

WOLFE LAKE (WESTPORT ASSOCIATION

Minutes AGM | July 21, 2018

MINUTES: WOLFE LAKE ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
DATE: SATURDAY, JULY 21, 2018 | 9:30 AM-12:00 PM | LIONS CLUB BEACH, WESTPORT
BY: ADRIANA GAMBAROTTA



OPENING

President Paul Thompson brought the meeting to order at 9:30am, welcoming an audience of approximately 53 members. He briefly summarized the meeting agenda including the guest speakers, presentations and reports from various Directors.

He reminded those present that at the end of the business the meeting there would be an election for the positions of President and Secretary and urged those present to consider standing for one of those. Paul reminded us that after three years as President his term as defined by the Association Constitution was over and that the Secretary, had requested to be replaced.

Paul spoke about the concerns regarding the continuing issue of low water levels. He said the association executive, having drawn the issue to the attention of the Prime Minister, responsible Minister and Parks Canada had done all the association could. He said individual members should now utilize the email and office addresses and/or phone numbers provided in the 2017 AGM minutes to make their individual complaints. Hopefully a large number of voter complaints would convince the government and Parks Canada to take the issue seriously. Paul also mentioned that a contract to provide a defined quantity of water to the Gananoque Power and Light turbines at Kingston Mills could also be a factor in the water being drained for Wolfe Lake.

Guest speakers

-Ms. Pat Barr for the South Frontenac Township sent her regrets for not being able to participate to the AGM meeting.

-Mr. Ron Pollard, from Rideau-Lakes Township, reminded the importance of the activities of different Lake Associations, protecting 30 bodies of water for the future generations. He briefly gave an update on road works and announced major renovation projects involving the construction of new sidewalks and new docks. He also mentioned changes in the North Crosby district where the five wards were reduced to four.

-Mr. Ron Vanderwal, a candidate to the South Frontenac Mayor position, introduced his program if elected. He promised that he would push for funds to boost programs like mandatory septic system inspections, road repairs by financing Road Associations and to support the lake associations in continuing preserving water quality, water levels and fisheries.

-Mr. Don Goodfellow, from the Westport Area Outdoor Association (WAOA) was introduced by Margie Manthey during her Fishing Report. Mr. Goodfellow gave an interesting slide show presentation on the "Walleye Hatchery Operation" that is taking place at the Westport Fish Culture site. He described the layout of the site, whose ponds are fed by Sand Lake water. The descriptive jar hatching method based on artificial insemination brings to the release in July of few thousands of newly developed fingerlings in Sand Lake. The subject prompted an interesting session of Q & A and further discussion.

Mr. Goodfellow informed that the hatchery can be visited upon request and explained that the reason behind the release of fingerlings only in Sand lake waters was backed up by the unnecessary improvement of healthy fish population in other lakes.

AGM MINUTES 2017

Member Roy Sunstrum moved (seconded by Barry Charnish) that the minutes for the 2017 AGM be accepted. The motion was seconded and passed.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Paul announced some revision with changes in the Constitution/Bylaws of the WL A to be approved by voting, to be further discussed during the meeting.

Then he invited and reminded the audience about participating to the voting session at the end of the meeting to elect a new President and possibly a new secretary.

He also brought up the common frustration of lake dwellers about the very low worry-some water levels reached by the WL water these past months. Even if it is common knowledge that water levels are under the discretion of Parks Canada, he urged the audience about the impact of direct individual complains hoping to channel amplifying a general complain to Parks Canada. Peter Neve and Les Kom expressed their support to this individual initiative. Les also suggested to meet with different other lake associations sharing the same low water level problem in order to build a more powerful voice on the matter that can be heard also at provincial and federal level of the Government. Paul invited the members to find all the useful addresses where to direct the complaint letters on the Association web site. An email would soon circulate to remind the members of the importance of taking this action and the key points to address in the letters.

FISHING DIRECTOR'S REMARKS

Margie opened by announcing the installation of three monofilament fishing line recycling stations which were built and installed by WLA volunteers at the public launches on WL. She thanked Wayne Derbyshire for his kind offer to monitor and maintain the units and keep the stations accessible (weed whacking). All members were invited to volunteer their help.

Margie informed that she contacted the South Frontenac Township office to inquire whether the launch at the end of Hannah Road was public or private, as there was uncertainty about this. They advised they do not maintain this launch, so the assumption was it was private. However, Ron Pollard interjected and advised that this launch is a PUBLIC site, as Hannah Road is not private and runs into the lake.

