

LAKE KASSHABOG RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2020

By Video Conference, hosted by FOCA.

There were 28 participants and seven executive members attending this meeting, along with guest speakers Mayor Jim Martin, FOCA Executive Director Terry Rees, who hosted the meeting for FOCA, and Michelle Lewin who ran the webinar.

1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 by President Mike Delsey, who welcomed attendees who had signed into the meeting. He commented that we are living in extraordinary times – 2020 will live in our memories as we deal with COVID-19 and more recently the Gypsy Moth invasion. Our newsletter was recently emailed to those members for whom we have emails, and it is also posted on our website. Printed copies have been placed for pick up in bins at the mail areas on our main access roads. Please review for all our Lake news as well as information on COVID and Gypsy Moths.

We elected to cancel the meeting on the beach this year and instead welcome you to the first ever web-based AGM. We have the required numbers of Executive and Association members in attendance to make this meeting official. Please note that only paid up members with current email addresses in our database will be allowed to vote, with only one vote per property. Our meeting will be shorter than usual as we have a limited time on this platform.

Terry Rees from FOCA explained the technology and the platform which FOCA was helping to host. Michelle Lewin from FOCA was helping with the technology. The chat feature was explained allowing participants to input comments and questions. The event was recorded to capture minutes, and it was available on the FOCA site after the meeting. The Zoom poll feature allowed participants to vote, and the constitution allows motions to pass with a majority.

Mike Delsey noted that our invited guests, Jim Martin, Mayor of HBM and Terry Rees of FOCA were present. Mike thanked Secretary Maggie Brickell and Communications Director Stuart Day for their work on the newsletter.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Mike introduced the LKRA current Executive and Committees:

LKRA EXECUTIVE:

President: Mike Delsey
Past President: Vacant (Formerly Lori Bailey)
Vice President: Stacy Dedlow
Treasurer: Hazel Higley
Secretary: Maggie Brickell
Assistant Secretary: Caryn Phoenix-Renz
Communications: Stuart Day
Environment: Cathy Ward-Griffin
Membership: Jennifer Cummings
Members at Large, Greg Kruk and Adam Aukland

COMMITTEES AND LIAISON

HBMLA LIAISON COMMITTEE: Mike Delsey, Rick Rye, (Maggie Brickell, alternate)

REGATTA: Thomas Brickell, Stacy Dedlow

COVIA (UNIMIN) PLC: Janet Humber, Rick Rye, John Davison, Mike Delsey, Dawn Mitchell

LKRA COMMUNITY HALL AND LIBRARY: Cathy Cameron

ART SHOW: Heather Ramsey

ADVERTISING: Maggie Brickell

GUEST SPEAKERS:

HBM TOWNSHIP MAYOR: Jim Martin

FOCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Terry Rees

3. INVITED GUEST: JIM MARTIN, MAYOR, HAVELOCK-BELMONT-METHUEN

Mayor Martin thanked the LKRA for the invitation to attend our AGM. He commented he preferred our usual meeting on the beach but it was good for the LKRA to keep members informed and for business to keep moving along.

Mayor Martin informed us that on March 25, the Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen declared a State of Emergency along with the Province. This enabled the Township to access a number of different Provincial and Federal programs. There are huge costs associated with these and they are tracking costs to the Township for all the programs and planning, trying to work out a way to a new normal. It is very difficult, and Council is very busy. There are more meetings than ever before. The township meetings are working well on Zoom and residents are interested. They will be continuing with video meetings and will be installing a video camera in council and recording meetings will continue to allow people to see and hear what is being said. There is better transparency with this.

There have been some staffing changes at the Municipality. The Roads and Parks departments in Public Works have been merged, and one person, Ryan Andrew, is now the Manager of Infrastructure. This is more efficient and has been working well. HBM is a small municipality with regard to staffing.

HBM has hired a planner, Laura Stone, who started in early July but is enthusiastic about the job and full of new ideas. The township was contracting out the planning services and is still contracting out some of it.

Building permits have been affected by COVID-19 restrictions; there were 329 permits issued last year but it has been a slow start to 2020. However, permits are rolling in and they may be close to 2019 numbers.

