



Minutes
Lac Bernard Association
Board Meeting Aug 27, 2024

Board Attendance:

Officers Present: Jeff Stubbins, President Colleen Forer, Vice-President Glynnis French, Secretary Don McLean, Treasurer	Members Present: Wendy Carr Charles Topp Peter Steele Blair Patacairk
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1. President's Welcome and Announcements

Jeff Stubbins noted that he had been to a Mohawk celebration of life recently which he had found very moving. He noted that the overarching message "we come together as one" seemed fitting for where we want to be as a lake association. He welcomed the members one and all and called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes of July 29, 2024

Motion to approve the Minutes of July 29, 2024: Jeff Stubbins; Seconded by Wendy Carr. Approved.

3. Treasurer's Report

Don indicated that the signatories at National Bank have finally been updated (primarily, Jeff and Don). He further reported that he is now exploring residual cash conservative investments, above our working capital needs, e.g. GICs with 3-6-12 month maturity dates. This should generate interest income of between \$1.5 - \$2k per year with minimal risk. He further indicated that he is moving National Bank balances to our main operating bank, TD for ease of management of our banking needs.

Don indicated that we will maintain a balance of approximately \$20k in our chequing account as working capital.

He noted that the shed had been purchased and paid for. Unfortunately, there was some recent damage to the roof in a windstorm, which needs to be paid for. This has now been repaired thanks to Jeff and Tosh Serafini actions.

The purchase of additional yellow buoys to mark Milfoil areas is underway, paid for and awaiting receipt from the supplier. Kevin is following. Reconciliation of the Regatta receipts and accounts payable has been provided by Wendy and her team and is being reviewed and appropriate action taken.

4. Environment

Kevin reported that he has a very engaged Environment committee with 14 members. This sub-committee will be meeting on the coming Thursday (August 29)

Kevin indicated that with the heavy summer rains the lake is higher than usual and the waters coming in through the inlet streams are running freely. The outlet is flowing, and a camera has now been installed so that human intervention can be detected.

The Environment committee is developing a milfoil strategy and this will be presented to the Board at the next meeting and form the basis for an Environment special information session to be held in the fall.

Kevin noted that there has been recent enthusiasm on lake social media for the use of Procella-cor after the company producing the chemical produced a promotional video. It has been used at Farlain lake in Ontario and has been successful. However, it was noted that it cost \$200k for 110 acres and that Farlain lake association received a Trillium grant to cover the costs. The infestation of milfoil at Lac Bernard is 50x larger. Also the provincial government would have to approve its use, and this is not the case in Quebec.

Kevin also noted that there is a new invasive plant species in the lake called Hydrilla and that it can grow to 7.5 metres.

All members of the committee agreed that the invasive plant species threat on Lac Bernard has reached a crisis point and the members of the lake need to band together to avoid losing the lake. If the spread continues, there will be no usable waterfront on the lake, less enjoyment of properties by owners and consequently diminished property values. Kevin also noted that 58 lakes in the Outaouais have been invaded by milfoil.

There will be a special meeting on the Environment and milfoil issues in November.

5. Regatta

Wendy reported on the regatta – she estimates that over 200 people participated, fewer than last year, but it was a very hot day.

She estimates that total receipts will book in at \$5k. The costs were higher this year due to the price of food. Also, there was some leftover food.

Epurosol will empty the portapotties on Sept 7.

Kevin indicated that he is concerned that due to milfoil, the swimming events are having to take place in 20 ft of water, far from the shore. He proposed and it was approved that the association invest in synthetic tarps that are installed with rebar, to block milfoil growth. These tarps can be moved as required and are easier to install and more robust than burlap.

Motion: That Kevin be authorized to purchase tarps and related equipment for the regatta site to a total of \$2000. Moved by Kevin, Seconded Wendy. Approved

6. Membership

Peter Steele confirmed that the current membership list stands at 214. 36 of these are associate membership. He noted that 34 people who bought memberships in 2021, 2022, and/or 2023 are not members now. Of these, 10 sold cottages, and 24 do not want to be members. He is expecting that a number of additional memberships will be sold at the regatta.

Peter further proposed that the association consider signing on to WooCommerce as the engine for membership purchase. This would eliminate the manual processes that we are using now, and help to distinguish that category of membership (voting or associate). It would also allow people to pay by credit card. Colleen indicated that ease of payment is critical in any venture and that people use credit cards as their payment method of choice. Blair reminded the committee that during website renewal WooCommerce was considered and rejected.

Motion: Peter moved that the association agree to implement WooCommerce and attach this plug-in to website. Seconded by Kevin. Approved

7. History

Charles Topp reported on the success of the Lake Bernard history Facebook page which now has 129 members. There are still problems with the archiving feature of the website. Charles indicated that there are 4000 documents that need to be scanned and downloaded. Blair indicated that the Archives feature of the website was set up in the

website renewal project and it would work. Charles indicated that in his experience it is clunky and not downloading appropriately.

It was suggested that Charles speak with Brad Sweeney who has become knowledgeable about the site and worked with Neil Balachin to explore the capabilities of the site. It was further noted that Carrie Ault has been identified as a webmaster for the site but that due to other responsibilities, she has been unable to date to commit the necessary time to this.

Charles indicated that over time the history committee would like to set up an interactive map where cottagers could submit and then view information about their cottage. He suggests that Google Workspace, which is free to non-profits could supply this functionality. Further discussion of this, including with Brad Sweeney was recommended.

8. Jeff noted that we did not have time to review the executive action list but noted many of the items on it have already been completed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

The next meeting of the Executive will take place September 30, 2024