A discussion then began on the especially poor conditions of the 10th Concession public launch, as was noted by Brian Manthey. The constant erosion of the road surface and ramp due to rain run-off channels a substantial amount of efflux into the lake causing the obstructive formation of a gravel and sand "delta." Maintenance to date has been inadequate, with short-term repairs of soil/sand deposition, which brought up a common concern of a potential reduction of water quality. Ron Pollard mentioned that the installation of metal grating at the lake's south end launch was successful and might be worthy of consideration to improve the 10th concession launch. Further investigation was agreed upon.

Margie then offered an impression of spring/early summer fishing, that is, fishing was quite good and fish were healthy appearing, including bass of both species and walleye caught both in and out of the slot regulation. Some exceptionally large fish were landed. Northern pike although active, were generally smaller. Some experts believe this is a zone-wide problem possibly linked to the loss of spawning wetlands. Panfish were plentiful but less perch was caught, and no crappie. Margie shared Bill Garland's report of an excellent outing with friends during which multiple species were caught, including one very large pike. She also relayed specific game fish catch stats from the season as recorded by her son, Tyler.

Margie concluded by voicing continued support of the walleye slot regulation. She reminded anglers to practice good ethics promoting a healthy fishery, including new catch and release guidelines for a proper supportive-horizontal hold of larger, heavy fish to prevent injury or mortality.

She then introduced Don Goodfellow from the Westport Area Outdoor Association, who presented a slideshow on the Westport Fish Culture Station's jar hatchery (walleye) program.

Following this informative slide presentation, Margie and Don co-introduced a joint project between the WLA and the WAOA to rehabilitate valuable walleye spawning habitat on an area of Scanlan Creek, which could directly benefit WL's walleye population. Key portions of the creek would be enhanced with the placement of MNRF-approved rocks utilizing both a machine and volunteers. Tackaberry provided a project cost quote of \$4200. The project would be jointly partnered and funded by the WLA and the WAOA. Potential funding through grants is being explored. Peter Neve, the WLA Treasurer rose concerns over how to obtain funding as the WLA is not an incorporated entity. It was explained that grant opportunities would be explored by the WAOA as they were believed to be incorporated. WLA President, Paul Thompson, proposed a motion to reserve up to \$3000 towards the WLA's share of costs. The motion was approved by Dave Putinski and Pierre Lamoreux and a membership vote was then enthusiastically passed. Margie added that a RVCA Fisheries Biologist would soon assess the project site to offer insight regarding the potential benefit from this investment.

TREASURER'S REMARKS

Peter Neve concluded that this year a strong effort to growth of the membership base was the result of first and foremost Les Kom, as Membership director, as well a result of the energy of a number of other team

members. These are the numbers: currently we have a gross membership count of 104 and revenues of \$3230.

The WLCA annual publication has proved very successful in gathering advertisers and supporting the publication. That effort actually produces \$2885 in revenues from 17 advertisers. Association members should be encouraged to support our advertisers, AND to let them know where and why these advertisers get the opportunity to do business. From a practical perspective, the revenue from advertisers exceeds the costs of production by \$1500.

It looks like our commitment to the lake water quality and the spawning grounds restoration project, led by Margie Manthey, will proceed and our commitment of \$3500 to support that effort will be well used.

As of November 2018, we are in a solid financial position with a balance of \$10,097.49 and without any accounts payable outstanding.

That is an improvement over 2017 of (10,097.49 -6670.98) \$3426.51, approximately what is committed to the “restoration project”. All in all a good year financially and program-wise.

NEW MAGAZINE

Paul Thompson introduced Anna Rijk and her update on the magazine thanking Anna for the efforts of the last two years, concentrated on the creation of the new Magazine look. He also highlighted the positive impact of the Magazine on the Association as the force behind this new revenue source. Anna agreed that the past two years have been very intense.

Nevertheless, Anna is keen in keeping up the magazine in this new, modern format since it offers an immediate means of communication within members and Government institutions.

The following report is highlighting the improved association communication tools that have incremented a sense of community within our population.

COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR'S REMARKS

Magazine

Anna Rijk informed the audience that we are maintaining the focus on effective internal and external communications. The re-designed newsletter became an attractive and is - by the members as well as non-members – a well appreciated and full colour Magazine. The number of pages of the second new format Wolfe Lake Magazine, has been increased from 28 pages in 2017 to 36 (in 2018).

This summer more space is reserved for advertising. Consequently, the number of local business, who advertised in the Magazine increased, from 12 in 2017 to 18 in 2018.

Regarding the content of next year's Magazine, we received - so far - the following ideas:

- look back + follow up on the Lake Vision document
- trees around us
- water crafts: power boats versus wind or muscle power
- waterfront property owners and rural economy, focusing on a recent FOCA report

- towing (boats/trailers) rules and regulations
- selling of Wolfe Lake T-shirts, hoodies (and may be more) including our logo and a preferred hash tag

News Flash

In 2017, 8 News Flashes were written and distributed to individual members, by e-mail.

