

## **DRAFT MINUTES of CLPOA AGM JULY 2, 2022**

### **at TORRANCE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**PRESENT:** Approximately 40; Directors Ian McClennan, Ron Algate, Tom Skopek, Jeremy Silver, Charles Wilkins, Michael Silver, Margaret Kenwright (Regrets, Lisa Pennycook); TML/District Councilor Ruth Nishikawa

**OPEN:** Ian McClennan opened AGM at 10:05am, welcomed members. He set aside a Moment of Silence to honour family and friends who have passed away since last year.

**MINUTES:** Margaret Kenwright presented Draft Minutes of AGM June 3, 2021 (available today and emailed to members). No changes or omissions raised.

**MOTION made by Glad Bryce to accept the Minutes as presented, seconded by Mike McClennan, all in favour, Motion passed.**

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Ron Algate presented CLPOA Income Statement for year ending Dec. 31, 2021 reporting a balance of \$16,183.32 including GIC of \$11,552.13.

- *BEAVER REMOVAL* - New disbursement explained later in

Minutes.

- *FLOATING*

*OBJECTS (Dump Fees)* - Ron asked all to please secure our possessions that are in or near the lake. Drifting watercraft, rafts and dock debris are hazardous. It falls upon the good will of Paul Traves and Bob Cleverdon among others to tow items to shore or trailer to the dump. More care taken by all of us will avoid imposing on their time and effort and CLPOA cost.

**MOTION made by Ron Algate to accept financial report of Dec 31, 2021, seconded by Mike McClennan, all in favour, Motion passed.**

Jeremy Silver stands for Board re-election in position of Treasurer. Ian complimented Ron on his many years of excellent record keeping and attention to CLPOA finances. Ron stands for re-election as Director at Large.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Sharon Cleverdon reported 133 paid memberships in 2021 (the most since 2015). Only 110 memberships had been paid by August 31, 2021, so Sharon sent several waves of personalized email reminders and successfully received most payments. Sharon noted that as of today, only 73 members have paid for 2022 so she promised to follow up again with the personalized email reminders that seem to be necessary. All applauded Sharon's efforts.

**WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS:** *(Report attached to Minutes)* Bob Cleverdon described the testing program operated by MLA (Muskoka Lakes Association). COVID resulted in 2020 suspension of testing and 2021 late start. Latest results show our water clarity of 6.5 meters (secchi disc test), consistent since 2007. Phosphorus remains at or below threshold (safe, low levels) largely resulting from cottagers' using no fertilizer, no soap in the lake or on the beach, keeping septic systems properly maintained. Overall, we are a 'green light' lake according to MLA standards.

*QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR (answered by Bob)*

- *Do we have blue-green algae?* No, it is more bluish than green and is crusty. It may have an odor and it

contains destructive bacteria. *[See information at [www.clearlakemuskoka.com](http://www.clearlakemuskoka.com)]*. Typically, we are not subject to it because it needs high phosphorus. The algae we may see from time to time is benign. TEST: Lift algae through a garden rake. If it dissipates, that's good, but clumping indicates blue-green algae. If unsure, contact CLPOA executive. Bob can investigate.

- *What accounts for levels of blue-green algae?* High temperatures and high phosphorus levels.

*[See link to MLA water program at [www.clearlakemuskoka.com](http://www.clearlakemuskoka.com)]*

- *Effect of Cormorants?* If concern is E. coli, we

have low levels considering number of waterfowl, surface runoff, possible inadequate septic systems. BUT, we advise not to drink lake water.

- *Who are people, besides you, taking water samples?* The District of Muskoka collects samples every two years and compares test results with those of MLA programme.

**BEAVER ACTIVITY AND WATER LEVELS:** Bob Cleverdon gave a slide presentation showing 75 acres of watershed between Clear Lake and Black Lake, flowing through old stone bridge to Gull Wing and Echo Lakes, Brandywine Creek and on to Lake Muskoka. There is one outflow from our lake into the watershed. Without intervention, the increasing number of beaver dams in the watershed can reverse our flow and cause flooding, as has already happened in Black Lake. *(For full information, please read Bob's written presentation, attached to Minutes).*

*QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR (answered by Bob)*

- *Where are the dams?* Three dams are near stone bridge, the one nearest us affects us. There is one up higher that is 100 ft long.

- *Is machinery used?* No, hand-pulling of the dams with a 3-prong rake. The wetland is accessible only on foot and it is really rough going.

- *What is water level difference?* Watershed is about 18" lower than Clear Lake. Our outflow showed only 4" clearance in November (close to reverse flow) but after the work done there is now 11" clearance.

- *Can we pipe through or under a dam rather than destroying it?* It is too deep and we can't get down there.

- *What is the budget?* My guess is \$100 per week until September. We expect 20 more beaver, totaling between \$3,500-4,000 shared by Black Lake and Clear Lake. Requesting \$2,000 this year and \$2,000 next year (our half).

- *In the past an ongoing problem, so I suggest we consider funding on an ongoing basis.*

- *How is beaver charge accounted for and how do we know raking is done?* Trappers show the pelts and raking is apparent when water flows again under bridge.

- *Can beavers be relocated, not killed?* Unfortunately they will only return if relocated.

