

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Big Rideau Lake Association

July 31, 2015

Held at Portland, Ontario

In Attendance:

Brian Hawkins
Buzz Boles
John Callan
Lyse Prendergast
Doug Kirkland
Doug Good
Bill Belanger

Regrets:

Mary Sue Evans
Fred Godard
Caitlin Orbanek
Mary Ann Calzonetti

Brian Hawkins chaired the meeting.

There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

On a motion by Doug Kirkland and seconded by Doug Good, the Minutes of the Directors Meeting held on July 11, 2015 were approved.

Because a non-board member, Mr. Peter Hannah was in attendance, to offer input regarding the OMB hearing, the chair requested that the Agenda be altered to deal with the Environment report to facilitate Mr. Hannah's early departure. All present agreed with the change.

Environment Committee Report

- Re: OMB appeal:

The hearing is scheduled for November 13, 2015 at 10:30 AM at the Township of Rideau Lakes municipal office.

Mr. Don Rasmusen has offered to represent the BRLA at that hearing on a "pro bono" basis.

Peter Hannah noted that Mr. Rasmusen has retired from his law practice and therefore will not appear as "legal counsel" but as our "representative".

Peter Hannah will appear as an "expert witness" on our behalf.

To remove potential "conflict" issues for Doug Good, acting as the BRLA liaison while sitting on Township council, it was proposed that Doug Kirkland be that liaison.

The Township lawyer has advised the Township to remain independent of the defendant in this matter at the hearing.

Motion:

Moved by Buzz Boles and seconded by Lyse Prendergast that:

"The Board of Directors of the Big Rideau Lake Association hereby appoints, on a pro bono basis, Mr. Don Rasmusen as its representative for the hearing of the

Ontario Municipal Board, scheduled for November 13, 2015 at 10:30 AM at the Township of Rideau Lakes municipal offices in the matter of the Township of Rideau Lakes Committee of Adjustment's decision regarding Variance Application # A-8-2015.

Further, the Board appoints Doug Kirkland to be the liaison between the BRLA Board, Buzz Boles as chair of Environment Committee and Mr. Rasmussen and to provide instructions as required."

The motion was passed unanimously.

- Re: Cormorants:

Buzz has determined there are some 60 to 80 cormorants living on the Big Rideau, far fewer than some reports indicate.

Contrary to speculation that cormorants target the bass population for food, their primary prey is the alewife.

- Re: RVCA Presentation

Doug Good asked that we sponsor 2 RVCA Watershed Report presentations for the communities at the east end of Big Rideau Lake to attract new members.

Motion:

Moved by Doug Good and seconded by Doug Kirkland that:

"The BRLA Environment Committee organize two RVCA Watershed Report presentations for the communities at the east end of Big Rideau Lake and Lower Rideau Lake during the fall of 2015".

The motion was approved.

President's Report

- Re Treasurer

Brian has spoken with Anne White who has declined joining the Board at this time.

In the future, she would be interested in joining more in the environment or government committee area.

- Re Bylaws

Brian is meeting with John Peart next week to pick up documents John had in his office from the days when he did legal work for the BRLA.

John did get the latest (1996) copy of the Letters Patent and Bylaws registered with the Provincial Ministry, but they are exactly what he forwarded to us in 2005 and are very difficult to read because of the poor quality of the copy .

Buzz offered to have those retyped for clarity.

- Social Media

Caitlin Orbanek has submitted an initial report focusing primarily on the website. Beth Evans (Facebook) and Brenda Howes (Twitter) have agreed to turn over the "admin" functions to us on their respective accounts they created for the BRLA.

They will also offer advice and support in developing a social media plan.

Caitlin has a “beginners” outline on the use of social media, which she will offer to the Board.

- Sponsor Packages
Brian is still to develop a plan
- Boater Membership
No plan or proposal in place yet (see membership report)
- Driftwords
Special kudos to Beth Evans for the herculean task she performs getting this published.
The Summer issue is now published, is on the website and will be mailed to all sponsors/advertisers plus members without email.
- RLEF Fundraising
The BRLA and URLA (Upper Rideau Lake Association) will oversee the physical distribution of 1,500 copies, in sealed plastic bags, of the RVCA 2014 Rideau Lakes Subwatershed Report to each property on our respective lakes.
The BRLA will offer a stipend to selected lake youth to distribute these by boat, with that money coming from the advertising and brochure budgets.
Discussion centred on the “call for action” to be contained in the package and what benefits were in it for the BRLA.
Brian explained, this still a work in progress by the RLEF.
- Summer Sounds
Brian to issue a financial summary to the Cowans with the Board’s strong “thanks” on behalf of all members for the Cowan’s support over the years.

Treasurer’s Report

- The comparative Profit & Loss Statement as of July 31, 2015 shows an improvement in our performance over 2014.
The remaining “big ticket” income items not yet processed include revenue from the day camp’s week 5 and the 100th Anniversary and the expenses of the Cow Island taxes, shoal marker removal and 100th Anniversary.
Brian forecasts another operating loss in the area of \$3,000 to \$4,000.
- Day Camp
The 2015 camp will probably break even and possibly contribute some funds to Administration.

100th Anniversary Committee Report

- Doug Good detailed a request for 14 to 20 volunteers to help execute Saturday’s event – beer & wine ticket sales, registration, traffic control, photographer, greeters and transportation.
Volunteers to meet Friday, August 7th at the Portland Community Hall to be given directions by Doug Good.
Beer and wine tickets to cost \$5 each with an expected gross profit of \$2.50 per ticket.

Doug has been given a \$300 float for ticket sales.

There will be foodbank collection boxes administered by the Manotick Antique boat club.

The beer tent will be a collection of 12' x 12' covered "gazebo like" tents.

The Parks Canada docks are expected to be delivered on Tuesday, no arrangements have been detailed for anchoring them to shore or for a bridge for attendances to get on them.

Opening ceremonies to be hosted by Doug Good.

Music – yet to be finalized.

Motion Buzz Boles introduced a motion, seconded by Doug Kirkland, stating that "A budget of \$400 be established for the purpose of funding live music at the 100th Anniversary beer tent on Saturday, Aug 8th in Hannah Park".

The motion was passed unanimously.

Regatta & Lake Culture

- Bill Belanger advised that the Dunlop sisters have the event under control.
- Bill introduced a discussion to find ways to research the changing "lake culture". Bill agreed to set up a project to do that.

Communications/Website

- Website
Lyse advised that our current website technical service provider is dropping clients as his workload is overwhelming and we are suffering from poor service as a result.
She has reviewed Caitlin Orbanek's report (see President's Report re Social Media) and agrees with many points made in it including taking "ownership" of the website by transferring it to our exclusive control through pre-packaged software.
- Teleconferencing
Lyse looked into teleconferencing packages, as per her commitment in the last meeting, but found it to be unreasonably expensive for our limited requirements. She has been offered use of an existing service owned by a third party, which we gratefully accepted.

Membership

- Totals
John Callan reported membership as of this day to be 269, 4 more than last year's final count, comparable to the same time period in 2012 and 7 less than 2013.
- Boater Category
John expressed concern about creating a new "boater" category of membership on the basis of our bylaws not specifying any additional categories. He agreed to look into the matter further.

Next Meeting

- Saturday, October 24, 2015 at the Portland Library, if available
Buzz Boles agreed to book this venue for the next two meetings – October 24 and November 5, 2015.