



Big Rideau Lake Association Board Minutes



Place: Portland Community Hall		Date	December 5, 2015	Time	9:30 am
Persons Present			Regrets		
Brian Hawkins Doug Good Mary Sue Evans Doug Kirkland Buzz Boles John Callan Toby Spry Fred Godard				Mary Ann Calzonetti Caitlin Orbanek Lyse Prendergast Bill Belanger	
Prepared By: Mary Sue Evans			ACTION REQUIRED		
Welcome Role Call					
A quorum of the directors being present, the meeting was declared to be regularly called at 9:36 a.m. Brian welcomed everyone.					
Approval of Minutes			All		
On a MOTION by Doug Kirkland, SECONDED by Doug Good and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED that the BRLA Board approves the minutes from October 24, 2015.					

<p>Presidents Report</p> <p>Brian had concerns with sending out group emails. Many comments made should not be heard outside the board, We need to keep email simple. Internal matters should be board members only and approved by the board before sending out to the public. Doug K suggest we should flag confidential or for discussion only.</p>	<p>Brian</p>
<p>Treasurers Report</p> <p>Brian will begin the budgeting process and will finalize details over the winter and final approval will be made at our first meeting in 2016.</p> <p>With respect with the OMB hearing Brian asked the board to support Don Rasmussen who will represent the BRLA at the hearings. Don has submitted a statement of his time to the RLEF and has asked for a tax receipt for the donation in kind gift me made. Brian asked our auditors how we close the loop in this matter. We will be receiving an invoice from the auditors.</p> <p>The financial situation has not changed since the last board meeting. One outstanding bill will be from Jane Dunlop for regatta expenses.</p>	<p>Brian`</p>

Committee Reports

All

Cow Island

We need to spend time on what our next steps are. Once finalized we will take this to our members at the AGM. It was decided that we should concentrate on 3, 4 and 5. Fine tune the proposals and then create a survey using survey monkey. The survey would ask our members to complete the it by a certain date. The letter would also say that the Board will compile the results and advise to members well in advance of the AGM.

Lyse will look into survey monkey.

A brief should be prepared on the history of Cow Island then and now and the cost of maintaining it each year.

Brian went around the table and asked the board what their feelings were on this matter. Doug K would like to write an article on Cow Island. How do we go forward.

If we do sell the island we would have to ask the members what to do with the money.

Brian will undertake the start of a questionnaire based on comments made at the meeting and will ask input from the board. The idea is to have a questionnaire by the end of January. It was agreed that nothing will take effect this year. We need to have a fix model.

OMB Hearing

Doug K gave a brief on the OMB meeting which took place on Friday November 13, 2015. He acknowledged the great work that Peter Hannah and Doug Rasmussen have done. Doug R did an amazing job on the cross examination. Doug K felt that the Township representative was improperly coached and was out of their dept. The hearing officer interrupted the Township Representative when they had made a point about heritage. He was much attuned to the fact that the Rideau Waterway is a heritage route and that we should pay attention to that.

Two dates will be set in April so at the moment nothing more we can do at this time.

Environment

Buzz would like more information on the cormorants to be put on our website. Cormorants are most likely the most studied bird in North America. The amount of money spent for studies is an industry. Cormorants summer up here and winter down south where there are thousands of fish farms. Our summer population grows in the fall when they gather before heading south.

Buzz will continue to observe over the next year and possibly get a scientific study in terms of phosphorates, This should be done on the Big Rideau. Buzz will re-write the report and would like to share a version of this report on the website.

It was recommended that we go to the MNR and find out what their policy is and what should be done on the Big Rideau. They have laws dealing with the species and they can make things happen.

Buzz spoke to the RVCA with regards to generating information and sharing possibly having a workshop/symposium and elaborate test phosphorates. Buzz has also spoken to lake scientists at Carleton University about doing studies. Buzz believes we need knowledgeable people to check on this.

What about having an environmental website. Create a group and have meetings. Buzz suggested getting a detailed proposal for an annual discussion about the environment on the lake.

On a **MOTION** by Doug Good, **SECONDED** by John Callan and unanimously carried, it was **RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors approves:

- a) Agreement from the board to revise Buzz's interim report and put on the website;
- b) Correspond with MNR and get them to attend a meeting and meet with other environment agencies;
- c) Scope out the idea of an annual conversation of the environment of the Lake Symposium or workshop 1 day or afternoon in the summer and institute information online so people can access the information.

Membership

We currently have 307 members. In March a request will go out to renew your membership and as of April 1, 2016 the price will be \$75. John said we should tackle all the cottagers that are not members. A special price for boaters is taken off the table for now.

Fireworks

Brian recommended we should commit \$5K for 2016. Any additional funds would be from sponsors or individual donations. Last summer the cost for the fireworks was \$8600. We need to go out into the community and ask for donations. Another request should be sent to Heritage Canada.

On a **MOTION** by John Callan, **SECONDED** by Doug Good and unanimously carried, it was **RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors approves spending \$5K for the 2016 fireworks.

Canada 150

Brian went around the table and asked the board members their opinion if they would like to participate. Buzz agreed to help out with a sailing regatta. Portland wants to promote a legacy. What legacy would the BRLA have? Doug G said the council will respond within a week. This is put on hold until we hear the result.

AGM

Brian had some concerns about holding the AGM on the July long weekend. Many members have family and guests visiting their cottages that weekend. Are we limiting the attendance because of that? Should be transition a new Board in the middle of our 10 week season? New Board members may take responsibility to execute projects they are unfamiliar with and exiting Board members may fail to see the completion of their plans

On a **MOTION** by Mary Sue Evans, **SECONDED** by Doug Good and unanimously carried, it was **RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors approves moving the Annual General Meeting to August 20, 2016.

<p><u>By-laws</u></p> <p>Brian, Lyse and Buzz will initiate a process to change the by-laws. Take the summary to the board of directors and with approval ask for legal input.</p>	
<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>Saturday March 12th –9:30 am in the Portland Community Hall. Buzz Boles will reserve the hall.</p>	