Public works is moving to a "clear bag" policy for garbage. All townships are on board but HBM is going to ease in with education. A soft start in January is planned, and the goal is to divert more materials to recycling. Information will be posted at transfer stations, on Facebook, Twitter and the HBM webpage.

The Parks and Rec department has replaced two roofs on the outhouses at the beach at Lake Kasshabog which should help with cleaning. The beach is being well used. During the initial COVID response, the outhouses were left open. There were challenges with the boat launches being closed due to the COVID-19 restrictions but there were mostly positive responses. The boat launch and beach are now open, although there are

challenges around parking for these areas. The parking and traffic issues have been sent to staff, so there is no further information at this time.

The County has been doing quite a bit of work around HBM; the North River Bridge has needed repairs for many years and construction began this summer. There is no good time for these types of repairs and it will be an 18 week project. Although it is an inconvenience this summer, it is moving along quite well. The north end of County Rd 44 has been resurfaced, and the road is in pretty good shape. The Railway tracks were repaired. The Township and the County are doing a thorough service delivery review, looking for efficiencies.

There have been many questions and emails regarding internet service. Internet access is poor in rural areas and Eastern Ontario is struggling. EORN is a group of Wardens from Eastern Ontario working on solutions to this problem, and all levels of government and internet providers are involved. This effort will cost 1.2 to 1.6 billion dollars! Currently they are looking for speeds of 50 Mbps down and 10 Mbps up, but our Township feels more speed will be needed as it will be outdated by the time the project is complete. One Gbps of speed would be better. Reliable, fast internet is a big issue with many more people trying to work from home or cottage. We need to have the same quality internet as the rest of the province. All Townships have sent a letter of support to the County of Peterborough, which is on the Ontario Wardens' Caucus, to let them know this is something which has to happen.

Mayor Martin wrapped up his presentation by describing the rough start to the season with many divisive words between residents and seasonal owners. There were many frustrations around things which had to be done, and HBM has been working with the Provincial and Federal governments. Mayor Martin stated that we are all in this together and that seasonal residents are needed to support services and businesses. For example, the Friday Farmers' market is ramping up and we want to support businesses starting up slowly and safely.

The HBM office is open by appointment only at the moment, so please call ahead if you need to go in. Masks are required. The next phase will help us to open up further. Technology has helped us get through a lot of work during this time and we hope to continue moving forward.

President Mike Delsey thanked the Mayor for his interesting comments and wished him luck with the new initiatives, especially those which effect Lake Kasshabog. Mayor Martin signed out of the meeting.

4. ACCEPTANCE OF 2019 AGM MINUTES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

20:14 Motion to accept 2019 AGM Minutes by Mike Delsey, seconded by Maggie Brickell. All in Favour, Motion carried.

20:15 Motion to accept 2019 Financial Statements by Mike Delsey, seconded by Hazel Higley. All in Favour, Motion carried.

Mike noted that Paula Lockhart had reviewed the 2018 Financial Statements, and she will be appointed to review those for 2019.

5. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER POSITIONS

Based on the current two-year term of office there are five executive positions which have come due for re-election at the 2020 AGM. They are as follows: President, Vice President, Secretary, Communications Director, and Members at Large. Descriptions of these positions were sent out in an eblast and are posted on our website. Interested parties were asked to contact President Mike Delsey.

All incumbents except the Members at Large have indicated they will continue in office should no other nominations come forward. If so, they will be acclaimed for a further two-year term.

Paid up members were invited to submit a nomination for any of these positions.

No nominations were received for the positions up for re-election, therefore the incumbents were acclaimed and will continue in their current posts.

Members at Large should be elected, but no one has indicated or further pursued an interest. These positions remain vacant.

QUESTION: Is it possible for Members at Large to be recruited after the AGM. These are elected positions and are voted on during the AGM, but we can explore this at the fall meeting. (Subsequent to the meeting it was confirmed that members can be appointed to vacant positions during the year but must run for election at the following AGM.)

