

MARY LAKE ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – MINUTES

Rev. A

PORT SYDNEY COMMUNITY CENTRE
JULY 8, 2017 9:00 a.m.

1. Meeting called to order:

) John Hogg called the meeting to order at 9:07AM.

2. Approval of Minutes from last AGM.

) Minutes of the July 9, 2016 AGM were provided via email for review.
) Elspeth Hogg moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Jane Carter.
) All approved. Motion Carried.

3. Dignitaries and guests were introduced & addressed the Membership:

) **Tony Clement, MP, Government of Canada**

- o Here as your local representative.
- o My offices in Bracebridge, Huntsville and Parry Sound are available if you need anything.
- o Please contact me if you need assistance.
- o Elspeth Hogg asked Tony to thank the person in his Huntsville office who helped with her passport. The woman was extremely helpful and did a great job.

) **Jason FitzGerald, Councillor**

- o Jason thanked John for all his inputs to the Planning & Adjustment Committee; John represents the Mary Lake Association well.
- o Insightful, well thought out responses are always received.
- o The responses assist the Committee to make better informed decisions in lake related matters.

) **Det Schumacher, Councillor**

- o There have been queries concerning the mooring of boats in Port Sydney, as some have encroached on the swimming area.
- o Town staff have been approached to create a policy to control boat mooring.
- o Brunel Locks will be open all season; work to replace the wooden retaining walls will begin in the fall.
- o Council has been asked to review the use of winter bubblers around docks due to safety concerns with people walking on the lake.

- Provincially there is no legislation; Federally there are Criminal consequences if someone is injured or killed.
- A member reported the wooden pylons are chewed up across the parking lot; some beautification budget has been approved by council to handle item like this.
- Ron Dimmock reported Rowanwood Road is in terrible shape and needs repair; check with Steve Hernan to see if the priority can be escalated.
- Ryan commented about the challenges getting the key for the hall; it must be picked up during business hours in Huntsville.
- Det mentioned this policy was put in place as items were going missing in the hall.
- The Town is looking into ways that remote entry can be granted to the hall.

) John thanked Jason and Det for the countless hours they put into their positions.

4. External Reports:

) **President's Report – John Hogg:**

- The purpose of the Mary Lake Association is to be a steward to our lake; one who collectively protects the lake for ourselves and future generations.
- We need to be thinking 20, 50 and 100 years into the future.
- There are two main aspects of the Association; Variances & Lake Emergencies
- “How we can help our members” is a third aspect (eg. Propane Buyers Group)
- Last year we discussed noise issues from Ontario Recyclers in Port Sydney.
 - There have been changes:
 - A berm has been built to contain noise, and the back-up alarms now use white noise signals instead of beepers.
 - We will continue to monitor this situation.
 - Jason FitzGerald commented that Town is looking into the noise by-law to determine established hours noise is permitted at the site.
- Every variance which comes in from the Town is reviewed by the entire Mary Lake Association board.
- When variances are submitted, neighbors are notified and given the chance to provide input. Consider the Mary Lake Association the neighbor for everyone on the lake.
- Our goal is as green and as natural a lake as possible.
- We never approve variances, we just do not object when they are consistent with the Mary Lake Plan.
- The Town is looking to revise the official plan.
 - The Mary Lake Association plans to provide input.
 - One clear item to protect is the rapids.
 - If members have thoughts, please share them with the Town & the Mary Lake Association so we can put through good ideas.
 - We understand the lake and what's important to us.
 - Designating the rapids a historical site is being reviewed but may be difficult to process.
- John moved to accept the President's Report, seconded by Jason FitzGerald.
- All approved. Motion Carried.

) **Water Levels – John Hogg for Ted Johnson:**

- The Hackner-Holden plan regulated water levels for many years.
- In 2006, this plan was replaced and flooding started occurring.
- In 2009 this was renegotiated with the Hatch Agreement. The renegotiation was possible due to the French Report which was funded by the Mary Lake Association at a cost of \$10,000. This is why we collect funds and keep them in reserve.
- The Hatch Agreement worked better than the 2006 plan, but the MNR has had trouble maintaining water levels according to this plan.
- Lately we've see a roller coaster effect with the lake, and it does not help that the water gauge is broken.
- Our lake is 1/3 soft shoreline, and high water levels cause damage to soft shoreline.
- Our Association has been in contact with the Ministry, and they have agreed to meet with us to discuss water levels. We are going to ask them to do the right thing.
- When the plan was put in place, it was supposed to be re-visited in 10 years; there is no plan by the Ministry to do this right now.
- Our issues:
 - Concern over high water levels.
 - Bring water down to the navigation level faster

) **Treasurer's Report – Susan Bobyk:**

- We have \$4938.30 in the bank.
- Approved receivables are advertising dollars which has not yet come in.
- Three GICs rolled over in May. Interest rates vary from 0.95% to 1.22%.
- We gave a \$100 donation to the Turkey Dinner.
- Our FOCA fee is based on the number of members in our Association.
- Our net income is \$2194.45.
- Susan moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Paul Johnson.
- All approved. Motion Carried.

) Our Association continues to build up money in reserves.

) We can go years without needing it, but when an emergency arises, we'll be ready.

