



DRAFT Minutes from the 2019 Annual General Meeting

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE MINUTES SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE POWERPOINT PRESENTATION DELIVERED AT THE AGM [NOW POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE]

[*The Gull and Silver Lakes Residents' Association Annual General Meeting (the "Meeting") was held on Sunday, July 7, 2019 at the Muskoka Boat and Heritage Centre, Gravenhurst ("TOG")]. See list for attendees.*

President's Welcome

Donna McLean, President, ("DMc") welcomed the members in attendance and introduced the current Board of Directors and Mayor Paul Kelly and Councilors Varney, Klinck, Pilger and Jo Morphy.

Acceptance of Agenda and Appointment of Recording Secretary

M/S/C to accept Agenda as presented and appoint Clarke Smith as recording secretary.

Deferral of Minutes of 2017 and 2018 AGMs

As the Minutes for the 2017 and 2018 AGMs were not made available to the members in sufficient time for their review – it was proposed and agreeable to the members that said Minutes be deferred to the 2020 AGM. Draft Minutes for same will be posted to the GSLRA website.

TOG Activities Update – DMc introduced Mayor Paul Kelly who came to provide an update of TOG issues and activities. The following is a summary of his comments:

Critical Town Issues:

- ✓ Poverty of TOG residents – 1/5 living below the poverty line
- ✓ Housing shortage – dire need for more rental and purchase units/homes
- ✓ Daycare shortage – even if residents able to secure employment, lack of daycare is challenging
- ✓ Current fire conditions – complete ban on fires

Other Issues Being Addressed at Council

- Muskoka Regional Centre – Proposal for School has been withdrawn – now back to Province [Update: TOG given year to consider possible uses such as Technical/Training Hub, Conference Centre or Robotics Centre]
- Working hard to revitalize Wharf Area – find the right businesses to move in
- Consultation with all interest groups to set viable budget
- Road maintenance high priority

Positive Economic Developments

- Porter flights successful – good for TOG
- New businesses on Main St
- Boston Pizza reopened
- Federal funding may be available to help expand and improve quality of Internet service

Gravenhurst Against Poverty ("GAP")

Councillor Jo Morphy addressed the members about the initiatives of this group. GAP's mission is: ***to be a collaborative, community-based organization which supports people in difficulty by identifying issues and resources and providing timely solutions in the Greater Gravenhurst Area.***

Current Initiatives include:

- Tuesday lunches – fresh lunch available to all
- Thursday Dinner – nutritious dinner available and during the dinner, a Food Pantry is open to provide grocery items to all in need

HOW CAN YOU HELP? There are several ways to contribute: refer to the website for more information <https://www.gravenhurstagainstpoverty.com/>

Theresa and Barry Buker's Ministry

The next speaker was Barry Buker. For more than 20 years the Bukers have been providing useful items to those in need. They have been answering the call by matching up those who can provide household items with those in need of household items. They call it a "hand up" not a "hand out". They are a non-profit (but not a registered charity) that provides linens, electrical appliances, clothes, furniture, baby items etc. to the elderly, single parents, students, fire victims etc. They receive no government funding and rely on the good hearts of the community to donate items and/or dollars to help them provide to others.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? Donate money, donate gently used items, buy a cookbook! For more information, go to: <http://freestuff4dailyneeds.com/>.

[DMc thanked the Mayor and Councilors for their attendance at the meeting]

Financial Update

- A financial report for 2017 to 2019 was distributed
- Dave Friesen, Treasurer, spoke to the financial report
- \$3,661 in regular bank account and \$13,745 is held in interest-bearing GICs
- the major expense is the annual water quality monitoring program
- there being no further discussion, there was a M/S/C to accept the Financial Report as presented

Water Quality

- David Friesen walked the members through the slides on 2018 water quality results: results for Silver Lake continue to be acceptable however, results for mid-Gull Lake were higher. And phosphorus levels were higher as well – this is usually due to increased human activity. The readings were higher especially at Gull Lake Park and Hewitt St. dock.
- Water is not drinkable without purification. Runoff bacteria will always be an issue.
- Importance of database is to sound alarm if higher levels indicated and demand action when needed. Need to keep going.
- Bruce Elliott, our volunteer water tester, advised the members that historically the GSLRA has rented the testing equipment. This is problematic because each year he is given different equipment. This results in Bruce having to spend extra time recalibrating and preparing for the program each year. He is therefore asking that the members approve the purchase of testing equipment, to a limit of \$250.00. This should result in better data consistency year over year and reduce the set-up effort. There being no further discussion, there was a M/S/C to accept approve the expenditure of up to \$250 to purchase new water testing equipment
- DMc thanked Bruce Elliott for conducting the water testing for the Association.