6. MOTION TO AMEND THE LKRA CONSTITUTION WITH REGARD TO ARTICLE VII – NOTICE OF MEETING

The constitution was written over forty years ago before electronic communication was common. The existing means for notice requires a mailed newsletter. The proposed change allows for email notice as an option to mailing. The current article reads:

Notice of any annual meeting, or general meeting of the Corporation, whether or not such meeting is called for a specific purpose, shall be given as part of a newsletter addressed to the last known address of all members at least fifteen days before the day set for such meeting. Such notices shall also be posted on the Corporation's website, on the Corporation's official Facebook page, and sent by electronic messaging to those members whose email addresses are available to the Corporation;

The Proposed Amendment reads:

Notice of any annual meeting, or general meeting of the Corporation, whether or not such meeting is called for a specific purpose, shall be provided to members by email or newsletter at least fifteen days before the day set for such meeting. Such notices shall also be posted on the Corporation's website, and on the Corporation's official Facebook page;

20:16 Motion to Amend Article VII of the LKRA Constitution by Mike Delsey, seconded by Jennifer Cummings, all in favour, Motion carried.

7. PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2020

Attendees were directed to the slide detailing the Proposed Budget for 2020, prepared by Treasurer Hazel Higley.

Income:		Expenses:	
Membership dues:	\$7,500	FOCA:	\$1,400
(assumes 300 paid up members)		Insurance:	2,500
Advertising:	4,200.	Membership:	400
Bank Interest:	200.	Marker Program:	500
		Environment:	100
Total:	\$11,900.	Newsletter Printing:	1,400
		Postage:	1,300
		Website:	1,000
		Bank Fees:	50
		Lake Sponsored Events:	500
		(Fishing Derby)	
		Legal Advice	1,000
		Miscellaneous Expenses:	500
		Total:	\$10,650
		Difference:	1,250

Treasurer Hazel Higley explained that our proposed budget was set at our spring 2020 meeting. We know approximately what most of our expenses will be but there are many changes which effect it this year. For example, at our spring meeting we believed we would be mailing out our newsletter, but this is not the case. Our budget has not been amended as yet to reflect these changing costs but it will be updated. Mike suggested we will review and reduce if need be. (Subsequent to the meeting the budget has been amended – see the website for update.)

QUESTION: Paula Lockhart questioned the postage line in the expenses and this will be reviewed. Some members who cannot pick up their copies have requested they be mailed.

QUESTION: What is our current membership? Jennifer Cummings reported that it stands at 170 members to date. Last year it was 365.

QUESTION: If the Regatta is cancelled, why is our insurance so high? Hazel responded that she has contacted our insurer to inform them of the cancellation. They will be issuing a cheque for \$450 to reflect this change. Insurance protects members of the executive against liability. Mike commented that with this reduction, our overall insurance will be reduced to under \$2,000.00.

20:17 Motion to accept Proposed Budget for 2020 by Jennifer Cummings, seconded by Cathy Ward-Griffin, all in favour, Motion Carried.

8. FOCA REPORT – TERRY REES

Terry thanked the LKRA for the invitation to attend our meeting. Terry is the Executive Director of FOCA which represents 520 Lake Associations across Ontario, some of which are quite small and a few quite large. The LKRA is typical of these associations.

FOCA works to assist Lake Associations, build effective government relations, bring science into action and help bridge gaps in rural communities when necessary. Presently, FOCA is assisting Lake Associations to carry on with business when we can't have regular events during the COVID-19 restrictions. They have been

working effectively on the Hydro One file, trying to use their influence to keep costs in check. The EORN broadband project referenced by Mayor Martin affects 96,000 waterfront properties across Eastern Ontario and the communities where we live, work and play. Terry reminded participants that there are many member benefits for FOCA members, including excellent property insurance. Please go to the FOCA website (www.foca.on.ca) for details.

FOCA is a big supporter of science-based activities, such as the Lake Partner Programs which on our lake consistently monitors our water quality with the aid of Stuart Day. They work closely with the Ministry of Environment lab at Dorset, ON.

