

**Fox Lake Association**  
**Annual General Meeting 2019**

**July 13, 2019 – 317 West Fox Lake Road**

1. **Welcome and Acceptance of Agenda:** The meeting was opened at 10:00 a.m. by FLA President Jack van der Meer who welcomed all in attendance. (33 persons in attendance).

Jack proposed an amendment to the circulated agenda to have the camp reports first.

*Motion to accept the agenda as amended - Jack van der Meer, seconded by Jim Harper, passed.*

2. **Camp Winnebago Report:** Ted Margel and Corey Hayman

The camp representatives reported that they were in the midst of another busy camp season and were trying to adapt their waterfront program to maintain safety and to address Fox Lake residents' concerns. They will continue to have overnights on Rock Island but no longer do any cooking there to reduce impact. They expect campers to use the available pit latrine. FLA members expressed the following:

- appreciation to the camp for keeping ski boats outside of the narrow channel between Snake Island and the shore. A member
- requested that the camp inform the FLA who would inform residents prior to emergency drills so people don't think there is a real emergency on the lake
- suggested that a caution sign be posted on the road where the horses frequently go to warn drivers to beware
- appreciation for allowing residents to use the camp for boat launching off season

The representatives reported that their big Visitors' Day in Saturday July 20 so traffic on Hoodstown Road is expected to be heavy especially between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. when camp gates open. The Winnebago program ends August 16 but the camp is rented to other groups until mid-September.

3. **Camp Romuva Report:** Tom Gillette on behalf of the Camp Director Ray Sriubiskis  
The camp is no longer renting to the Association of Hunters and Anglers so there will not be a group using the camp in July. The usual annual Romuva camp will be in session for two weeks in August.
4. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**  
The minutes of the July 14, 2018 AGM were corrected to reflect the date of Benthic Monitoring as August 19, not 17.

*Motion to accept the minutes as amended - Judith Maxwell, seconded by Robin Yule, passed.*

5. **President's Report:** Jack van der Meer

Jack noted the long winter, amount of snow and spring flood with water levels higher than usual. He informed the membership that he is resigning as President and Director of the Board of the FLA as of July 15, 2019.

**6. Financial Report:**

As the FLA Treasurer, Cindy Taylor, was absent, members were referred to the Treasurer's Report that was attached to the notice of the AGM that was e-mailed to members. The FLA's financial situation is good, with a bank balance similar to the balance at this time last year.

**7. Directors and Officers:** Jack van der Meer

Jack read the names of the current Board of Directors: Christa Casselman-Sharp, Ellen Fox, Tom Gillette, Bill Knight, Jack van der Meer, Cindy Taylor and Alix Yule. With Jack's resignation, there is a vacancy on the Board. Jack asked for volunteers and nominations, but none were put forward.

*Motion to approve the list of Directors as read - Jim McMahon, seconded by Peter Hubbard, passed.*

Jack noted that the Directors and Executive will meet after the AGM to discuss and appoint officers to board and executive positions.

**8. Lake Plan Report:** Alix Yule

Alix summarized the process that the FLA has undertaken to have the Fox Lake Plan incorporated into the Town of Huntsville's new Official Plan which was approved by the Town in March 2019 and forwarded to the District of Muskoka for approval. Many of the clauses in the new Official Plan provide for better protection of lakes, waterways, shoreline and the environment within the Town. Four clauses specifically mention Fox Lake. These include that:

- The minimum shoreline frontage for new lot creation on Fox Lake shall be 90 metres
- Sites of cultural and historical importance shall be retained, restored and preserved and any future development should not jeopardize the integrity of such sites, namely: the rock pile in the north-west bay, the Fox Tail and Hoodstown Rapids, and the three crown islands
- The traditional Hoodstown portage be restored to public ownership or preserved through conservation easements or land trust
- The traditional Campbell Dam (Buck River) portage be preserved in public ownership or through conservation easements or land trust

**9. Lake Steward's Report:** David White

Water sampling had been undertaken as usual. Results are in the spring FLA newsletter and on the FLA website [www.foxlakeassociation.org](http://www.foxlakeassociation.org). All of the sampling results were ok – no significant

changes from previous years. The Benthic monitoring results are close to the Muskoka average. The number of predators is up and the number of dragon and damsel flies is down. The date of ice-in this past winter was November 22, 2018 and date of ice-out was May 1, 2019, resulting in 161 days of ice coverage – the longest on record since the FLA has been tracking.

