



**Lac Bernard Board of Directors Meeting
January 18, 2023
7:30 p.m. (MS Teams)**

Start Time: 7:32 pm

Attendance:

Kevin Radford (Chairman), Wendy Carr, Colleen Forer, Don McLean, Blair Patacairk, Paul Saunders, and Jeff Stubbins

Chris Ault and Brad Sweeney absent – Quorum Achieved

Motion:

- Don McLean

I move to accept the Summary Report of the Semi-Annual General Meeting held on November 29, 2022.

- Seconded: Wendy Carr
- Carried

Financial Update – Don McLean

We have come to the end of the year. Was able to pick up final statements from TD Bank. Don has a meeting with Sandra Zlobina, our accountant this Saturday morning. I expect to have financial statements a lot sooner than later; hopefully within a month or so. Pretty straightforward.

Not much to talk about regarding expenses to date though we need to be very careful about engaging our lawyers. We had significant legal expenses in 2022 due to Bylaw discussions as a new one was being drafted for acceptance in May 2022.

We are going to show a loss. We have not yet received the grant from La Pêche for the water testing. Paul Saunders, Environment Chair, continues to follow up with the municipality, but has not heard anything yet.

Following up with Steve Kulba to get final year-end Excel sheet to determine who paid 2022 memberships during 2022, and who has paid going forward. Don explains that he was never in the loop regarding the Stripe aMember deal so he has no idea how that works. Doesn't know what the charges are. It would be very useful to receive a copy of the Stripe deal that we have. Don continues to follow up with Steve Kulba to get this.

Kevin cites an email from member David Muir:

"I think that the Association should read the Corporations Act and its requirement to provide the annual audited financial statement to members."

Mr. Muir's email was the only response from the entire Association. It is important to note that the Association has never provided audited financial statements.

Action Item – Jeff to respond to David Muir.

Wendy refers to **bylaw 8.3.1** which states:

"At the AGM, two volunteer Members of the Corporation with accounting experience shall be appointed to review the financial matters of the Corporation each year. Volunteers will be neither Board members nor related to any serving Board member."

We have one such member who has agreed to do this. – Brenda Patterson. We need another. Don suggests Mike Northcote. Will check with him. Wendy suggests that the sooner we can get the statements done, the sooner we can get it to the scrutineers so that we aren't in a last-minute situation.

Website Update – Blair Patacairk

Good news on the website. Neil Balchin is up to speed after looking at everything that we have. He believes that there are about 56 pages on the current website that should come over to the new site. The rest can be archived.

Blair stressed to Neil Balchin the need for:

- An easy way for membership to join or renew
- The ability for the Secretary to upload information to the site
- A place to post financial documents
- An environment webpage

Neil will build a framework. Will present that to Blair, who will share it with us.

Some other points:

- Blair is the primary point of contact for Neil
- Neil is happy to have a conversation with Colleen about creative issues
- Neil understands that Sue Timmins needs to sell her swag, and the issues surrounding that.
- There will be different levels of accessibility to the website, for security and privacy issues.

Kevin indicates that Neil Balchin is on a *third-third-third* payment model. There is a requirement for us to pay 1/3 of the bill up front. Preliminary estimate is about \$2,800.00 for the whole project. Neil will submit a Statement of Work. Blair will distribute that to the Board for approval.

There is also an option to retain him on an annual maintenance fee.

It is expected that the site will be ready by April 1st.

Jeff raises point that he believes April 1 is too late for us to utilize the new site in our membership drive. Don points out that people can still use the old site with e-transfer, which many have used successfully to date. (What is the email address people use to e-transfer their dues?) Don suggests that Kevin send out a note welcoming everyone to 2023 and encouraging folks to renew their membership, and how to do it.

Colleen stresses that no one other than Neil Balchin should be authorized to touch the controls of the site to program or reprogram.

Kevin reminds us that a motion has been passed that Neil Balchin has authority to spend up to \$5,000.00.

Motion:

- Kevin Radford

I move that the Board authorize Board member Blair Patacairk, who is leading the website redesign initiative, to pay, in accordance with the website contract with Neil Balchin, the payment regimen up to a maximum of \$5,000.00

- Seconded: Wendy Carr
- Carried: Unanimous

Kevin raises the Membership Chair issue. It is still Steve Kulba's responsibility. The Board is very grateful for his continued help on this file. It's time that we welcome someone to take over.

Wendy Carr steps up, though she is worried about the technical aspects of the job. Kevin expresses his thanks to Wendy on behalf of the Board for beginning the transition of the membership chair responsibilities from Steve Kulba.

