

FIMLA AGM 2017 Minutes

The 2017 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Fourteen Island and Mink Lakes Association (FIMLA) was held at the home of Alan Boyce and Joyce Hodgins on Saturday, August 5, 2017. Approximately 55 members and a few invited guests attended.

1. Welcome – Gord Rodgers

FIMLA President Gord Rodgers called the meeting to order at 11:00 am. Gord expressed thanks to Joyce and Alan for hosting the meeting again in 2017.

Gord welcomed Mayor Ron Vandewal and local councilor John McDougal. Gord expressed appreciation for their community involvement attendance at the AGM most years. Guest speaker Vicki Schmolka, President, Land Conservancy for Kingston Frontenac Lennox & Addington, was also welcomed.

New members were welcomed: Janine Knackstedt and Richard Nageleisen (moving in October from Indonesia), and Karen and Dave Lucas (moved into the St. John place).

Gord introduced the FIMLA executive: Mary Rae, Susan Grigg, Alan Boyce, Peter Bedoukian, Chris Caswell, Susan Pine (regrets), and Anne Tucker (regrets). Jim and John, our barbecue cooks, were thanked, and Susan Pine and Anne Tucker thanked for arranging the food.

The people doing water quality sampling on the lake were thanked for their work: Brett Dark on 14 Island Lake and Peter Bedoukian on Little John Lake. Phosphorus levels are steady or dropping; everyone was urged to continue what they are doing to protect the lake and maintain water quality.

Gord thanked Alan Boyce for his work putting the spring 2017 FIMLA newsletter together, including the nice photos, and Mary Rae for species identification for the bird photos. The newsletter is available online on the FIMLA website and has a lot of interesting information, including the history of forming FIMLA and 30 years of ice on and off dates from the Babcocks. A lot of lake associations are watching this as an indicator of climate change effects; shorter and milder winters, ticks and other phenomenon. It was noted that reptiles and amphibians seem healthy in numbers based on sightings, and are an indicator of a healthy lake environment. Copies of the 2017 newsletter were available at the meeting.

2. 2016 AGM Minutes – Gord Rodgers

One correction to Section 5 (water quality update) was noted by Joe Buckley: secchi disk readings are taken at two locations, not two depths. A motion to accept the 2016 AGM Minutes as presented in the spring 2017 newsletter, with the change as noted, was moved by Joe Buckley, seconded by Tom Bourne, voted on and passed (Resolution 2017-1).

3. 2016 Financial Report and 2017 Proposed Budget – Chris Caswell

Chris Caswell provided copies of the 2016 Financial Report as of December 31, 2016, and the 2017 Proposed Budget, and provided a summary of key information. The 2016 budget

was set to breakeven; actuals were a bit better than proposed. Income included an increase to 60 paid membership fees (\$1500.00 total). Some members paid additional amounts, counted as donations (\$295.00 total), which was much appreciated. Expenses included the AGM (food costs), communication (admin, postage etc...) and webhosting; thanks to Peter's work on revamping the website there was a 3 year fee with a small ongoing licensing fee, an overall saving. Total expenses were about \$225.00 less than budgeted for, which increased the year-end balance. The balance as of December 31, 2016 was \$6,658.96.

The executive agreed to a breakeven budget for 2017. Current membership numbers were carried forward; no anticipated change to boat launch fees. The communications budget was increased for other website work/updates/newsletters. Gord noted that the Orangeville mug company used previous years closed before they did our 2017 order; contact Gord if you know of an alternate company to use. The reserve continues for future projects (e.g., dam repairs); it was increased from \$4,000 to \$5,000 to build up the reserve over time. The 2017 year-end estimate is \$1,658.96 (reflects \$5,000 reserve).

There was some discussion about the P.O. Box, and whether it was still needed. The P.O. Box is still used, mainly for mailing in membership fees. The executive had discussed it, and decided it remains useful in case of executive changes, since otherwise we would need to use a personal address which would change over time. The use of e-transfers was discussed; this hasn't been set-up as of yet, but will be looked into for the future. Chris noted that membership fees could be paid at the meeting by those that hadn't already done so.

Resolution 2017-2

Be it resolved that the 2016 Financial Statement and 2017 Proposed Budget be accepted as presented at the August 5, 2017 Annual General Meeting.