As a result of provincial funding cuts, kits to test for invasive species are no longer provided. Some lake associations are doing their own at their own expense, but David recommends investing in prevention through public education as most invasive species are brought into Fox Lake on boats launched from other lakes.

Benthic monitoring this summer will be held on Monday, August 19 at the Fox's at 722 East Fox Lake Road at 9:30 a.m. Volunteers are needed – please contact David if you are available. The work can be counted by high school students towards their community service hours.

**10. Membership Report: Robin Yule**

The membership is about the same as usual (50+ members). Annual dues continue to be \$40 per year and can be paid to either Cindy Taylor or Robin Yule or on-line as per instructions in the spring newsletter.

**11. Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) Report: Tom Gillette**

The FLA pays about \$100 annually for FOCA membership. FOCA works on behalf of members to tackle common issues. It has a good website with details of its activities and information for lake associations and residents. Worthwhile sessions this year included: Association-Town Dialogue; Cottage Succession Planning; and Boating Issues.

**12. Upcoming Events:**

**a. Regatta 2019 – Alix Yule on behalf of Jim and Lynda Watson**

The Annual Regatta will be held on Saturday, August 3, 2019. Morning activities will be held at Sandy McLennan's 100 Rachel's Lane north end (horseshoes) and Alix Yule's 422 East Fox Lake Road (beach volleyball). Afternoon activities will be held at Jim and Lynda Watson's 536/550 East Fox Lake Road beginning at 1:30 p.m. A flyer with the schedule of activities was distributed.

**b. Regatta 2020**

Liz Shepley stated that Bob Shepley has volunteered his beach for the 2020 regatta.

**c. Corn Roast 2019 – Ellen Fox**

The annual FLA Corn Roast will be held on Saturday August 31, 2019 at 4:00 p.m on Sandy McLennan's lawn, 100 Rachel's Lane in Romuva Bay. Bring your own BBQ items, corn provided. There will be no auction this year.

**13. Other Business:**

- a. **Ash Program** – The Friends of Muskoka Watershed have started a program to collect clean wood ash and spread it in maple forests in the district to restore calcium and other nutrients to the forests. They also educate the public about spreading ash under the forest canopy as a way to restore calcium to forests and lakes. More information about the program can be found on their website at [www.friendsofthemuskokawatership.org](http://www.friendsofthemuskokawatership.org). The Friends of Muskoka Watershed AGM is August 11 at 12:00 noon if anyone wishes to attend.
- b. **Portage** – Judith Maxwell provided a brief summary of action taken to restore the Hoodstown portage and Chris Castle volunteered to assist with future action.
- c. **FLA apparel** – Anyone interested in helping to organize an effort to produce and sell t-shirts or hats with the FLA logo should contact Ellen Fox or Robin Yule.

**14. Recognition:**

- a. **Condolences** – the President recognized the passing this spring of long-time Fox Lake resident Bob Warden
- b. **Appreciation** – the membership gave a vote of thanks and round of applause to outgoing FLA Treasurer Jim McMahon.
- c. **Thanks** – the President thanked the host for providing a venue for the meeting

**15. Next Meeting:**

The next FLA Annual General Meeting will be Saturday July 11, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Gabrielle and Bernie Andersen, 698 East Fox Lake Road.

**16. Adjournment:**

The President called for adjournment at 11:15 a.m.

*Motion to adjourn by Karen Beamer, seconded by Lynn Hubbard, passed*