FOCA worked this spring to bridge the gaps between seasonal cottagers and full-time residents; it was discouraging to see the “us against them” aspect caused by the restrictions. FOCA did speak to the Mayors in the various regions during the shutdown; seasonal owners were never not allowed to go to their properties, but it was important for everyone to do their part to keep everyone safe. Terry commented that the COVID-19 crisis is still not over and we still need to maintain safe practices. There are very few cases in Peterborough County. FOCA has lots of information on the homepage of the FOCA website.

Terry spoke about the Gypsy Moth Invasion and efforts cottagers can make to lessen next year’s impact. Individuals can scrape off egg masses from trees and hard surfaces and soak them in soapy water for 48 hours. In addition, we can place sticky bands on tree trunks and install burlap skirts to capture caterpillars. We can destroy pupae and use pheromone traps. Additional information is now posted on the LKRA website.

Advice about spraying can be found at <https://zimmerair.com> and <https://www.bioforest.ca>. Now is the time to consult for next year as spraying happens in the spring. FOCA discourages the use of broad-spectrum pesticides as many are highly toxic. This includes products like Dragnet which can kill over 500 species of insects, including ants and bees.

The MNRF does very limited spraying on crown forests. Most trees are going to survive although the current drought may have an impact. There is a fungus which emerges when caterpillar numbers become high and the population will collapse. FOCA will host a webinar on this topic and it will be addressed in the monthly Elert as well.

Members can go to the FOCA website for information on safe boating tips and the environment. Terry reminded us that we are all in this together and that FOCA will continue to push for improvements for waterfront property owners.

QUESTION: The dock at the landing on Peninsula Road needs repair. Terry indicated he could chat in person with anyone interested in regard to this issue. (This was reported to Mayor Martin in early summer and the Township promised to contact MNRF regarding improvements.)

9. COVIA REPORT – MIKE DELSEY

The COVID-19 Pandemic has affected many COVIA operations. There has been a construction delay of about 2 months. The original completion date was June 2021, but that date has now shifted to Sept 2021. Safety programs have been instituted for all staff and contractors. Their COVIA annual open house has been cancelled.

However, COVIA has continued their program of collecting and incubating turtle eggs for later release of hatchlings. They did comment that if safe to do so, they will ask kids to help release the hatchlings. COVIA has agreed to help sponsor the July fishing derby. They also sponsor our loon project. They are trying their best to be good neighbours to lake residents.

10. QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND NEW BUSINESS

Dam Funds: we have purposely deferred discussions on this and other controversial issues until we can meet again in person.

Gypsy Moths: we will continue to monitor and consider options for next year. We will make information available to members. Please see the recommendations from Terry Rees and FOCA listed above.

Gas Pumps: the loss of gas on the lake is a concern to members who are worried about safely transporting gas and filling tanks. The owner of the marina is still investigating options but there is little progress in that regard. Some residents feel they would like to help out financially. The LKRA will track this issue.

Safe boating: we regularly post safety messages to members but we cannot police the lake. It is so important to be courteous when boating, having respect for other boaters, swimmers and shorelines. Should members note a serious concern please call the OPP.

The boat launch and parking: this issue has been referred to the Mayor. The dock is owned by MNRF and the Township has contacted them about the state of repair. Please see the Mayor's response on the parking issue.

Fireworks: The LKRA can get the message out that fireworks are a fire hazard, but they are legal in Ontario although they were banned earlier this spring. This is definitely a concern for people. All family fireworks in HBM Township require advanced permission from the Fire Chief.

Photo contest: we decided that since we wouldn't be able to do the calendar this year that we wouldn't do the photo contest. We can revisit this.

Hydro: The Ontario Energy Board is still (re)considering their earlier decision to eliminate the Seasonal Rate Class. FOCA has commented on behalf of waterfront property owners. FOCA will update LKRA when there is any news. Rates will continue to rise due to an earlier decision to move to all fixed rate distribution rates, which hurts low-use customers.

There was no other new business to discuss. Mike thanked FOCA for hosting and Terry Rees and Michelle Lewin for their assistance.

20:18 Motion to adjourn by Mike Delsey, seconded by Stuart Day. All in favour, Motion Carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:01 am.