) **Membership Report – Elizabeth Hughes**

- We have 117 members; 4 new members plus 6 new ones today.
- We have 22 members whose memberships have come due; 9 have paid to date.
- More and more people are opting for the 3 year membership.
- Monique will be taking over Membership duties after the AGM. She will also be taking care of the lost water toy service.
- Membership numbers have been going down, so please encourage your neighbors to join.

) John Hogg gave Elizabeth a heartfelt thanks for all her hard work in the Membership role. She has put in a tremendous amount of work over the years. She was presented with a gift.

) **Propane Report – John Hogg**

- Last year was our first year with the Propane Buyers group, and we had 16 members; a successful first year.
- Group buying drops the price of propane about 30%.
- We are also joining with other groups in the area.
- You have to be a Mary Lake Association member to take advantage of this group.
- Do people auto roll over for the next year? John will find out.

) **Bugs in the Mud – Jen McLellan**

- Benthic Survey is the official name.
- Organisms which live in the settings & how they respond to the water quality.
- Measurements over time let us know whether the lake is getting better, worse, or staying the same.
- The District is measuring clean lakes. We cannot compare our readings to these measurements.
- Sampling for all bugs together; multiple invertebrates.
- From 2014 – 2016 readings, Mary Lake is a little more impaired than other lakes on average, but there has been little change over the last 3 years.
- Sampling will occur Sunday, August 13th this year at the Port Sydney dock.
- The technician will take the samples, and then we gather on the dock to count.
- Sampling is expected to occur at 9AM, with counting starting at 10AM.
- Please contact Jen if you want to participate. Her information is in the Spring/Summer 2017 Newsletter.

5. ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

) Three board members are leaving this year.

- Wayne Kurtz who ran the Propane Buyers group – Thanks Wayne for your years of service.
- Judy Kurtz – Thank you Judy for your good work on the board.
- Elizabeth Hughes – Previously mentioned in the Membership Report.

) John opened nominations for the Board of Directors for the 2017-2018 year.

) Jen McLellan put her name forward to join the board.

) The slate of directors was read:

Officers for 2017-2018:

President	John Hogg
Vice-President	Ryan Kidd
Secretary	Dave Lawson
Treasurer	Susan Bobyk
Membership	Monique Heemsker

Directors for 2017-2018:

Dave Scott

John Friesen
Ted Johnson
Bradley Dibble
Jen McLellan

-) John Hogg moved to close nominations and accept this slate of directors, seconded by Allan Holt.
-) All approved. Motion carried.
-) John declared the directors acclaimed.

6. Guest Speaker:

-) **Muskoka Algonquin Health Care Update – Natalie Bubela, CEO**
 - o The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care outlines a process for long term hospital planning. A master plan/program needs to be created, and 5 steps need to be followed.
 - o This process started in 2012.
 - o Why are we doing this?
 - o The Bracebridge and Huntsville hospitals are 50 years old. Although they met hospital requirements when they were built, they do not meet the current day requirements.
 - o It is a tremendous challenge to deal with infection control in these buildings due to the way they were built. They would need to be enlarged and re-designed.
 - o Huntsville’s hospital is on a hill, which makes expansion very expensive.
 - o Bracebridge’s hospital has no room to expand, and a second story cannot be added to the existing hospital.
 - o Hospitals run a deficit on a yearly basis. We must find a sustainable model for the future.
 - o The 5 step process has taken 15-20 years to implement in other towns; this is not a process which can be accelerated.
 - o Step 0 is the Pre-capital submission step.
 - o The “One hospital site in a central location” announced in May 2015 came out of this submission step.
 - o The May 2015 announcement has impacted equipment donations in the hospital, as people are expecting immediate closures...THERE WILL NOT BE IMMEDIATE CLOSURES. This is a 15-20 year plan which started in 2012, so it will not be complete until at least 2027 (best case).
 - o There was a press release yesterday approving one million dollars to proceed to Step 1 (with some funding also provided for Step 2).
 - o Although the “One hospital site in a central location” model came out of Step 0, this does not mean it’s a done deal. Checks and balances in the other steps will validate whether this is still the best model.
 - o We must live within the financial funding the Ministry gives us.
 - o Port Sydney was suggested as a reasonable location for this “centrally located facility”, but once again, no final decision has been made. No site selection has occurred.

- The one site model brings all facilities under one roof, which makes it so much easier to manage and give quality healthcare.
- Doctors rely on throughput for revenue, which is difficult to achieve with small hospitals.
- Stantec is one external contractor involved in this project.
- Site selection work normally occurs in Step 1, but the Ministry has asked this activity to be pushed into Step 2.
- Hoping to present Step 1 proposal by March 31, 2018.
- For more information, refer to: www.mahc.ca/planning-for-the-future
- We continue to need community support to fund equipment; Diagnostic tools are supplied by donations.
- Equipment can always be moved into new buildings once construction is complete.
- Please consider supporting one of our two hospitals, and please get involved as this is YOUR hospital!
- 30 million dollars in infrastructure is needed today!
- It costs \$1.5 million to replace the roof at the Bracebridge Hospital; it costs \$400, 000 to replace the elevator controls in the hospital.
- Thank-you

7. Other Business

) No other business was highlighted.

8. Motion to Adjourn

) Paul Johnson moved to close the meeting at 11:12AM, seconded by Ron Dimmock.