Development of Pinedale Motel Property -

Jim Davis, development provided the following update on this:

- Minsoo Kim, owner of Pinedale approached the GSLRA Executive to inform them of his interest in developing the property
- There are currently 33 units, land measuring 17 acres and approx. 550 feet waterfront frontage
- There are no concrete plans to date and Mr. Kim is looking at a number of scenarios including development on the water side and on the back lot
- We advised Mr. Kim that we are not opposed to development per se, but we will oppose any plan that is irresponsible in terms of impact to the waterfront, health of Gull Lake and general aesthetic of the property and environs
- He will reach out to us again when a more definitive plan is formed; therefore, we are now in a 'wait and see' position.

Municipal Elections Results

- In all wards except one, the candidate that received the lake associations' endorsement was successful in getting elected. This appears to have validated all the effort put in by members of the many lake Associations that got involved in order to identify which candidates had policies that best aligned with the policies of the Associations regarding
- environment, the local economy, responsible development and prudent fiscal management.
- It is now up to the members and their Executives to monitor and keep the Council accountable on issues in these and other areas
- The Executive was somewhat disappointed with voter turnout; despite the flow of information regarding the preference of candidates and even with the ability to vote electronically, most waterfront residents did not vote. We will continue to advocate for improved voter turnout for municipal and other elections

Sustainability [Green] Initiatives

Carole Anne Simpson, director-at-large has recently attended many seminars, discussions and events with a focus on sustainability. How can we make this an integral practice in our lifestyle?

1) Donate Ash -

- Acid rain is the main cause of the global issue of calcium decline in lakes and forests and currently is accounting for 50% decline in calcium in Muskoka
- ASHMuskoka has been founded to work with community to improve calcium levels in lakes and forests

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Spread your campfire/fireplace ("ASH") on the forest floor – this will help the trees and leach into the lakes
- Donate your ASH to the Friends of Muskoka Watershed program (see <https://ashmuskoka.ca/>) for collection dates and locales.

2) Invasive Plants

- Invasive plants are impacting Muskoka by resulting in economic, ecological and/or social disruption including health risks like those of the Giant Hogweed plant.
- These are plants that have been moved from their native habitat to an introduced area where they are able to reproduce quickly and crowd out native species
- For a list of identified plants and **HOW YOU CAN HELP** – visit www.muskoka.on.ca

3) Overuse of Plastic and Aluminum Foil

- Avoid using plastic water bottles – fill and carry permanent water bottles, preferably stainless steel and BPA-free
- Reduce or discontinue use of aluminum foil – lots of reusable containers to preserve foods

Members Concerns

These issues continue to be on the GSLRA radar:

- Water Quality
- Water Safety – boats too close to shoreline and docks
- Irresponsible development
- Condition of the Narrows – excessive speed and disruption to natural setting
- Waste treatment – squatters and other non-compliant waste disposal
- Hewitt St. – docking, garbage, thefts
- Improper use of Church St. boat launch and parkette
- Overuse of Gull Lake Park waterfront for Disruptive Events – excessive noise and impact on environment

Nomination of Directors

- The following Directors agreed to stand for nomination and serve for another year: Jim Davis, Donna McLean, Jonathan Hutcheon, Carole Anne Simpson and Dave Stephens. The President then called for nominations for new candidates. Paul Temple agreed to stand for election to the Executive, to serve as Treasurer and Joanne Smith agreed to stand for election to the Executive, to serve as Environment Chair. There being no further nominations, the nominations were declared closed and there was a M/S/C that those persons nominated above be elected to serve as Board members until the next AGM
- A huge thank you to Dave Friesen who has served for many years as Treasurer and Environment Chair. A job well done and we are truly grateful!

Adjournment

DMc then thanked those in attendance and accepted a motion to adjourn the Meeting.