

BELLA REBECCA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

JUNE 27, 2015 AT BILLIE BEAR LODGE

1. Don Spring called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM and agreed to act as Chair. As Ron Barry was unable to attend he asked Wendy Kimmel to take minutes.
2. Don welcome everyone and introduced the Executive. He thanked Ron Barry for all the work that he does for the BRCA year round, Harold Kremer for the use of Billie Bear for the AGM and Larry & Mary Greenwood for coffee and donuts.
3. On a motion by Don Spring and seconded by John Housser, the agenda was approved as presented.
4. On a motion by Wendy Kimmel, seconded by John Ellis, the minutes of the 2014 AGM with amendments to section 7 as noted were approved as presented.
5. Don welcome new attendees and asked for a moment of silence in respect for association members who had passed away in the prior year.
6. Brian Markham, Past President, made a motion to nominate Directors for the ensuing year, seconded by Cathy Greven. The motion for Brian Markham, Past President, Don Spring, President, Wendy Kimmel and David Bird, Lake VPs, Ron Barry, Secretary and Denise Omand, Treasurer carried.
7. Financial Report:
 - On a motion by Denise Omand, seconded by Denis Crane, the financial statements for the year-ended March 31, 2015 were approved.
 - In summary total revenue was \$7,847.09, expenses of \$7,554.19 and a closing cash balance of \$17,145.85.
 - Changes noted in donations up from prior year, printing costs down and website development, a one-time cost, is up. Donations to the Firefighters is no longer made through the BRCA but made by the Foundation.
 - In response to a question regarding Boom expenses Denise commented additional expenses to rent a porta-potty weren't covered by participant fees. Future Boom programs will increase the fee to cover all expenses.
 - Although a new directory will not be published this year, members are encouraged to notify Denise when changing their email address.
 - Don thanked Denise for a great job in taking care of the financials. Denise in turn thanked Rita for her continued support through the transition.
 - On a motion by Denise Omand, seconded by Bob Greer, donations of \$400 each to the Huntsville Hospital and the Huntsville Hospice were approved.

8. Original Shoreline Road Allowance (OSRA) Committee:

- Don introduced a new committee and asked Wendy Kimmel to speak
- Wendy reviewed the committee membership and asked for additional volunteers; outlined the purpose, reviewed actions and plans of the committee. She noted that an informational handout had been prepared and that it, along with a brochure from the township on the process to purchase the OSRA, would be available after the meeting.
- Members were asked to contact Wendy Kimmel if they had any questions or want to get involved.

9. Fire Department Report:

- Murray Arnold thanked the members for the support and financial assistance.
- It was a quiet year, with no structural fires and mostly emergency response. Murray asked members to clear any weeds or brush in front of their civic address sign and to remove any overhanging branches so emergency vehicles can gain access.
- Murray reminded members of the new CO legislation, where a CO monitor/ alarm must be installed outside the sleeping quarters of every home with any fuel burning devices.
- Bob Greer pointed out that if your CO alarm sounds, call 9-1-1 and leave the house immediately. Do not open windows as emergency responders then cannot locate the source. He also noted a false alarm could indicate the CO monitor is reaching its expiry date.
- On a question about the potential closure of the fire hall, Murray replied that it's a matter of demographics. Replacement recruits are critical to staff volunteer positions, yet becoming harder to find.

10. Stewardship:

- Cathy Crane reviewed the purpose of the awards and provided a brief background on the stewardship initiative.
- Paddle award recipients were David Perry & his sailing regatta race crew and Bob Greer and Glen Warnica for being the backbone of the annual corn roast.
- Harold and Valerie Kremer were presented with the Stewardship award after Cathy reviewed highlights of their nomination across all 7 categories.
- Don thanked Cathy & the committee for their work.
- Moved by Marlene Walker, seconded by Bob Hutcheson, the Stewardship Award committee recommends the BRCA Executive establish an ad hoc committee to perform a 10 year retrospective on the stewardship initiative, which carried. Don Spring will consider this with the Executive.

