margaret Perc? and ATDS? – unable to identify on Zoom)

Guests: Councillor Mike Peppard and Councillor Rick Brooks

Regrets: Mayor Terry Glover and Jim Vigmond

- 1) President, Markus Herten called the meeting to order, welcoming everyone, and opened with the statement acknowledging the indigenous people as the original owners of the land, and the Oxbow Lake Motto of *Respecting, Preserving & Enjoying*.
Nick Mosgrove, as facilitator of this Zoom meeting, took questions through the online chat and added them at the appropriate time. All voting was by exception only.
- 2) A moment of silence was observed for cottagers who have passed away, noting Past President, Brian McCann, Vice President, John Lilly and long time Oxbow cottagers, Eileen Forrest and Vivian Wylie.
- 3) Special Guests: *District Councillor Mike Peppard* drew attention to the ongoing work of the library, the Climate Emergency in Muskoka, the Voyent Alert and the garbage issues. Please see his full report in the Annual Reports.
Township Councillor Rick Brooks mentioned the boating issues addressed through the Safe Quiet Lakes organization, the Noise bylaw and dealing with road repairs and situations as they come up. He also is looking forward to resuming the Sinclair/Finlayson Council (with the reps from these areas) once again, face to face, at Muskoka on the Rocks. For further details please see his report.
Mayor Terry Glover was unable to attend and sent a report, included with the other Annual Reports.
Question on the Wylie Hill repairs: Councillor Brooks reported that he had spoke with Public Works and more work was to be done on this hill by the end of July.
- 4) Secretary's Report re minutes: Lynda Arnold
MOTION 1: Lynda Arnold/Carol Speers
Be it resolved that the Annual Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2020 be approved as posted.
Carried
- 5) Summer events:
Singleton Fireworks – it was noted that the new noise bylaw allows for fireworks on the day of the holiday of July 1st only.
Lake Social: on hold
Lake Regatta: on hold
- 6) Treasurer's Report: June Smyth reviewed details. (See Annual Reports)
MOTION 2: Colleen Dodds/Carol Speers
Be it resolved that the 2020-2021 Financial report and the 2021-2022 Financial Budget be approved as presented. Carried
June noted that \$2550 had been received as of this date towards the cost of the planner. (see 9a)
- 7) Lake Reports: See the Annual Reports for all details

- a) No Wake Committee – Carol Speers (in Annual Reports)
Carol emphasizes that no wake applies in all areas of the lake close to shore, not just the narrows; and second, when you throttle back, look behind your boat to make sure you are not creating excessive wake and adjust accordingly.
There are plans to improve the Boat Launch signage and coordinate with the Township the information displayed there.
 - b) Lake Stewards’ Report - Angie & Peter Heydon, Marc Lichtenberg (in Annual Reports)
Marc added that all levels tested recently were good and readings improving over other years.
 - c) FOCA – Angie Heydon – See Lake Stewards’ Report in Annual Reports
 - d) OLCC Rep – Carol Speers (in Annual Reports)
 - e) Roads Report – Neil Cambray, Jim Vigmond (in Annual Reports)
 - f) Communications/Lake Website – Lynda Arnold (in Annual Reports)
Markus also mentioned the addition to the website of a ‘Members only’ password-protected page where lake documents were posted.
 - g) West Oxbow Entrance and Sign Board - Neil Cambray (in Annual Reports)
 - h) Fire Department – Councillor Brooks reported that he was not able to arrange a representative from the Fire Department but a written report was coming and would be shared.
 - i) Lake Markers – President Markus requested that there be a report from our volunteers, the McRobbies, for next year.
- 8) Markus presented the Slate of Officers for 2021 -2022. He thanked Ian Goodhand who was stepping down as a Board Member at Large, for his contributions.

Proposed Slate of Officers 2021 – 2022 for Election:

President	Markus Herten	West Arm Rep	Nina Lowe
Vice President (1 yr interim)	Jim Vigmond	East Arm Rep	Phil Guselle
Treasurer	June Smyth	OLCC Rep	Carol Speers
Secretary	Lynda Arnold	Member at large	Larry Barber
Communications	Lynda Arnold	Member at large	Nick Mosgrove
		Member at large	Neil Cambray

MOTION 3: Angie Heydon/Mary Ann Raidel

Be it resolved that the Slate of Officers for 2021-2022 be elected as presented. Carried

A plan will be proposed (Lynda & Markus) to restructure the Board. It is anticipated to be presented at the 2022 AGM. Those interested in a position, please contact Markus.

