

Norway Lake Association

2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (Draft)

Saturday July 8, 10 a.m.

1. **Welcome & Introductions:** President Mark Gallivant welcomed all on a very chilly day that threatened rain at any moment! Approximately 40 members attended. Agenda approved.

2. **Approval of 2016 AGM minutes:** Moved by Dave Laramie, seconded by Dean McDonald. Carried.

3. **Council/Township Update:** Mayor Glenda McKay presented on behalf of Greater Madawaska Township.

- Booklets. The Renfrew Mercury has produced a FREE booklet containing a great deal of information about our area, Renfrew and Pembroke. A good source of information.
- Budget 2017. This topic continues on from the information that Glenda gave us at last year's meeting - namely, Policing is 'killing us' re the budget and it is not only our municipality that is struggling. Figures of 6.4% last year and now 5% this year prevents putting away any money for a reserve fund. Members of council have spent countless hours looking at where and how cuts can be made. Township costs are us \$600,000 from the previous year. As a result, what roads to fix has been prioritized - basically 'reacting to emergencies' is the policy this year.

Peter Malizia brought up the dangerous situation existing on Brydges road near 508 with the washout. Glenda said she would look into this and for NLA members to send in reports on road problems that they see.

(Note: On Monday, July 10, the township arranged for gravel to be brought in and a temporary solution was had).

Again, the township is trying everything to reduce the operating budget - tried for road assistance from the government but was declined. The school levy went from \$86 per 100,000 assessment in 2016 to \$87 in 2017.

Glenda stressed that the township's "**ASSET MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**" is being reviewed again. It can be found on the website and she encouraged all members to read and react to it. All statistics and figures that she mentioned during her presentation are there for everyone to see.

- Other Happenings: As mentioned, a huge problem exists with the policing costs per household. For example, the Arnprior Mall policing costs are \$300 total.

One individual house pays the same amount!! Inequities continue. Waterfront properties such as us on Norway Lake pay top taxes. Bob Berry commented on our low crime rate here but that we pay the same as more 'dangerous', problem areas.

- New Doctor: Dr. Ben Blaine is starting his practice in Calabogie in September. The library is moving to the school. Mention was made of a possible dentist hygienist coming as well.
- The Trailer Part Issue: Another 'continuing issue' that continues to come up annually. Last year members were encouraged to send in written letters to the township. This was done by quite a few cottagers but not a great deal happened as a result of this effort. More discussion of all aspects of the issue ensued. The end result was a statement by Glenda that "we are working on it" and that "we will get there"! Her last word on this to the meeting was that we should have some answers in the next couple of months as they are "working through a process".

In conclusion, Mark again thanked Glenda for taking time from her very busy schedule to speak directly with us and to listen to our position on various issues.

4. Treasurer's Report: Presented by Sue McDonald

Financial position: Current bank balance is \$1845. Income in 2016 was \$720, expenses of \$615.

There were 72 collections in 2016 therefore we can expect about 35 this year as collections are made every 2 years and we usually have about 111. Note: the souvenir fund and annual golf tournament are not funded by the NLA.

Betty Gauthier reported on FOCA as offered last year. Discussion entered on the FOCA expenses of \$450. She reported that FOCA seldom mentions anything about Eastern Ontario - mostly entered on Muskoka, Halliburton areas. Ruth Berry moved that we only pay the basic fee, seconded by Peter Malizia that we should look at ways to reduce this cost.

5. Lake Stewardship: David Johnson read the Lake Partner Program (LPP) report on our water quality for Joan Licari.

Phosphorous is up a little from 2016 but it is OK. Calcium levels are similarly up a little also but still OK. Water clarity same as the past.

Recommendations include eliminating use of fertilizers and weed killers near the lake.

Maintain your septic tanks - have them checked and pumped if needed.

Bob Berry asked if anyone had noticed any zebra mussels as we are not testing for this now. He reinforced the need for us to check our visitor's boats, wash them and be vigilant in order to keep our lake clear of them.

Another suggestion - a repeat from last year - was to have the lake water tested in front of the trailer park to make sure it is OK, even if we have to pay to have this done. David Johnson to look into this.

Dean McDonald investigated purchasing buoys to mark rocks and shallow areas in the lake. He found they are expensive to buy - \$250 each + handling and shipping. He has designed and made a prototype which works well and will provide such for anyone who asks and install them themselves. (Several can now be seen in the lake and they are excellent). Many thanks Dean!

- **Neighbourhood Watch:** It was reported by Jake Charron that another good year was had on the North side - no events. Some mailboxes were vandalized on the South side plus individual name signs- some of which are still on the ground to reclaim. Another issue this year was reported concerning balloons left in the water after the July 1st. celebration with the water fight. Suggestion - do not use balloons - get water guns instead.

Dave Johnson had revised maps for us showing all the cottagers on the lake complete with their addresses. Great job David! Please contact him if updates or corrections are needed.

6. Other Items:

- Fauve Gauthier has been working diligently on various aspects of the Web Design. There is a Facebook page for Norway Lake which includes such items as the Canada Day Parade, the meeting today and a new 'Buy & Sell' section, linked to the Facebook page, for items you no longer want or wish to purchase. She stressed that you should NOT publish your address. Well done Fauve!
- Chuck Weatherdon commented on the excellent road work done on Smithson Lane after the severe rainfall. Congrats to Jake Charron, Peter and Richard Renaud.
- A suggestion was made to publish the names of local service people that you have found reliable so that others may use them as well - eg. carpenters, plumbers, etc.
- **Golf Tournament:** Nat Garrow informed members of the 3rd. annual tournament to be held on Friday, Aug. 25 at Calabogie. Our numbers are growing - 5 groups the first year and 9 groups last year.

Contact Nat with groups and names for this fun event. Details re timing, etc will be sent out.

- Kay James reported finding a large gray barrel - contact her if you have lost this item.

Mark Gallivan informed the meeting that there will be no changes on the Executive - everyone is remaining.

Motion to adjourn meeting - David Johnson. Seconded Richard Renaud.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15