Environment – Paul Saunders.

Meetings have been held with Rob Perrins, who continues to work towards getting his commercial burlap-laying machine completed. He has retained a fundraiser; Karen Perrault. Outside of that, Kevin Radford will be introducing Rob to federal government authorities. If this effort produces the desired results, the Association will make an application for a permit to lay burlap commercially in Lac Bernard. However, we are not in that position now.

Don asks if burlap kits will be sold to cottagers again in 2023. Kevin does not know details about Rob Perrins' supply of burlap, but will check. Wendy stresses the need for this to be sorted out soon, and there to be an assurance that the kits will be delivered early in the cottage season, before the milfoil starts to grow. Paul does not know of anyone else who sells burlap kits.

Kevin notes that there are three criteria to get the burlap project going:

1. Mandate from cottagers. There is a collective of multiple lake Associations that are trying to create a lobby to convince the government to grant access to funding to control invasive plant

species, and to keep the waterways and lakes in Quebec healthy. We need a mandate to explore commercial applications and to start pilot projects to control Milfoil.

2. Legislation needs to open up to allow for pilot projects, at specific locations, during a set period of time, which are monitored by a research facility.
3. A procurement mechanism.

Paul details steps to get a permit to lay burlap:

1. An environment (science) partner, which Lac Bernard has with ABV des 7
2. An Association that is committed to the initiative.
3. A technology partner; a company who can actually lay the burlap. It could be Rob Perrins, or a scuba diving company, or some other organization.

There are two ways to lay burlap once a permit has been granted:

1. Commercially
2. Volunteers

Blair clarifies that the Board's obligation is to advocate for the lake; not advocate for the company who is trying to raise funds. Time to separate church from state. Kevin states that he will advocate for Rob as the President of the Lac Bernard Association to try to remove some of the barriers to the commercial application of burlap. That's it. There is no remuneration involved.

Discussion about hiring students to lay burlap, though there is no need for that without receiving a permit. Colleen cites a federal government program that assists organizations to hire 3 students full-time for 6 weeks. Paul speaks about a lake where they hire lots of divers who are working towards qualifying for their diving licences but gaining "experience" hours.

Regatta 2023 (Kevin Radford)

President Kevin Radford has received a lot of feedback regarding holding the annual Regatta on the Association's property in 2023. He states that if that is going to happen, points and issues raised at a Spring 2022 meeting with Regatta Bay Road cottagers must be taken into consideration.

One of the biggest issues is that future Regattas will be restricted to only the Association's property, which features 80' – 85' of lake frontage.

Can we run a Regatta on our property? If so...

- What will that look like?
- Do we try to hold one this year?
- Who will organize it?
- How will it be set up?
- How do we work with boats, and organize parking so as not to restrict Regatta Bay Road?
- Immediate neighbours need to know that we'll do our best to ensure that there is no disturbance to their properties.
- Attendees need to know that the event is contained to our property boundaries.
- No boats will be allowed to dock on neighbouring properties.

Many things to think about:

- Repairing the Regatta dock
- Supplying a raft
- Parking boats offshore
- Keeping it safe for children
- Being respectful to the neighbours
- Milfoil
- Cleanup afterwards

Lots of work needs to be started

Colleen suggests staging a much smaller event on the Regatta property just to test the waters to see if there are, indeed, things to think about for a bigger event in the future.

Don cites the “infrastructural investments’ that need to be done. Improving the dock. Building a raft. These are fairly expensive projects. We need to be wary of that, if the Regatta doesn’t work, it will be money down the drain.

Kevin offers to drag his rafts over to the Regatta site, as he has done for several years. Stresses that the dock is definitely in need of repair. Wishes to see if the Board is in agreement that we are going to try it, and find people to organize it.

Paul believes that it will be successful. Jeff expresses his reservations.

Kevin states that if the Regatta is held on the Association’s property, then there has to be a strong set of principals guiding it, and that immediate neighbours need to be respected. That is first and foremost.

New Business

Wendy reminds us all, in preparation for the Spring AGM, that we need to be bylaw-compliant. We need to plan the AGM well in advance.

Kevin suggests putting the AGM on the agenda for the February Board meeting. The tentative structure is:

- Financial Statements
- Budgets
- Environment Mandate
- New Website Launch
- Regatta
- General Election

Adjournment: 9:32 p.m.

Next Meeting of the Board: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 @ 7:30 p.m. (MS Teams)