Reps for Appointment: The following individuals have volunteered to stand for 2021-2022.

- Lake Stewards – Angie & Peter Heydon, Marc Lichtenberg
- Roads Representatives – East: Jim Vigmond, West: Neil Cambray
- Regatta Marshalls (on hold for 2021) – Angie & Peter Heydon
- Lake Marker Volunteers – Nickie & Keith McRobbie
- Councilor’s Advisory Rep – Murray Arnold

9) New Business:

- a) Update on the proposed peninsula development
 - An OLCA Committee (Jim Vigmond, Nina Lowe, Markus Herten) has been formed to: track application; work with the planner and other subject matter experts; make recommendations to the Board.
 - A planner (Stefan Szczerbak, PLANSCAPE INC.) has been hired to advise OLCA on technical planning principles and process (\$2500 retainer + \$4500 donations).

- Markus thanked everyone for participating in the survey. The results show that the majority of OLCA members are opposed to the application (of 48 respondents, over 80% want it changed). Key issues that will determine success / rejection of application:
 - Access
 - Soils
 - Hydrogeological Study – not completed
 - Traffic on the water and the roads
 - Ecological
 - Water Quality
- The technical reviewers at the Township and District need to do their work. This includes a peer review of the applicant’s documents and studies.
- Once the peer review is complete, it is timely for OLCA and members to reach out to the elected officials to ask questions and raise concerns.
- Markus acknowledged the expertise and talent among our lake cottagers and invited input from these sources.
- At some point in the future (anticipate August 2021) a public meeting (20 days’ notice period) will be called at which OLCA can formally present its position. Once public input is considered, the application can move to Council for direction or a decision (later in 2021).

Questions and discussion followed:

Q: How is declaring a climate emergency with a need to reduce emissions and waste, consistent with approving a significant new development on Oxbow?

A: Councillor Peppard: At this point cars/vehicles emit most of the concerning transmissions, and cottaging is not on the radar yet.

Q: What is the Committee’s objective: to stop all and any development or minimize development from 7 to 3 to 5 units?

A: The advice of the planner will guide any decisions made, based on technical grounds to oppose and the process will be followed.

Q: If Oxbow is designated a Lake Trout Lake ‘at capacity’, doesn’t that mean no further development?

A: Councillor Peppard explained that ‘at capacity’ was a poorly developed bylaw and does not hold up to the at-capacity definition now. This municipality, however, does have the power to ensure that shoreline vegetation, etc. is maintained.

Q: What enforcement is there regarding tree cutting and shoreline protection? How can standards be maintained?

A: Councillor Peppard confirmed that there is enforcement but they (the Township) need to be notified when there are noticeable violations. However, the complaints-based enforcement process of approved regulations (i.e. preservation of shore-line vegetation, maintenance of septic systems, limited shoreline structures, etc.) often does not work.

Q: The proposed development area includes Type 1 fish habitat. Do we assume this area will be dredged for boats and ecologically compromised?

A: No dredging is allowed. Protecting fish habitat is very strictly adhered to.

Q: What protection is in place?

A: The Official Plan focuses on the applicant’s land being ‘cottage’ country and for the enjoyment of cottagers with certain legal rights.

Q: The present road is not designed for more traffic and unsafe. What would the Township do to improve access?

A: Councillor Brooks confirmed that the proposal needs to be approved before this becomes an issue. If approved, the Public Works department would provide input regarding the condition of the road. It was noted that any development would be over a period of years.

Markus thanked the Councillors for their comments and participation in the meeting. Markus assured the membership that the plan would be to listen to the findings of the planner to make an informed position. The letter from the planner will be shared with the membership (Lynda directed to send out).

10) Adjournment 11:38 am

Motion 4: Mary Ann Raidel/June Smyth
That the meeting be adjourned. Carried

President

Secretary