**MOTION made by Mike McClennan for CLPOA to make available up to \$2,000 per year for 7 years to address water level management problem. Seconded by Brian Ternoway. All in favour, motion passed.**

**MOTION made by Mike McClennan to increase membership dues from \$30 to \$40 and to use the increase in dues to address water level management problem. Seconded by Sandra Niemy. Four (4) votes Aye. Majority votes Nay. Motion failed.**

**MOTION made by Mike McClennan to increase membership dues from \$30 to \$40 beginning in January,**

**2023. Seconded by Carolyn Schwartz. Eleven (11) votes Aye. Majority votes Nay. Motion failed.**

**TORRANCE BARRENS UPDATE:** Michael Silver reports the working group (with representation from the Ontario Conservancy, MLA, Pine Crest, MOECP, TML and CLPOA) has made the decision to allow camping but only in six or seven designated campsites. Fire making will be allowed only at the campsites. MOECP is collecting the garbage and allows parking only on one side of Southwood Rd. The Township now disallows fires to be set on land on either side of the Barrens. Good progress has been made.

Mike suggests Wade Murrant of MOECP be the recipient of the 'Sharon Cleverdon Award' which is meant to recognize stewardship and is a thank you for exemplary effort. Mike explained that although Wade is an employee of MOECP, he has given much of his personal time over recent years with the working group to make stewardship of the Barrens and Dark Sky Preserve a high priority.

**MOTION made by Michael Silver to present the 'Sharon Cleverdon Award' to Wade Murrant. Seconded by Mike McClennan. Majority in favour, Motion passed.**

**DARK SKY PRESERVE** - Part of the Barrens. Ministry placed boulders in an effort to keep vehicles out of the Barrens but the result is that people interested in astronomy can't transport large telescopes to the best viewing site. Removal of boulders is an ongoing request.

**BOARDWALKS** - The working group is aware of the need to complete the trails. Boardwalks will be planned according to routes decided once campsite areas have been determined.

**REGATTA - SATURDAY, JULY 30:** On behalf of Lisa Pennycook, Ian asked for a volunteer to organize Regatta this year. Lisa would like to step down. Ian extended appreciation for her heading up several Regattas, even during COVID times. No hands shown but Ian said if someone is interested, please contact the Executive or Lisa and she will pass along all the 'How-To' information.

*COMMENT FROM FLOOR - With Township of Muskoka Lakes introducing mandatory septic tank inspections, is it possible for cottagers to consolidate efforts, perhaps save money by going together?* Ian said this item will be added to the Agenda of the next Board meeting.

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:** Brian Ternoway announced a fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity (specifically for the next new build on Elm St. in Bala) at Clear Lake Brewery from 1-4pm on Saturday, July 16th. Please attend, donations are most needed and welcomed by Habitat. With delays caused by COVID, the earlier projected costs have increased greatly.

#### **DISCUSSION ABOUT NOISE ON LAKE - BY RAISED HANDS**

*Increased noise on the lake last two years. Music and noise from Resort invasive, sometimes children can't sleep. Here 40 years, not happy; Issue is loud concerts at Beer Spa, not the pub location. At first live concerts twice a year then twice a month, now Saturdays.. fundamentally changing face of the lake. Does Beer Spa have right to this impact? I have never seen loons in Bala Bay. Noise from Kee to Bala negatively impacts cottage values. Once, Camp Pine Crest about to increase, make a convention centre. We mediated, YMCA agreed. Bylaw for noise is weak--perhaps we can effect a change; We are concerned. I understood permit required each time there is to be a concert; I rent out my property. By definition have a commercial establishment yet I give strict rules to renters in order to avoid disturbing our neighbours. Should there be a*

*petition? Impact on people needs to be understood; Noise supposed to be cut off at 11pm. For amplified sound you need a permit; I suggest we oppose any amplified music; Do we need to survey cottagers, gather opinions, sign a petition? I suggest the Board write to the Township asking to deny amplified music to the Beer Spa; Would CLPOA Board adopt policy to ban amplified sound on the lake? If Beer Spa applies for licence and gets it, then we have no recourse; Concentrate on concerts but it's more than music. It's daytime behaviour. Good natured but very loud and intrusive. Bachelor parties are being promoted; What about writing a form letter we could sign, send to the Township and the District asking to strengthen the noise bylaw? First tact is to talk with Greg personally for cooperation--not drive a wedge; Bylaws are vague, enforcement selective; Two entities: Beer Spa (Resort) and Clear Lake Brewery; Besides noise, unsafe pedestrian crossing--hidden by trees--caused a near miss; Onus on owner of commercial property to enforce noise limitation*

Ian thanked everyone for their input. The Board's follow-up: (1) Share Greg's phone number with cottagers (2) Research noise bylaw and seek advice from Councilors (3) Meet personally with Greg to address concerns (4) Draft a letter to TML and District outlining these concerns. Membership can forward the letter to TML and District from their own email addresses.

Should we have a lake noise policy? The Board will decide whether to bring the recommendation forward.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

SPEED AT SOUTHWOOD RD - Suggestion from floor to appeal to TML to reduce speed from 60kph to 40kph. At least "SLOW DOWN" signs - Greg Knight would be a good advocate for slower speeds.

## **ELECTION**

Ian opened Nominations. Requested three times. No nominations from the floor. Natale Catalano (not present) had put his name forward prior to the meeting.

**MOTION made by Bob Cleverdon to support the nomination of Natale Catalano to the Board of Directors. Ron Algate seconded. All in favour. Motion passed.**

All Board Members stand for re-election except for Margaret Kenwright who is stepping down this year.

**MOTION made by Bob Cleverdon to accept the following slate of Directors for 2022-2024: Ian McClennan, Ron Algate, Charles Wilkins, Lisa Pennycook, Jeremy Silver, Tom Skopek, Natale Catalano. Seconded by Mike McClennan. All in favour. Motion passed.**

**MOTION to adjourn made by Suzanne McClennan. Seconded by Mike McClennan. Meeting closed at 11:55am.**