

Fox Lake Association Inc.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

July 15, 2017

Start time 10:05 am

Lynda and Jim Watson's, 550 East Fox Lake Road

1. **Opening:** President, Tom Gillette opened the 2017 AGM at 10:05 am with a warm welcome to all in attendance. There were 45 in attendance. Tom asked that the order of the agenda be revised so that representatives from Camp Winnebago could make their presentation early as they were needed at camp.
2. **Camp Winnebago:** The two representatives were Ted Margel (co-owner with wife Ilyse) and Ari Grossman, camp operations manager. Ted opened and thanked Tom for giving them opportunity to present earlier in the agenda. He stated that the camp is attempting to be respectful of lake use for cottagers and asking that cottagers do same as the lake usage is an important activity space for campers. Camp is keeping amplified noise to between 8am and 10 pm and asked that any camp issues be directed through the Association, if possible, but will address concerns via email as they arise. He stated that any concerns be addressed in a respectful manner and not in front of campers.

Ari, operations manager, then addressed wake boat concerns and stated that the wake boat course had changed so that the wake boat would not be running through the channel between the island and the west side. This announcement was applauded by those present. He stated that there are water safety concerns for the boats coming from the ski dock as the island does create a blind spot for incoming and outgoing boat traffic. However, all boat operators have been instructed that the wake boat route will be to the lake side of the island and the ski boat with a much smaller wake will continue to use the channel.

Ted said that camp would send information about boat in/out dates. Lake residents were reminded that there is no in out privileges while camp is in session (insurance safety concern).

Comments raised by attendees:

- Appreciation for email from camp about fireworks July 1.
- Re. visitor days at camp –asked if parent's friends could be reminded to keep cars as far right as possible to allow local traffic accessibility. Ted said email will be sent.
 - Island use –FLA has planted saplings along island edge, some of which was destroyed by fire about five years ago. Remind campers to be aware of small

saplings that have been planted. This also applies to lake residents or renters who may be using island. Ted and Ari stated that island has had garbage/beer bottles left which was cleaned prior to use by the camp. A reminder to all lake residents that if you use island or have renters that use islands please remind them to provide own wood and water bucket and to clean up after!

3. **Adopt Agenda:** Moved by Rick Skinner and seconded by Tony Maxwell to adopt the revised agenda. Motion passed.
4. **Acceptance of AGM Minutes 2016:** Moved by Robin Yule seconded by Peter Hubbard to adopt minutes of the 2016 AGM. Motion passed.
5. **President's Report:** Tom mentioned that a significant amount of time and money was spent over the last couple of years dealing with Mr. Henry Ender's application for severance and rezoning of the 37 acre parcel of land fronting near the mouth of the Buck River, known as Lot 19. We were disappointed that the application was approved by the OMB at the second hearing held at the end of August 2016. Tom expressed thanks to all who contributed financially to the cause, spent time informing the community, attended the hearings and supported the representation by the Association.

Tom stated that on the positive side the proposed by-law presented by Mr. Ender's planner and lawyer put stricter development limitations than the Town of Huntsville's plan on any of the four subdivided lots. The proposed by-law provides for smaller building envelopes than the previous by-law (10,000 square feet), no docks on the river, a 0.5 metre access path to the river, further setbacks for building and further limitations on shoreline clearing. These are positive measures but the question remains, will they be followed and enforced. The FLA will attempt to ensure that the by-law is adhered to.

The Corn Roast to be held September 2 at Sandy McLennan's, opposite Camp Romuva. We will be doing a small auction so any donations are appreciated.

Alix Yule is coordinating the Regatta this year which will be held once again at the Shepley Beach, 372 East Fox Lake Road on Saturday, August 5, at 1:30 pm (rain date August 6). Theme this year will be red and white in honour of Canada's 150 years. A sheet of events will be circulated at a later date. All are encouraged to attend and enjoy the activities.

Tom offered thanks to Cindy Taylor and Mark Duess for arranging and hosting the Muskoka Brewery tasting event at their place after the AGM.