Facebook

The Facebook page seems to be well visited. The traffic has (at least) doubled, compared to 2016. We currently have 293 likes., including much more two-way communication (feedback and replies on postings).

Strategy

Since we started the new magazine format, and the e-mail News Flashes, we made sure the content is based on and aligned with the Lake vision. At that time a lot of effort was put into drafting this important document. However, this Vision paper (2009/2010) needs an update. Research and/or a new questionnaire amongst members would help to update the document.

When drafting the first Lake Vision, it was suggested to distribute a short version of it amongst all members, but that never happened. I agree a separate summary would be handy; after we have updated the Lake Vision, we could look into producing a shortened version of the Lake Vision.

Help needed

Volunteers are needed to continue to work with our existing COM tools. First and foremost, the content and design of the website needs attention. It could potentially be upgraded from the current blog form into another format, designed and offered through World Press.

Ideally, a 'COM team' could be set up. Any interested members are most welcome to contact Anna (com-wolfelake@outlook.com).

WATER QUALITY DIRECTOR'S REMARKS

Daniel Spitzer reported that the water quality was tested in 2017 at 8 sampling sites on 5 occasions during the period May – October.

Overall results were very comparable to the period on record. In general, the Water Quality in Wolfe Lake remains excellent, only in one case the Phosphorus concentration in a northern bay of the Lake significantly exceeded the standard. Since there are no buildings and no agricultural objects in the nearby shore area, this single elevated value could be assigned to a measurement error. The E. Coli concentrations were far below the required provincial maximum values.

Water clarity, as expressed by the annual average Secchi Disk depth, seems to have decreased in the past few years. This trend continued also in 2017. A probable cause for the decrease in water clarity over the past few years may be the rapid decline in zebra mussel numbers which has occurred over that time.

The average concentrations of nutrients (TP and TKN) seem to fluctuate over the last years. Since the recorded values are far below the standards, there is no reason to worry.

Milfoil proliferation remains the main environmental issue of our Lake. The bottom vegetation density seems to be on rise in many shore areas of the Lake, as confirmed by underwater photography using the underwater GPS camera, kindly funded by FOCA.

In the past years to the present, several milfoil eradication methods were and are tested and evaluated at two locations at our Lake. In 2017 the water aeration and screening mats were applied. The aeration project does not seem to be successful so far.

In cooperation with Carleton University (prof. J. Vermaire), Windsor University, A-MAPS Environmental Inc. and RVCA, several methods were applied to study various bottom vegetation monitoring and eradication technologies. This research will continue also in the upcoming years.

Before passing to the concluding part of the meeting, the president asked the members if they had any particular concern to voice. Following a complaint on too much drift cut wood collecting on some properties water line, Paul concluded that it is upon everybody common sense not to dispose cut wood in the water. Paul also reassured some members concerned about a potential expansion of Camp lawah, after having observed an unusual visible increase of visitors and water traffic. He confirmed that there is no plan for that project.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR'S REMARKS

Les Kom was present, but not invited to give a presentation.

AMENDMENTS ON THE WLA CONSTITUTION

Paul Thompson introduced some changes in the Constitution of the Association, which had been reviewed and passed by the Directors but needed to be confirmed by a membership vote at the AGM. The changes are outlined in the following paragraphs:

II. Objects: the fifth sentence has the verb “ensure” replaced by “encourage”, since the Association is not invested of any authority to deny any development permit;

III. Membership: in the last sentence, the Association will consider persons who are not lot owners as “Friends” of the Association and not members, since they do not have any voting privilege.

V. Government: the second sentence that limits the “president, vice president, secretary or treasurer” positions to a maximum of three consecutive office years mandate is eliminated from the Constitution. In the third sentence the restriction of planning the AGM only in late July or early August is removed, allowing more flexibility in choosing the weekend AGM date during the whole months of July and August. In the seventh sentence, “a quorum at a meeting of the Board of Directors shall be five members” belonging to the Board of Directors. In the tenth sentence, no written request for waiving two-week notice for a Board of directors meeting is necessary also in case of emergency. Therefore, the part mentioning the written note is removed from the text.

VI. Fiscal Year and Membership Year: finally, the fiscal year and the membership year will be both from January 1 to December 31. In this way, the confusion created by two different year periods is eliminated. A motion was made and seconded by Bill Garland and Erick Behre and then passed by a vote of the

Paul also reminded the audience that the WLA association is a member of FOCA and that a link to the FOCA web site is available on the Association web site and in the WLA Magazine.