Moved by: Dan Gilbert

Seconded by: Tom Bryant

Voted: Passed

4. Constitution Update – Mary Rae

The executive feels that the FIMLA constitution is in need of revisions/updates; Mary Rae, Peter Bedoukian and Alan Boyce have been working on it. Proposed changes would be reviewed by the executive prior to being circulated to the full membership for review and calling a vote on the changes. Mary Rae summarized some areas of the constitution that might require updating and that are being considered:

- association name: a more inclusive name such as '14 Island and Mink Lakes Watershed Association', to reflect that the association includes 14 Island, Mink, Little John, Little John Sister and Buffy Lakes
- increase emphasis on education and environmental awareness
- membership rules: include people who have an interest
- board of directors: up to three 'directors at large' versus specific representatives such as the feeder lakes rep; these directors could take various responsibilities such as dam maintenance
- remove reference to fish stocking.

Alan noted that Gord has been involved for 10-12 years which is a long commitment; it would be good to bring new people into the executive; the constitution may need changes regarding tenure. Gord echoed that new people who want to come forward will be welcomed.

5. Guest Speaker – Vicki Schmolka, Land Conservancy for KFLA

Vicki Schmolka, President, Land Conservancy for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington (KFLA), provided information about the organization's regional land conservation efforts; 'keeping nature near always' is their motto. Vicki noted that taking care of nature is a pleasure and a responsibility. There are many agencies and conservation partners for land acquisition in the Frontenac Arch area on a national and regional scale (such as Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ontario Heritage Trust, Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority, Queen's University Biological Station, Rideau Waterway and Mississippi Land Trusts). The Land Conservancy for KFLA uses county boundaries to define areas of interest; Vicki circulated a map of existing protected areas and priority areas. The land conservancy began in 2004; membership is \$50 per individual or \$60 for a couple. Some statistics of the land conservancy's work to date were provided:

- 6 acquired parcels (5 donations, one purchase) + 2 conservation easements (restrictions on use of land registered on title) = 8 properties protected (220 ha / 540 ac)
- Bat monitoring
- 19 species at risk protected on their properties
- \$8,000.00 annual operating budget; all are volunteers, doing it because they see the value of setting aside and protecting land
- Natural heritage plan is in progress; it is anticipated to be ready in the fall (\$36,000 funding from Ontario Heritage Foundation). Input has been received from local experts such as Gord Rodgers, regarding criteria for selecting priority areas.

Discussion followed. How are priorities set? Priority areas could include connections, corridors, water (e.g. breeding areas, tributaries, marshes), biodiverse areas. The land conservancy is also using NCC and CRCA and Frontenac County planning maps as information. What value is given for charitable receipt for land donation? The receipt is based on the appraised value of the land. No capital gains? An ecogift would have no capital gains; the receipt would then be good for 10 years. She advises landowners to look at their own financial situation to decide what works best for them. The Federal Government is encouraging protection of land using tax incentives. Is there a municipal tax credit? The land conservancy pays tax on acquired lands, but usually applies for a tax incentive program for lower tax rate (Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program); this is on a case by case basis, there is no automatic municipal tax credit. Mayor Vandewal noted that there are impacts on municipalities when large properties are removed from the tax base. Vicki noted that the land conservancy works with municipalities and feels land protection is a benefit to the municipality in the long term.

For more information about the Land Conservancy for KFLA visit www.LandConservancyKFLA.org

6. Further Discussion & Adjournment

Ways of connecting with and/or getting to know neighbours was raised as an interest. It was noted that the map of landowners and contact information circulated some years ago was helpful. Gord noted that the landowner map is problematic because of *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* restrictions on sharing of personal information; publishing names and contact information on a map may be possible with prior written permission from landowners. There was some discussion about having a Facebook group like Buck Lake Association has, as a way for landowners to connect; some interest was expressed among the members in having a Facebook group established.

Alan noted the Federal restriction on watercraft speed is 10 km/h within 30 m of shore. Shore erosion from waves/wake resulted in a tree falling along their shoreline recently. It was noted that watercraft speed has been observed to be a problem between the 14 Island Lake and Mink Lake narrows, eroding the shoreline along the Buckley's property. Gord urged all residents to be aware of speed restrictions, know their boat and keep the wake down (high wake isn't always a result of excessive speed). The possibility of installing signage was discussed; this has been talked about in the past. Gord will take the suggestion back to the executive. Alternately property owners could put up signs, but they should be official.

Gord Rodgers asked for a motion to adjourn the AGM at 12:17 pm. The motion was moved by Joe Buckley and seconded by Elaine Aaronson. Everyone was thanked for attending. The membership and guests enjoyed a barbeque and desserts and beverages by the lakeshore. The meat was purchased from Gilmour's on 38 on Highway 38 at Hartington.

Minutes prepared by Susan Grigg.