6. **Treasurer's Report:** Jim McMahon gave the Treasurers report. He reported that due to the OMB hearings our surplus funds had decreased as a result of an operating deficit of \$3,900 for 2016-2017. He acknowledged the significant financial contributions that had come in to assist with expenses associated with the OMB hearing (planner fees, lawyer consultations, document preparation).

Paid up membership for last year was down to 40, a recent low. However, the use of electronic transfer of funds has had a positive impact on receiving membership fees. Some have paid for several years in arrears and it is hoped that the simplicity of e-transfer will assist with increasing our paid up members. Motion by Alix Yule and seconded by Karen Beamer that the treasurer's report be adopted. Motion passed.

7. **Officers and Directors:** Tom stated that Mary Smirniw was relinquishing her position of membership coordinator after five years of faithful service and Paul Moores was stepping down as a director after four years of service. Tom thanked Mary and Paul for their service. He also expressed thanks to Sharon Lillico, who stepped down as secretary last fall after several years in this role. Tom acknowledged that Jim Watson had offered to take on the secretary role. Tom asked for volunteers for a new Director and Jack Van der Meer moved his hand. Jack had no time to rescind as Ruth Ellerker moved and Jim McMahon seconded that Jack be accepted as a Director. Motion passed. Thanks Jack.
8. **Lake Plan Update:** Judy Maxwell reported on the status of the Lake Plan integration into the Town of Huntsville planning document. Documents had been sent to the town in 2015 but we have not yet received a response. The town of Huntsville was waiting for the updated Muskoka Region plan before they could update the local plan and hopefully incorporate the FLA lake plan. Highlights of our Lake Plan include: reflection of OMB decision on Buck River development, monitoring of by-laws and adherence for any development, boat survey information, and shoreline vegetation issues. The complete document is available on the website for comment. Also, we are in the process of updating the information from the annual boat survey. We should be able to report on the final numbers for 2017 after the August long weekend and will include the information in the Fall Newsletter. The boat count is indicative of a high level of development with many boats in peak periods and continuing shoreline erosion. Thanks were expressed to Judy and Alix for their work on this document.
9. **Lake Steward Report:** David White, our lake steward, reported on test results of water quality and benthic monitoring, all of which are available on the FLA website. This year's benthic monitoring will take place on Aug 18, 10:00 am at the McMahon cottage. Volunteers for counting are needed. Water seemed to be clearer last year but has returned to historical readings this year to date. The secchi disk readings in 2016 about 2.5 metres whereas this year back to historical norms of about 1.5 m. Brochures for

information for planting native plant species were circulated and that information will be posted on website as well.

10. **Membership:** Mary reported that of 104 developed properties on the lake we had 40 paid up members last year. According to FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations) this membership percentage is in line with what other lake associations are experiencing. Mary reminded us that as we recruit new members we need to allay any negative concerns they might have about participating in a lake association (eg. demands on their time, requirement to participate in events, etc.) We need to remind them that membership is not about making members participate in FLA activities if not desired. The FLA wishes to represent and work for concerns of all property owners on the lake. We want to ensure that the lake environment remains user friendly and environmentally strong for the present and future users. Membership really means supporting these objectives. It is the hope that membership this year will increase to higher levels and the acceptance of e-transfer should assist this goal.
11. **Camp Romuva:** Ray Sriubiskis could not attend but sent a report stating that for most of July the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters would be running camp training sessions. Their traditional camping program will be taking place in August and they will be celebrating 55 years on Fox Lake.
12. **Memorial:** There will be a memorial for Harold Hadley on Thursday August 17 at 10:00 am at Christ Church in Ilfracombe. Harold had been an active member of our lake community. He was the first chair of the Board and was an important force in changing the Fox Lake Cottage Association to incorporate as the Fox Lake Association Inc. He worked behind the scenes with astute advice and financial assistance on several lake concerns. Those who are able, are encouraged to attend this memorial service.
13. **Final comments and adjournment;** Tony Maxwell thanked Tom for his fine work as our President. Tom, along with Robin Yule, worked many extra hours over the past two years with the two OMB hearings.
14. Next year's AGM will again be hosted by Bob Shepley. Thanks Bob
15. A motion moved by Robin Yule and seconded by Rick Skinner to adjourn the 2017 AGM. Motion passed. Meeting ended at 11:30 am