ELECTIONS

Elected executive team members for another term and their roles:

Vacant - president

Bill Garland - vice-president

Peter Neve - treasurer

Daniel Spitzer - water quality

Roy Chisamore - lake navigation aids

Anna Rijk - communications

Les Kom -membership

Margie Manthey -fishing

Paul Thompson -past president

Mike Conrad - secretary

Directors at large - elected/re-elected:

Roy Sunstrum, Gord More, Adriana Gambarotta, Erik Behre and Bill Hutchison.

Paul called for nominations for the position of president. When none were made, and no candidate stepped forward, Paul announced that his term was over. He passed the agenda and meeting control over to Vice President Bill Garland.

Called for nominations for the position of secretary, Paul Thompson nominated Mike Conrad for the position. Mike Conrad agreed to stand for election and was elected unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

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ATTACHMENT

Updated Constitution of the Wolfe Lake (Westport) Association

(see next pages)

CONSTITUTION / BYLAWS

WOLFE LAKE (Westport) ASSOCIATION (Revised AGM July 2018)

I. Name

- The name of the association will not be changed.

II. Objects

- The association is dedicated to the care and enhancement of Wolfe Lake and Green Lake, its natural areas, fish and wildlife and shall promote the welfare of Wolfe Lake and Green Lake. In so doing the association's activities will include, but not be limited to:
 - provide information on environmental aspects for cottages;
 - encourage measures and take measures to prevent pollution;
 - encourage measures and take measures to improve fishing;
 - Encourage that all future development is orderly and not harmful to the lake, the surrounding area or to wildlife;
 - represent the wishes of its members to the Township of South Frontenac, Township of Rideau Lake and other levels of government; and
 - engage in such other activities so as to attain the above objects.

III. Membership

- Membership shall be open to all lot owners on Wolfe Lake or Green Lake. A lot is any property for which a description is registered in a Registry Office.
- Where a lot is owned by a corporation or by tenants in common and contains more than one dwelling, each shareholder or owner who has the exclusive right to occupy a dwelling is entitled to membership. Where more than one person or family has the right to occupy a particular dwelling, there shall be one membership only associated with such dwelling
- Where a person owns a trailer located in a trailer park and the trailer is permanently situated in the trailer park or is in the trailer park for the cottage season, such owner is entitled to membership in the association.
- Persons who are not lot owners on Wolfe Lake or Green Lake may join the association as non-voting friends of the association.

IV. Voting

- Save as set out in this constitution all decisions of the association shall be by majority vote of the members.
- There shall be only one vote per lot, save for those lots referred to in Article III (2) or III (3) wherein there shall be one vote associated with each dwelling or each trailer as the case may be.
- All members who are not in default in payment of their annual membership dues shall be entitled to vote.

V. Government

- The association shall be governed by a board of directors consisting of a president, immediate past president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and minimum of three and a maximum of eleven directors at large, all of whom shall be elected annually by the membership. The number of directors at large shall be determined annually at the annual meeting of members.
- In so far as possible, the annual meeting of the association shall be held on a weekend in July or August.
- A quorum at a meeting of members shall be 25% of the membership, present in person or by proxy.
- A meeting of members may be called by the president or the Board of Directors and shall be called upon the requisition in writing of ten members to the Board of Directors.
- At least two weeks notice shall be given of a meeting of members.
- At each annual meeting the members shall decide on the dues for the coming year.
- A quorum at a meeting of the Board of Directors shall be five members of the board.
- A meeting of the Board of Directors may be called by the President on his initiative or shall be called by the President upon the requisition in writing of five members of the Board of Directors.
- Save in the case of an emergency, no meeting of the Board of Directors shall be called without two weeks notice to all directors.
- There should be a minimum of three meetings of the Board of Directors per year.
- At meetings of members and the board of directors, the person acting as chairman of the meeting shall be entitled to a deciding or casting vote.
- The Board of Directors shall appoint a person to inspect the financial accounts of the Association for the current year.

VI. Fiscal Year and Membership Year

- The term of office of the Board of Directors shall be from one annual meeting to the next.
- The fiscal and membership year of the association shall be from January 1 to December 31.

VII. Amendment of By-laws

- Bylaws shall be passed and amended by the Board of Directors and shall be Confirmed by a two-thirds vote of those members voting at the next annual meeting or at a special meeting of members called for such purpose. Unless a bylaw or an amendment to a bylaw specifies to the contrary, it shall take effect when passed by the Board of Directors, but if not confirmed by the membership, shall cease to be of any effect as of the close of the meeting of members which has failed to confirm the bylaw or amendment.
- Any bylaw or amendment to Constitution / bylaws which is not confirmed by the membership may be passed at a subsequent meeting of the Board of Directors, but if so passed will not take effect until confirmed by the membership.