11. Mabel Hart Brook & Marion Hill Memorial Foundation:

- Don Spring updated the membership on the Foundation's AGM held earlier.
- Christine Jany noted the Beach Tidy schedule will be circulate for sign up.

12. Committee Reports:

Environment: John Houser

- Looking for volunteers for the Benthic workshop on Sat. July 18th morning
- Reviewed material on total phosphorus, water clarity & calcium levels for both lakes.
- Links to various articles from the Muskoka Watershed Council on water bugs, algae & calcium will be added to the BRCA website.
- John noted there is a decline in water clarity due to lifestyle choices - motorboats, tubing, wake boats, etc. are leading to increased shoreline erosion.

Regatta: Daphne Perry & Christine Jany

- 2015 is the 50th anniversary of the regatta and special crests will be ordered. There is a new event & trophy - the Bill Dowsett Memorial Trophy for Gunnel Bobbing.
- Regatta is scheduled for Saturday/Sunday August 1 & 2. Volunteers needed to assist.
- Trophies from last year to be returned to Christine. Lisa Nadalin will be taking this over.

Corn Roast: Wendy Kimmel & David Bird

- Scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 5th at 1:00 pm
- In addition to Bob Greer, Glen Warnica & John Paterson, volunteers are welcome

Website: Don Spring

- Rebuild of the website is a work in progress
- Alicia Omand has volunteered to look after the site

Volunteer Appreciation Celebration: Rita Bloem

- Scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 29 for dinner/drinks
- Don Spring to provide budget from BRCA

Artists of the Limberlost: Susan Higgins

- August 15 & 16 from 10:00 - 6:00

13. Municipal Reports:

District Councillor Shane Baker:

- "Living in Cottage Country" available for \$20 from Muskoka Watershed Council
- Increased snow removal costs past winter +\$500K
- Bear bylaw in effect. Don Spring pointed out that 'Bear with Us' can be contacted to remove & rehabilitate nuisance bears.
- New firearms bylaw
- They are short firefighting volunteers. Seeing an increase in the frequency of issues with cottage rentals.
- Warned the membership there will be speed traps on district roads this summer.

Township Councillor Ginny Burgess:

- Original Shoreline Road Allowance was discussed at her recent Advisory Committee. Contact Ginny if questions.

- Question about transfer stations offering composting. Reply that composting is too expensive for rural areas.

Mayor Bob Young:

- No burning issues, finances okay. Will be some big capital items in 2016 - public works garage, looking at better utilization of existing space.
- Official Plan Review - first major revision since 1999. Looking to simplify & keep it simple. A major public review to be scheduled later in July / early August.
- One proposal is to extend the Development Permit System into all areas of the township, including Rural. Monday June 30th will be a public review of concerns of major rural landowners.
- New OPP costing model is an issue. Charging an additional \$400K for same level of service. Hoping to go directly to OPP and negotiate to pay what the service costs.
- Looking at roads and who is responsible, township vs. district
- Looking at Ambulance stations - building a new one in Bracebridge, not adequate for northern parts of the district.
- Airport project has died, but still \$6.5 M work being done.
- Mayor Young noted monies collected from purchase of OSRA is going into General Revenue, giving the Township Reserve a boost and a cushion for the future

Don Spring thanked the Mayor and Councillors for their time.

Don had two additional announcements:

- Jazz on the dock at John Ross's dock after Saturday regatta
- Music by Tobin Spring @ Spring's dock Sunday July 19 from 3:00 - 5:00

14. New Business:

- Bob Hutcheson asked what the Township's position is regarding a new hospital
- Mayor Young indicated Council will debate the issue at their next meeting July 21. Likely they will favour the one-site model in Huntsville, given the catchment area from all areas of Muskoka favours that location.
- Don Spring was asked in the BRAC would look at joining the Muskoka Watershed Council

On a motion from Brian Markham the meeting adjourned at 12:00 Noon

Respectfully submitted,
Don Spring, President
Wendy Kimmel, VP Rebecca Lake