



Minutes
Lac Bernard Association
Board Meeting Oct 28, 2024

Board Attendance:

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

Jeff Stubbins called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm. He noted that he had attended, with Kevin, the La Pêche Lakes Association meeting. He also noted that the next meeting of the Board would be on November 25, 2024, just nine days before the Semi-Annual General meeting on Wednesday, December 4th.

2. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of September 30, 2024

A motion was put forward by Jeff to accept the minutes of the meeting of the Board of September 30, 2024. Seconded by Don McLean. Approved.

3. Treasurer's Report

Don took the Board through his analysis of how best to manage the operating and capital resources of the Board.

Don McLean moved that the Board approve the investment strategy proposed by him to purchase TD 100-Day GICs with residual bank balances up to an amount that would leave a minimum \$20,000 in the ORALB bank operating account. The Assn would purchase multiple GICs to allow flexibility in cashing a number of them in the event of liquidity

needs noting that there is no penalty on early encashment prior to the GIC maturity. This strategy would be reviewed and adjusted on an ongoing basis.

The motion was seconded by Jeff. Approved by the Board.

4. Membership

Peter indicated that there are 227 paid up ORALB memberships as of 15 October. Jeff noted that there are only 18 or so paid-up associate members and raised the issue of allowing 2 voting members per household. This would involve a change in the bylaws. It was suggested that this issue be raised at the Semi-Annual General meeting.

It is also suggested that consideration be given to raising the cost of membership to \$75 from \$50 as the fees have not been changed for 15 years. Peter offered to draft up a couple of slides on membership for the December 4 SAGM. Kevin urged members presenting sections of the meeting to anticipate questions in advance to work through answers to these questions so that the Board can keep the meeting on track.

5. Website

Jeff reported that he had met with Neil Balchin of Permanent Waves to try to sort out whether the website is functional for our needs and if the relationship with the provider could be made more productive. This was felt to be an important step before considering going to another provider who would re-build the website from scratch.

It was noted that on membership, we need a way of communicating with members and a method to accept payment and track membership through the website. Furthermore, Charles indicated that we are not able to download the archives or accept the vast amounts of new material being discovered by the History Committee. Communication with interested parties is occurring now through the Lac Bernard history Facebook page

Jeff indicated that he has re-engaged Carrie Ault on the website and that he will try to get Carrie and Neil together to finalize plans on how to move forward.

6. Semi-Annual General meeting

Jeff indicated that he had sent out the agenda and will send out other emails encouraging members to attend to SAGM on December 4. The Zoom managers, the Longair brothers, have been engaged for the meeting and the meeting will follow the same format as in 2023.

7. Environment

Kevin indicated that the 50 new yellow buoys to mark milfoil beds have been purchased. He also noted that Chris Melbourne has taken out the last of white shoal markers.

Kevin also indicated that 3 members of the Environment Committee are working away at a strategic plan for milfoil mitigation on Lac Bernard.

Kevin and Jeff attended a meeting of the Lac Pêche Lakes Association (representing 14 lakes). There was a discussion on what represents approved methods for milfoil mitigation. It was noted that cutting and harvesting is frowned upon. He indicated that there was a discussion on possible provincial funding and it is suggested that a strategic plan will prove critical obtaining such funding and it is expected that dollar matching through donations from the ORALB will also be required.

Lac Gauvreau tried to implement a boat ban. While there was a notable reduction in milfoil, the approach proved unenforceable so instead boating guidelines (signed by 150 cottagers) were established. Lac Gauvreau has outlined water corridors for water skiing which avoid milfoil beds. Cottagers who do not follow the guidelines are named, but there is no municipal or provincial enforcement. It was noted that this solution is sub-optimal but that at least it recognizes the seriousness of the milfoil problem.

Lac des Loups indicated that they have a huge Eurasian Water Milfoil problem in the lake. As milfoil takes over, lakes become more eutrophic leading to the death of fish and poor habitat for wildlife. Lac des Loups had an outbreak of blue-green algae this year.

In summary, almost every lake in La Pêche is battling milfoil. Lac Bernard's preparation of a strategic plan is a positive step towards developing a plan of action on milfoil for our lake. In the meantime, all cottagers should continue to naturalize their shoreline, refrain from using fertilizers on lawns or plants, and undertake boating in full awareness of the impact that milfoil cutting have on the spread through our lake.

8. Other business

Mining Rights

The issue of the possibility of individuals or companies purchasing mining rights on private property near or on Lac Bernard was raised. Signs objecting to the sale of mining rights on private property have been seen around Low. In Canada, property owners do not automatically own what lies under their property. A member reported that a cottage owner on Lac Sinclair had purchased the mining rights of a large section of the lake to protect the it from potentially being a target of an outside commercial interest. It was noted that it appears that this region may have lithium (used in the production of batteries). Continued monitoring of this situation was suggested.

Thanking Laurence McClelland

Wendy raised the issue of whether and how the Association should thank Laurence McClelland for his 40+ years of retrieving and placing white shoal marker buoys in Lac Bernard.

Subsequent to the meeting, Charles Topp proposed the motion that the Association purchase a 3-D wood and epoxy map of Lac Bernard (approximately \$400) to present to Laurence McClelland in tribute to his service to ORALB, with a plaque which expressing appreciation and the date. He also proposed that the Association establish the Laurence McClelland Buoy Fund to accept member's donations.

This motion was seconded by Wendy and approved by members through email.